

**From:** [Taylor, Samantha](#)  
**To:** [Bysiewicz, Susan](#)  
**Cc:** [Anderson, Tajah](#); [Opoku, Tracy](#); [Rossignol, Audrey](#); [Gonzalez, Madison](#); [Kelly, John](#)  
**Subject:** Andre Drummond's All-Star Basketball Camp Parents Panel Briefing  
**Date:** Friday, August 1, 2025 6:00:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [8.2.25 Andre Drummond's All-Star Basketball Camp Parents Panel Briefing.docx](#)

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## **Andre Drummond's All-Star Basketball Camp Parents Panel**

**WHAT:** This panel discussion is designed to educate, inspire, and equip parents and caregivers with tools and insights to support their children's growth both on and off the court. Audience will be made up of parents and caregivers of youth athletes (ages 7-18)

**WHO:** Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Andre Drummond's Mother Christine Cameron, Governor's Prevention Partnership Program Manager Susan Samiento, Connecticut Sun Manager of Community Relations Shamari Holmes, Certified performance consultant Jamie Stone, YMCA-Middletown COO Erin Ortega, New Haven Counts Co-Founder & Executive Director Ronald Coleman

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 2, 2025; 8:50 a.m.

**WHERE:** 169 Cross Street, Middletown, CT 06459 *\*there are reserved spots in the far side of the lot*

### **RUN OF SHOW:**

**9AM-9:05AM** – welcome and framing the conversation  
([Lt. Governor](#))

**9:05AM-9:40AM** – guided panel questions ([facilitated by](#)

Lt. Governor)

**9:40AM-9:50AM** – audience Q&A

**9:50AM-9:55AM** – lightning round: each panelist gives 1 key takeaway or advice for parents

**9:55AM-10AM** – closing remarks & resource handouts  
(Lt. Governor)

## **BACKGROUND:**

### Goals of the Panel –

- Inspire parents to recognize their vital role in their child's life on and off the court.
- Equip parents with practical strategies to support mental, emotional, and leadership development.
- Highlight available community resources.
- Create space for honest conversation and connection.

About Andre Drummond – A center for the Philadelphia 76ers, he was selected by the Detroit Pistons in the first round of the 2012 NBA draft with the ninth overall pick. Drummond was one of the top-rated basketball players in the high school class of 2011 and played one season of college basketball with the Connecticut Huskies before declaring for the draft. He was named to the NBA All-Rookie Second Team with Detroit in 2013, and was named an All-Star for the first time in 2016.

Born in Mount Vernon, New York, in 1993 to Jamaican parents, Drummond moved to Middletown, Connecticut, as a 7-year-old with his mother and sister, then went to Woodrow Wilson Middle School before starting high school at Capital

Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford. After two years at Capital Preparatory Magnet School, he transferred to St. Thomas More in Oakdale, where he reclassified and repeated his sophomore year as he recovered from a stress fracture in his foot. At St. Thomas More, Drummond was one of the most dominating centers in high school basketball.

Drummond was rated as the No. 1 player in the class of 2011 by ESPN and NBADraft.net, while being ranked No. 2 player by Rivals.com and Scout.com. In the summer of 2010, Drummond was a member of the gold medal-winning United States team at the 2010 FIBA Under-17 World Championship. He helped lead team USA to a 111–80 victory over Poland in the gold medal game.

Drummond initially declared he would spend a postgraduate year at Wilbraham & Monson Academy in 2011–12. Two weeks later on August 26, 2011, he announced via Twitter that instead he intended to reclassify again and attend the University of Connecticut.

## **TALKING POINTS & PANEL DISCUSSION:**

### **\*\*\* *opening statement* \*\*\***

- Good afternoon, everyone — and welcome to Building Future Leaders: The Parent’s Playbook.
- At Andre Drummond’s All-Stars Camp, MVP stands for more than just ‘Most Valuable Player.’

- It's about Mastery — growing on and off the court, Vision — seeing beyond today to build a better tomorrow, and Persistence — showing up, even when it's hard.
- And those values? They don't start on the court — they start at home.
- Today's panel is all about celebrating you and equipping you with tools, encouragement, and community to help your child lead with confidence and character.”

**\*\*\* *begin panel discussion (35 minutes)* \*\*\***

**[TO CHRISTINE CAMERON, ANDRE DRUMMOND'S MOM]** You've been the steady presence in Andre's life. What's something you wish more parents understood about what it takes to raise a child with discipline and dreams?

**[TO JAIMIE STONE]** Many young athletes face pressure and disappointment. What role can parents play in helping their child bounce back from setbacks—whether emotional, academic, or athletic?

How can parents help kids bounce back from failure and build confidence?

**[TO SUSAN SAMIENTO]** What support systems should families know about—and how can they access mental health, prevention, or mentoring resources in our community?

What are signs your child may need mental or emotional

support—and what’s the next step?

**[TO RONALD COLEMAN]** You’re helping young people grow both on the field and in the classroom through New Haven Counts. Why is academic confidence just as critical as athletic confidence—and how can parents support both?

What can we do at home to help our kids feel capable in school—even if we struggle with those subjects ourselves?

**[TO ERIN ORTEGA]** You see youth development from every angle through the YMCA. What makes camps and structured programming so important in a child’s journey—and what should parents be looking for?

**[TO SHAMARE HOLMES]** The CT Sun is building community through sports and service. Why is visibility and community engagement so important in helping youth, especially youth of color, see themselves as leaders?

**[TO RONALD COLEMAN & JAIMIE STONE]** We often talk about sports teaching discipline. But schools are where kids spend most of their time. How can families better partner with schools and teachers to support consistent expectations at home and in the classroom?

**\*\*\* open to audience Q&A (10 minutes) \*\*\***

**\*\*\* lightning round – panelist final take aways (5 minutes)**

**\*\*\***

In one sentence, what's your best advice for raising a future leader?

**\*\*\* *closing statement* \*\*\***

- Thank you to our incredible panelists for your wisdom, your work, and your heart.
- And to every parent, grandparent, and caregiver in this room — you are the foundation on which future leaders are built. Your presence here today speaks volumes.
- It means you care. It means you're committed. And it means you're not doing this alone.
- As we leave this space, I want to remind you: greatness isn't just built on game days. It's built in quiet moments, small choices, and everyday encouragement.
- You have the power to shape not just an athlete — but a resilient, confident, visionary young person who knows they matter.
- On behalf of the State of Connecticut, Andre Drummond's team, and all our community partners — thank you for being part of this movement.
- Our kids are watching. And because of you, they're ready to lead.

**\*\*\* *closing message from Andre Drummond* \*\*\***

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***\*\*\* open to audience Q&A (10 minutes) \*\*\****

***\*\*\* lightning round – panelist final take aways (5 minutes) \*\*\****

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***\*\*\* closing message from Andre Drummond \*\*\****

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**To:** [Bysiewicz, Susan](#)  
**Cc:** [Opoku, Tracy](#); [Taylor, Samantha](#); [Kelly, John](#); [Rossignol, Audrey](#)  
**Subject:** H.E.R. She Leads: Sports, Confidence, and Mentoring the Next Generation Roundtable Discussion Briefing  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 6:58:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [8.21.25 H.E.R. She Leads Sports, Confidence, and Mentoring the Next Generation Roundtable Discussion Briefing.docx](#)

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## **H.E.R. She Leads: Sports, Confidence, and Mentoring the Next Generation Roundtable Discussion**

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Kelly Juleson, (860) 841-0604

**WHO:** Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Mohegan Sun General Manager Jeff Hamilton, CT Sun representative, EB representative, coaches, current and former athletes  
*About 140+ registrants – will be a mix of youth development workers, mentors, and youth (they ended up having to switch rooms because there has been such a high demand for the event)*

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 21, 2025; 2:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Mohegan Sun, Nephatic/Pequot/Paugusett; 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd., Uncasville, CT 06382 *\*utilize Riverview Garage or Sky Valet*

### **RUN OF SHOW:**

Welcome & Keynote Remarks

Mentoring Panel

Youth Presentation & Fireside Chat

Closing Remarks & CT Sun Game

## **BACKGROUND:**

You are giving keynote remarks prior to the roundtable discussion, H.E.R. She Leads: Sports, Confidence, and Mentoring the Next Generation. This event is through a partnership with the Governor's Prevention Partnership, H.E.R. She Leads, and the Connecticut Sun.

The purpose of this event is for women in sports share their wisdom, boost confidence, and mentor the next generation of female leaders. This in-person event is a unique opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, learn from experienced mentors, hear from professional athletes and coaches, and gain valuable insights to elevate your game and your life. The panel discussion, moderated by Kelly Juleson, will feature a CT Sun representative, EB representative, coaches, current and former athletes.

About the Governor's Prevention Partnership – The Governor's Prevention Partnership has protected Connecticut's young people from drugs and alcohol for more than 30 years. The Partnership, then known as "Drugs Don't Work," was co-founded in 1989 by Governor William O'Neill. The organization was formed as a public-private partnership dedicated to leveraging business and government resources to help Connecticut's youth.

Today, prevention is more important than ever. The mental health crisis caused by COVID-19, combined with the rise of dangerous substances like fentanyl and other opioids, has created the perfect storm of risks for Connecticut's young people.

Our team of prevention and mentoring experts works tirelessly to help prevent youth substance use and increase access to quality mentoring.

The Partnership serves all of Connecticut's 169 communities, particularly underserved areas. We work to expand access to prevention and mentoring services to as many young people as possible. The task is large, but we are working to meet the challenge daily and help Connecticut's young people when they need us the most.

***FYI – latest info on possible sale of CT Sun:***

- The Mohegan Tribe has owned the Sun since 2003, when it purchased the team and relocated it from Orlando to Uncasville to play at Mohegan Sun Arena. During that time, the Sun has been one of the WNBA's steadiest and most successful franchises but has also drawn frustration from players over the team's remote location and lack of a practice facility.
- In July, Steve Pagliuca of Bain Capital made an offer of \$325 million to buy the Sun, with a clear indication that the team was going to move to Boston; the offer was accepted by the Mohegan Tribe, who own the franchise.
  - If the sale were to go through, the team would relocate to Boston in 2027.
  -

In addition to buying the team, Pagliuca has reportedly committed to spending \$100 million on a new practice facility.

- The league stepped in though, preventing approval of the move and allowing for the expiration of the exclusivity window, which opened the door for new offers.

- **WNBA Spokesperson Statement:** *“Relocation decisions are made by the WNBA Board of Governors and not by individual teams. As part of our most recent expansion process, in which three new franchises were awarded to Cleveland, Detroit and Philadelphia on June 30, 2025, nine additional cities also applied for WNBA teams and remain under active consideration. No groups from Boston applied for a team at that time and those other cities remain under consideration based on the extensive work they did as part of the expansion process and currently have priority over Boston. Celtics’ prospective owner Bill Chisholm has also reached out to the league office and asked that Boston receive strong consideration for a WNBA franchise at the appropriate time.”*

- Governor Lamont has been in contact with a Connecticut-based ownership group that has made an offer close to what the Boston-based group submitted.

- **Governor Lamont has said:** *“Can't believe*

*everything you read. When it comes to the Connecticut Sun, we're late in the fourth quarter, we still have some catching up to do, but it's not over until it's over. We're fighting like heck. Connecticut is the home of women's basketball. The Sun ought to be right here."*

- Asked whether the state could commit public money, maybe toward a new practice facility for the Sun, Lamont said his administration would *"do what it takes to keep the Sun in Connecticut."*

## **TALKING POINTS:**

- Good afternoon, everyone!
- It is so great to be here this afternoon, surrounded by strong, confident women, who are interested in advancing women's sports and mentoring us all along the way.
- In February, we held a press conference in honor of National Women & Girls in Sport Day.
- And I was so impressed with the women that attended and spoke—from sports journalists to student athletes, coaches, and even professors at UConn's Sport Management Program.
-

The message then was just as important then as it is now: women's sports are crucial for our communities.

- We know that introducing young girls to sports builds the skills they need to thrive, teaching them teamwork, resilience, and how to perform under pressure.

- Research from the Women's Sports Foundation tells us:

- 69.1% of women who played sports report having held a formal leadership role outside their family.

- And among them, 70.7% hold executive titles such as Team Leader, Manager, Administrator, Director, Chair, President, or even C-Suite positions.

- I'm proud to stand alongside women who have not only participated in sports but are now leaders in government:

- Representative Sharice Davids of Kansas, a former professional mixed martial artist.

- Representative Lori Trahan of

Massachusetts, the only former Division 1 female athlete in Congress, having played volleyball at Georgetown.

- Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll of Massachusetts, who both played college basketball at Harvard and Salem State, respectively.

- Though, of course, we all know Connecticut is still the Basketball Capital of the Country!

- But what makes this even more special is that women in sports don't just uplift the next generation, we uplift each other.
- We build a community where we support, encourage, and push one another forward.
- During the panel today, you'll hear from leaders who emphasize this community and the importance of mentorship for young athletes.
- But I would encourage you all to consider "stepping up to the plate" yourselves.
- Providing mentorship opportunities through internships, coaching, and employment can be transformational for any young woman.
- As we know from Togethxr co-founded by UConn's own Sue Bird: Everyone Watches

## Women's Sports.

- The discussions that are being had here and now, will impact young women and girls for years in the future.
- I hope everyone here walks away feeling empowered, and just as importantly, enjoys the Connecticut Sun game after this!

## **H.E.R. She Leads: Sports, Confidence, and Mentoring the Next Generation Roundtable Discussion**

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Kelly Juleson, (860) 841-0604

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**To:** [Bysiewicz, Susan](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: H.E.R. She Leads: Sports, Confidence, and Mentoring the Next Generation Roundtable Discussion Briefing  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 26, 2025 9:34:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [8.21.25 H.E.R. She Leads Sports, Confidence, and Mentoring the Next Generation Roundtable Discussion Briefing.docx](#)

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**Cc:** Opoku, Tracy <Tracy.Opoku@ct.gov>; Taylor, Samantha <Samantha.Taylor@ct.gov>; Kelly, John <John.Kelly@ct.gov>; Rossignol, Audrey <Audrey.Rossignol@ct.gov>  
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***FYI – latest info on possible sale of CT Sun:***

- The Mohegan Tribe has owned the Sun since 2003, when it purchased the team and relocated it from Orlando to Uncasville to play at Mohegan Sun Arena. During that time, the Sun has been one of the WNBA's steadiest and most successful franchises but has also drawn frustration from players over the team's remote location and lack of a practice facility.
- In July, Steve Pagliuca of Bain Capital made an offer of \$325 million to buy the Sun, with a clear indication that the team was going to move to Boston; the offer was accepted by the Mohegan Tribe, who own the franchise.
  - If the sale were to go through, the team would

relocate to Boston in 2027.

- In addition to buying the team, Pagliuca has reportedly committed to spending \$100 million on a new practice facility.

- The league stepped in though, preventing approval of the move and allowing for the expiration of the exclusivity window, which opened the door for new offers.

- **WNBA Spokesperson Statement:** *“Relocation decisions are made by the WNBA Board of Governors and not by individual teams. As part of our most recent expansion process, in which three new franchises were awarded to Cleveland, Detroit and Philadelphia on June 30, 2025, nine additional cities also applied for WNBA teams and remain under active consideration. No groups from Boston applied for a team at that time and those other cities remain under consideration based on the extensive work they did as part of the expansion process and currently have priority over Boston. Celtics’ prospective owner Bill Chisholm has also reached out to the league office and asked that Boston receive strong consideration for a WNBA franchise at the appropriate time.”*

- Governor Lamont has been in contact with a Connecticut-based ownership group that has made an offer close to what the Boston-based group submitted.

- **Governor Lamont has said:** *“Can't believe everything you read. When it comes to the*

*Connecticut Sun, we're late in the fourth quarter, we still have some catching up to do, but it's not over until it's over. We're fighting like heck.*

*Connecticut is the home of women's basketball. The Sun ought to be right here."*

◦ Asked whether the state could commit public money, maybe toward a new practice facility for the Sun, Lamont said his administration would *"do what it takes to keep the Sun in Connecticut."*

### **TALKING POINTS:**

- Good afternoon, everyone!
- It is so great to be here this afternoon, surrounded by strong, confident women, who are interested in advancing women's sports and mentoring us all along the way.
- In February, we held a press conference in honor of National Women & Girls in Sport Day.
- And I was so impressed with the women that attended and spoke—from sports journalists to student athletes, coaches, and even professors at UConn's Sport Management Program.
- The message then was just as important then as it is now: women's sports are crucial for our communities.
- We know that introducing young girls to

sports builds the skills they need to thrive, teaching them teamwork, resilience, and how to perform under pressure.

- Research from the Women's Sports Foundation tells us:

- 69.1% of women who played sports report having held a formal leadership role outside their family.
- And among them, 70.7% hold executive titles such as Team Leader, Manager, Administrator, Director, Chair, President, or even C-Suite positions.

- I'm proud to stand alongside women who have not only participated in sports but are now leaders in government:

- Representative Sharice Davids of Kansas, a former professional mixed martial artist.
- Representative Lori Trahan of Massachusetts, the only former Division 1 female athlete in Congress, having played volleyball at Georgetown.
- Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll of Massachusetts, who both played college basketball at Harvard and Salem State, respectively.

- Though, of course, we all know Connecticut is still the Basketball Capital of the Country!
- But what makes this even more special is that women in sports don't just uplift the next generation, we uplift each other.
- We build a community where we support, encourage, and push one another forward.
- During the panel today, you'll hear from leaders who emphasize this community and the importance of mentorship for young athletes.
- But I would encourage you all to consider "stepping up to the plate" yourselves.
- Providing mentorship opportunities through internships, coaching, and employment can be transformational for any young woman.
- As we know from Togethxr co-founded by UConn's own Sue Bird: Everyone Watches Women's Sports.
- The discussions that are being had here and now, will impact young women and girls for years in the future.
- I hope everyone here walks away feeling empowered, and just as importantly, enjoys the Connecticut Sun game after this!

**From:** [Taylor, Samantha](#)  
**To:** [Bysiewicz, Susan](#)  
**Cc:** [Opoku, Tracy](#); [Rossignol, Audrey](#); [Gonzalez, Madison](#); [Kelly, John](#); [Moore, Brandon](#)  
**Subject:** ESPN Interview Briefing  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 2, 2025 8:41:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [9.3.25 ESPN Interview Briefing.docx](#)

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## ESPN Interview

**CALL-IN:** (860) 515-4676

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 3, 2025; 3:00 p.m.

### **BACKGROUND:**

About Alexa Philippou –  
*ESPN Women's Basketball Reporter*

Alexa Philippou joined the company in February 2022 and covers both college basketball and the WNBA.

With a year-round focus on women's basketball, Philippou covers all the sport's major events – the NCAA Women's Final Four, the WNBA Draft, WNBA Finals, and more.

In her first year with ESPN, Philippou also travelled to Sydney, Australia to cover the USA Women's Basketball Team at the 2022 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup. Her multi-platform role at the tournament included daily reports and features for ESPN.com as well as television coverage on ESPN's domestic and international platforms, including ESPN Australia.

Philippou previously covered the UConn Huskies and the

Connecticut Sun for the Hartford Courant from 2019 to 2022. Prior to The Courant, her work appeared in the Dallas Morning News, Seattle Times and Cincinnati Enquirer.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Philippou earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University in 2018.

### **The Latest** –

CT Insider asked readers what they thought of the Sun's potential relocation –

- 88.89% of survey responses said they would “likely” attend Sun games in Hartford if the team were to move the 45-minute drive up Route 2
- 85.71% said it was “unlikely” that they would travel to Boston to see games if the team were to move out of state
- 63.49% said they've been fans of the Sun for about two decades, while 23.81% have become fans of the team within the past five years.

Last week, Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam launched a campaign to keep Connecticut Sun and called for end to WNBA ‘interference.’

- Arunan asked residents to call (855) 438-0683 to leave the WNBA a message and “tell tem to take their hands off the Connecticut Sun.”

**Governor's Response** (*from the Tip Sheet*) – Lamont has been publicly supportive of a bid reportedly backed by the

billionaire investor Marc Lasry to keep the team in Connecticut, with their home games being played largely at the arena in Hartford. According to ESPN, the viability of that bid was called into serious doubt when the league communicated that it would not approve a move of the Sun from its current home at Mohegan Sun to the newly-renamed PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford.

Gov has said: “I’d slow down on the criticisms. We’re having constructive conversations. It’s an uphill climb for the state, but we’re in the game. We’re still in the game. It’s the fourth quarter. We’re down by a few points.”

Current Offers (*more details on each offer in the below article*)

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- Former Boston Celtics minority owner Steve Pagliuca is leading an offer to purchase the Sun from the Mohegan Tribe for \$325 million and relocate the team to Boston permanently.
- After the period of exclusivity ran out on the Pagliuca bid, the Lasry group matched Pagliuca's bid of \$325 million, but sources say the league has also told the Sun it would not approve a move to Hartford.
- The league, in recent weeks, offered to purchase the Sun for \$250 million and not charge the buyer an additional relocation fee -- which would allow the league to facilitate a sale to one of its preferred expansion cities.
- There's still a path for the tribe to maintain ownership of the team. It could sell a minority stake in the franchise and hold games in both Hartford at PeoplesBank Arena and in

Uncasville, or it could stay the course and retain full control.

## **ESPN: Connecticut Sun eye options with WNBA to salvage sale**

By Alexa Philippou and Ramona Shelburne – August 19, 2025

The Connecticut Sun ownership intends to present multiple options to the WNBA as it looks to salvage what would have been a record-breaking \$325 million franchise sale, sources with knowledge of the situation told ESPN.

The Mohegan tribe, which has owned the franchise since buying and relocating the Orlando Miracle in 2003, is seeking clarity on the league's desired path forward for the organization, sources said, after an agreement to sell the team to a group led by former Boston Celtics minority owner Steve Pagliuca was met with resistance from the league office.

After news broke of the deal's existence -- and Pagliuca's eventual plan to relocate the franchise to Boston -- a league statement emphasized that "relocation decisions are made by the WNBA Board of Governors and not by individual teams," and that cities that have already gone through the expansion process have priority over Boston, which did not submit an expansion bid in any of the three recent expansion rounds over the past three years.

Among the Mohegan tribe's likely proposals to the league,

according to sources:

- A full franchise sale to Pagliuca's group.
- A sale to a group headlined by former Milwaukee Bucks owner Marc Lasry, who would move the team to Hartford, Connecticut.
- Selling a minority stake in the organization.
- Allowing the league to purchase the franchise for \$325 million and relocate it from the WNBA's smallest market.

A source close to the ownership group says the tribe is frustrated and feels the league is presenting a one-path option: relocation of the team to a market of its choosing at a value of its choosing. The league, in recent weeks, offered to purchase the Sun for \$250 million and not charge the buyer an additional relocation fee -- which would allow the league to facilitate a sale to one of its preferred expansion cities, according to sources. That offer was presented before Pagliuca's bid of \$325 million was reported on Aug. 2, sources said.

The tribe had informed the league that it had reached a deal with Pagliuca to buy the team and presented a general executive summary with the terms of the agreement on July 2, sources said. The ownership group did not present a signed term sheet at that time, according to sources, per guidance from its investment firm, Allen & Co.

While that deal did not specifically mention Boston, Pagliuca's intention would be to move the team there, pending WNBA board of governors approval, as early as the 2027 season, according to sources. Pagliuca has also committed to building

a \$100 million practice facility.

The Sun played to sellout crowds at TD Garden in Boston two years in a row, with WNBA commissioner Cathy Engelbert in attendance. Sources said the league is concerned that TD Garden might not be able to host a full slate of games because of scheduling issues, meaning some home games would have to be played 50 miles away at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Pagliuca group does not believe that will be a significant issue, sources said.

The biggest issue the league has raised with the tribe regarding a relocation of the Sun to Boston, sources said, is Boston's failure to submit an expansion proposal. But after operating the franchise at a loss over the past two decades, the tribe believes it should be able to sell the franchise for the highest possible price. It also sees the value of keeping the team in New England and in the hands of an experienced former NBA minority partner.

Sources told ESPN that the league would consider a potential Boston team in a later round of expansion, and that new Celtics owner Bill Chisholm would be the league's preferred owner for a WNBA franchise. Massachusetts governor Maura Healey, who played collegiately at Harvard and has been trying to help bring a WNBA team to Boston, has already been in communication with Chisholm, sources said.

The potential sale of the Sun comes at a pivotal moment for the league, when franchise valuations, television viewership

and player popularity are soaring, while at the same time new media rights agreements are expected to make the league profitable for the first time in its 29 years of existence.

It also runs concurrent with the league's largest expansion effort since its early years, which will see the WNBA reach a record-high 18 teams in 2030. At the end of June, the league announced it had awarded new franchises to Detroit, Cleveland and Philadelphia at a cost of \$250 million each.

In the crosshairs is one of the WNBA's longest-tenured ownership groups -- in fact, its first non-NBA owner -- looking to keep pace with a rapidly evolving landscape in which larger arenas, player investment and, in particular, state-of-the-art practice facilities are increasingly becoming the leaguwide standard.

The Sun decided to launch a process to explore investment options last season, sources told ESPN, initially intending to assess opportunities for a limited partnership sale for an infrastructure build, while keeping open the possibility of a full sale.

After the tribe informed the WNBA of its plans, the league requested the tribe allow the Cleveland Cavaliers ownership group to submit a bid before launching its sale exploration process, sources said, because Cleveland was considered one of the strongest expansion candidates and could facilitate a relocation on a short timetable.

Selling the Sun to Cleveland would also have presumably

opened up another expansion slot to a city such as Houston, which Engelbert highlighted as "the one we have our eye on" at the league's expansion announcement in June.

Houston has a rich WNBA history from the Houston Comets franchise, and an existing NBA ownership group ready to support a WNBA team also eventually raised its bid to the same \$250 million fee of the three cities that were awarded teams in June, according to sources.

However, Sun ownership declined Cleveland's bid, which sources said came in slightly lower than the subsequent expansion fee, after it was advised it could get more money from other offers.

A source close to the ownership group says the tribe feels the league became antagonistic toward the sale after it declined Cleveland's bid and chose to explore other interested parties.

In April, sources said the league sent a letter to the Sun stating that any sale would be subject to approval by the WNBA's board of governors and that the tribe "does not have the right ... to change the playing site of the Team's home games from Mohegan Sun Arena or to conduct any Team operations outside of the Team Member's Territory (which is defined as the 75-mile area surrounding Montville, Connecticut and does not include Boston)."

The league sent a similar letter to the tribe in June, sources said, to further underscore that league rules prohibited the Sun from changing their base of operations as a part of any sale.

This is standard in both the NBA and WNBA. For example, the Golden State Warriors needed NBA board of governors approval to move their home games from Oracle Arena in Oakland to the Chase Center in San Francisco in 2019.

After the period of exclusivity ran out on the Pagliuca bid, the Lasry group matched Pagliuca's bid of \$325 million, but sources say the league has also told the Sun it would not approve a move to Hartford, which is 45 miles away from Uncasville and within the team's territory.

There's still a path for the tribe to maintain ownership of the team. It could sell a minority stake in the franchise and hold games in both Hartford at PeoplesBank Arena and in Uncasville, or it could stay the course and retain full control. The ownership group could self-fund a practice facility or work with the state to fund one and have the team lease it.

## **TALKING POINTS:**

- Keeping the team is critical to offering an entertaining attraction, boosting our economy, and empowering our youngest residents.
- And frankly – where else would they play, if not in the ‘Basketball Capitol of the World?’
- Connecticut is the “Basketball Capital of the World,” and while that is in large part due to the success of UConn women’s basketball at the collegiate level – the Connecticut Sun is just as much a part of that legacy.

- With the exception of the 2025 season (The Sun, which will miss the playoffs for the first time since 2016), the Sun has also backed up that claim thanks to its longtime success in the WNBA, including eight straight playoff berths and six consecutive semifinal appearances.
- Like so many residents, I can't get enough of the Sun. Since they moved here in 1997, the team has taken off and truly thrived. They are a fantastic attraction for our residents, and because of their popularity and prowess on the court, the Sun are also a fantastic tourist attraction.
- But the Connecticut Sun isn't just a source of entertainment; the program is a source of empowerment for our young girls.
- We know that introducing young girls to sports builds the skills they need to thrive, teaching them teamwork, resilience, and how to perform under pressure.
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  - And among them, 70.7% hold executive titles such as Team Leader, Manager, Administrator, Director, Chair, President, or even C-Suite positions.
- I've seen players, coaches, and staff from the Sun visiting communities across our state to talk to the next generation.

- Not only are they encouraging young girls to consider careers as athletes, coaches, or managers – they are serving as mentors and showing girls how to build confidence in whatever they do.
- I hope that residents will join me in this fight – let's keep the Connecticut Sun in Connecticut!

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**TALKING POINTS:**

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- And frankly – where else would they play, if not in the ‘Basketball Capitol of the World?’
- Connecticut is the “Basketball Capital of the World,” and while that is in large part due to the success of UConn women’s basketball at the collegiate level – the Connecticut Sun is just as much a part of that legacy.
  - With the exception of the 2025 season (The Sun, which will miss the playoffs for the first time since 2016), the Sun has also backed up that claim thanks to its longtime success in the WNBA, including eight straight playoff berths and six consecutive semifinal appearances.
- Like so many residents, I can’t get enough of the Sun. Since they moved here in 1997, the team has taken off and truly thrived. They are a fantastic attraction for our residents, and because of their popularity and prowess on the court, the Sun are also a fantastic tourist attraction.

- But the Connecticut Sun isn't just a source of entertainment; the program is a source of empowerment for our young girls.
- We know that introducing young girls to sports builds the skills they need to thrive, teaching them teamwork, resilience, and how to perform under pressure.
  - The Women's Sports Foundation has found that 69.1% of women who played sports report having held a formal leadership role outside their family.
  - And among them, 70.7% hold executive titles such as Team Leader, Manager, Administrator, Director, Chair, President, or even C-Suite positions.
- I've seen players, coaches, and staff from the Sun visiting communities across our state to talk to the next generation.
- Not only are they encouraging young girls to consider careers as athletes, coaches, or managers – they are serving as mentors and showing girls how to build confidence in whatever they do.
- I hope that residents will join me in this fight – let's keep the Connecticut Sun in Connecticut!

**From:** [Taylor, Samantha](#)  
**To:** [Bysiewicz, Susan](#)  
**Cc:** [Opoku, Tracy](#); [Rossignol, Audrey](#); [Gonzalez, Madison](#); [Kelly, John](#); [Moore, Brandon](#)  
**Subject:** Dan Newmyer Call-In Briefing  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 2, 2025 8:43:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [9.3.25 Dan Newmyer Call-In Briefing.docx](#)

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## Dan Newmyer Call-In

**CALL-IN:** <https://streamyard.com/25s525ycqp>

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 3, 2025; 2:00 p.m.

### TOPICS:

Rep. Paris  
9/11 Ceremony  
CT Sun

### BACKGROUND & TALKING POINTS:

#### REP. PARIS

Last month, federal officials shared a post on social media that wrongly accused a Connecticut state lawmaker, State Representative Corey Paris, of publishing detailed location information about deportation efforts by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, triggering a torrent of harassment and death threats against him.

Latest – Last week, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal announced that he is launching a new investigation into the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency for actions that he called "abusive and unlawful." The

investigation focuses not only on Paris' treatment, but the treatment of undocumented immigrants who Blumenthal said aren't being given their due process.

The Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crimes is currently investigating this incident. The case is active and ongoing. Based on the nature of the investigation, there are no further details to report at this time.

### Talking Points –

- Let's be clear – all Corey did was share necessary information with his constituents. Exactly what he was elected to do.
- He did not “dox” federal agents or do anything to risk the safety of federal agents.
- On the flip side, in the name of “protecting” federal agents, these agencies are now using their own power to intimidate Corey and validate misinformation that has directly put his safety at risk.
- This current administration's hate-filled agenda has bred a toxic environment that is deplorable, disgusting, and downright dangerous.
- The President has sought to sew division – encouraging us to treat our neighbors and those difference from ourselves as the “other.”

- He wants you to believe that elected officials are not human beings.
- Corey entered this line of work because we love our communities so much.
- This incident is disturbing. We must not forget that in June, two Minnesota lawmakers and their spouses were targeted by a shooter.
- Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman was assassinated. Killed alongside her husband, Mark, in their own home. State Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, were also shot in their home and have since recovered.
- The age of social media has emboldened extremists. Providing them an opportunity to spew hate and division with anonymity.
- But the rhetoric from this administration has real-life consequences.
- Connecticut has always been a state that is welcome to all. As the Governor said, we pride ourselves on being a state that looks out for our neighbors and cares about the safety of everyone in our communities.
- Corey has been a proud representative of these values, and we are all here today to say that we support him.

## **9/11 CEREMONY**

### **Press Release: Governor Lamont and Lt. Governor Bysiewicz Invite Public to Connecticut's Annual 9/11 Memorial Ceremony**

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Family members of those who were killed in the attacks will participate, and the names of the 161 victims with ties to Connecticut will be read aloud.

Every year, the State of Connecticut intentionally holds its official memorial ceremony several days prior to the actual anniversary in order to accommodate the family members and friends of the victims. Because Connecticut is in such close proximity to New York City, many family members and friends who live in the state choose to also attend the annual ceremony that is held at the site of the World Trade Center on September 11. Scheduling Connecticut's ceremony on a different day makes it easier for those who wish to attend both ceremonies.

Connecticut's official memorial honoring the victims of the attacks is located on a peninsula at Sherwood Island State Park, where on a clear day the Manhattan skyline can be viewed across Long Island Sound. The memorial features stones engraved with the names of the people with ties to Connecticut who were killed in the attacks. The state park was chosen as the site for the memorial because it is the location where, in the hours immediately following the attacks in 2001, many people gathered to observe the smoke and devastation on Lower Manhattan from across Long Island Sound. Additionally, the site was used immediately after the attacks by the Connecticut National Guard as a staging area for Connecticut's relief efforts to New York City.

## **CT SUN**

### The Latest –

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- 63.49% said they've been fans of the Sun for about two decades, while 23.81% have become fans of the team within the past five years.

Last week, Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam launched a

campaign to keep Connecticut Sun and called for end to WNBA ‘interference.’

- Arunan asked residents to call (855) 438-0683 to leave the WNBA a message and “tell tem to take their hands off the Connecticut Sun.”

Governor’s Response (from the Tip Sheet) – Lamont has been publicly supportive of a bid reportedly backed by the billionaire investor Marc Lasry to keep the team in Connecticut, with their home games being played largely at the arena in Hartford. According to ESPN, the viability of that bid was called into serious doubt when the league communicated that it would not approve a move of the Sun from its current home at Mohegan Sun to the newly-renamed PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford.

Gov has said: “I’d slow down on the criticisms. We’re having constructive conversations. It’s an uphill climb for the state, but we’re in the game. We’re still in the game. It’s the fourth quarter. We’re down by a few points.”

Current Offers –

- Former Boston Celtics minority owner Steve Pagliuca is leading an offer to purchase the Sun from the Mohegan Tribe for \$325 million and relocate the team to Boston permanently.
- After the period of exclusivity ran out on the Pagliuca bid, the Lasry group matched Pagliuca's bid of \$325 million, but sources say the league has also told the Sun it would not approve a move to Hartford.

- The league, in recent weeks, offered to purchase the Sun for \$250 million and not charge the buyer an additional relocation fee -- which would allow the league to facilitate a sale to one of its preferred expansion cities.
- There's still a path for the tribe to maintain ownership of the team. It could sell a minority stake in the franchise and hold games in both Hartford at PeoplesBank Arena and in Uncasville, or it could stay the course and retain full control.

### Talking Points –

- Keeping the team is critical to offering an entertaining attraction, boosting our economy, and empowering our youngest residents.
- And frankly – where else would they play, if not in the ‘Basketball Capitol of the World?’
- Connecticut is the “Basketball Capital of the World,” and while that is in large part due to the success of UConn women’s basketball at the collegiate level – the Connecticut Sun is just as much a part of that legacy.
  - With the exception of the 2025 season (The Sun, which will miss the playoffs for the first time since 2016), the Sun has also backed up that claim thanks to its longtime success in the WNBA, including eight straight playoff berths and six consecutive semifinal appearances.

- Like so many residents, I can't get enough of the Sun. Since they moved here in 1997, the team has taken off and truly thrived. They are a fantastic attraction for our residents, and because of their popularity and prowess on the court, the Sun are also a fantastic tourist attraction.
- But the Connecticut Sun isn't just a source of entertainment; the program is a source of empowerment for our young girls.
- We know that introducing young girls to sports builds the skills they need to thrive, teaching them teamwork, resilience, and how to perform under pressure.
  - The Women's Sports Foundation has found that 69.1% of women who played sports report having held a formal leadership role outside their family.
  - And among them, 70.7% hold executive titles such as Team Leader, Manager, Administrator, Director, Chair, President, or even C-Suite positions.
- I've seen players, coaches, and staff from the Sun visiting communities across our state to talk to the next generation.
- Not only are they encouraging young girls to consider careers as athletes, coaches, or managers – they are serving as mentors and showing girls how to build confidence in whatever they do.
- I hope that residents will join me in this fight – let's keep

the Connecticut Sun in Connecticut!

## **Dan Newmyer Call-In**

**CALL-IN:** <https://streamyard.com/25s525ycqp>

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 3, 2025; 2:00 p.m.

### **TOPICS:**

Rep. Paris

9/11 Ceremony

CT Sun

### **BACKGROUND & TALKING POINTS:**

#### **REP. PARIS**

Last month, federal officials shared a post on social media that wrongly accused a Connecticut state lawmaker, State Representative Corey Paris, of publishing detailed location information about deportation efforts by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, triggering a torrent of harassment and death threats against him.

Latest – Last week, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal announced that he is launching a new investigation into the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency for actions that he called "abusive and unlawful." The investigation focuses not

only on Paris' treatment, but the treatment of undocumented immigrants who Blumenthal said aren't being given their due process.

The Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crimes is currently investigating this incident. The case is active and ongoing. Based on the nature of the investigation, there are no further details to report at this time.

### Talking Points –

- Let's be clear – all Corey did was share necessary information with his constituents. Exactly what he was elected to do.
- He did not “dox” federal agents or do anything to risk the safety of federal agents.
- On the flip side, in the name of “protecting” federal agents, these agencies are now using their own power to intimidate Corey and validate misinformation that has directly put his safety at risk.
- This current administration's hate-filled agenda has bred a toxic environment that is deplorable, disgusting, and downright dangerous.

- The President has sought to sow division – encouraging us to treat our neighbors and those different from ourselves as the “other.”
- He wants you to believe that elected officials are not human beings.
- Corey entered this line of work because we love our communities so much.
- This incident is disturbing. We must not forget that in June, two Minnesota lawmakers and their spouses were targeted by a shooter.
- Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman was assassinated. Killed alongside her husband, Mark, in their own home. State Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, were also shot in their home and have since recovered.
- The age of social media has emboldened extremists. Providing them an opportunity to spew hate and division with anonymity.

- But the rhetoric from this administration has real-life consequences.
- Connecticut has always been a state that is welcome to all. As the Governor said, we pride ourselves on being a state that looks out for our neighbors and cares about the safety of everyone in our communities.
- Corey has been a proud representative of these values, and we are all here today to say that we support him.

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**From:** [Identidad Latina Multimedia](#)  
**To:** [Lt.Governor Bysiewicz](#)  
**Subject:** Noticias destacadas de la semana en Identidad Latina Multimedia  
**Date:** Thursday, August 7, 2025 4:01:34 PM

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[Identidad Latina Multimedia](#)



## Las Noticias destacadas de la semana



Manifestantes en New  
Britain alzan la voz



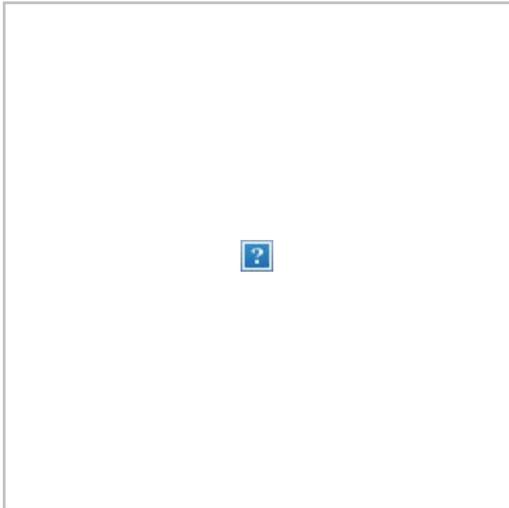
50 Latinos Destacados  
de Connecticut

## contra redadas de ICE

August 6, 2025

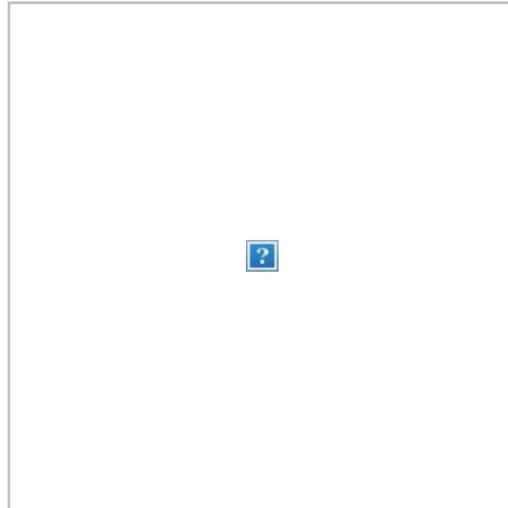
New Britain, CT — Decenas de personas se congregaron el martes frente al...

[Leer más...](#)



August 6, 2025

[Leer más...](#)



## Caen hasta 40% las solicitudes extranjeras a universidades de EE.UU.

August 6, 2025

Las universidades de Estados Unidos enfrentan una crisis sin precedentes en la...

[Leer más...](#)

## Alerta por mosquitos con virus del Nilo Occidental en Connecticut

August 6, 2025

Las autoridades de salud de Connecticut han emitido una alerta preventiva tras...

[Leer más...](#)

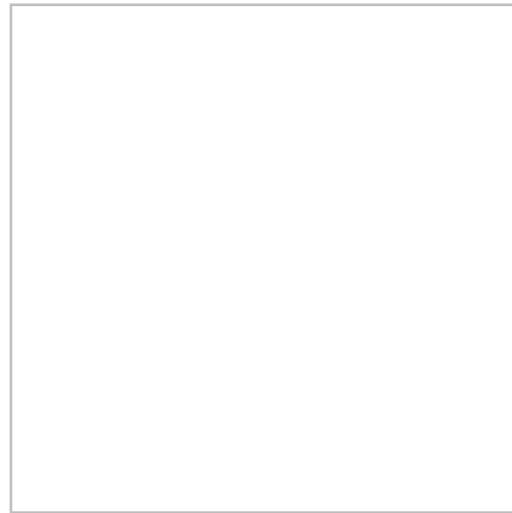


## EE.UU. exigirá depósitos de hasta 15.000 dólares a turistas de países con alto índice de permanencia indebida

*August 5, 2025*

La medida piloto del Departamento de Estado busca garantizar que los visitantes...

[Leer más...](#)



## Propietario de los Celtics compra Connecticut Sun y planea trasladarlas a Boston

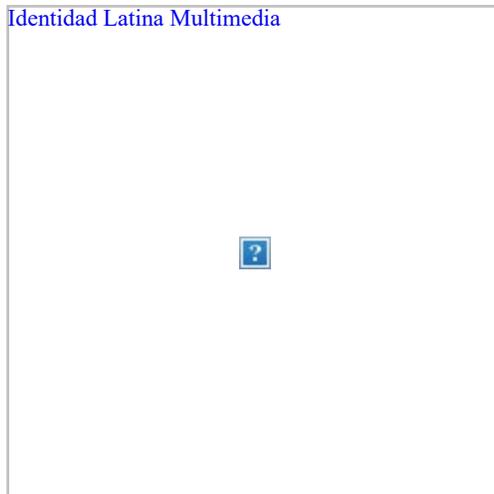
*August 5, 2025*

La histórica operación, valuada en 325 millones de dólares, marca un hito en el...

[Leer más...](#)

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Identidad Latina Multimedia



## 25 Años de Inspiración y Empoderamiento de los Latinos de CT



[Cancelar suscripción](#) | [Administrar tu suscripción](#) | [Ver online](#)

**From:** [David](#)  
**To:** [Lt. Governor Bysiewicz](#)  
**Subject:** Blueprint to Secure the Future of the Connecticut Sun  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 6:22:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [Where the Sun Rises Connecticut.pdf](#)

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EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz,

I saw your LinkedIn post about the Connecticut Sun and couldn't agree more — the Sun truly belong in Connecticut. Beyond being a championship-caliber team, they're also an engine for tourism, business partnerships, and youth engagement in the state.

That's why I drafted a Blueprint outlining how Connecticut can join as a minority owner alongside the Mohegan Tribe and private investors, anchored by a new state-of-the-art practice and corporate event facility. This plan ensures the Sun stay home while also unlocking growth opportunities for fans, players, and the state's economy.

I've just sent it to your office for review, and I hope it can be a helpful resource as you and Team Connecticut continue this important effort.

Respectfully,

David Anderson  
201-993-1456  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-anderson-a81a70381/>



# Where the Sun Rises: Connecticut

## Executive Summary – Connecticut Sun Blueprint

### Vision

Connecticut will preserve the Connecticut Sun’s true home by building a **state-of-the-art practice and corporate event facility** at Mohegan Sun. With the **State of Connecticut as a minority owner alongside the Mohegan Tribe and private investors**, this model creates stability, growth, and shared investment — a **Blueprint the WNBA Board of Governors can approve with confidence.**

### Key Pillars



#### A New Practice & Event Facility

- Two full-sized training courts with recovery and wellness centers.
- Convertible event space for **corporate retreats, sponsor activations, and fan experiences.**
- Interactive Sun Hall of Fame and **NIL content studio.**



#### Integration with UConn Women’s Basketball

- Facility access for UConn when they play at Mohegan Sun.
- Shared practices, youth engagement days, and NIL opportunities.
- Strengthens Connecticut as the **pipeline from high school → UConn → WNBA.**



#### Fan & Community Access

- **Open practices** and student specials (practice + ticket bundles).
- VIP experiences for fans, youth teams, and corporate groups.
- Sun + UConn joint clinics to inspire the next generation.

## **Corporate Growth**

- Partnership with Mohegan Sun to bundle **facility access with casino packages**.
- Attracts companies from **NY, NJ, MA, and RI** for retreats and outings.
- Sponsors gain access to **pro, college, and high school NIL athletes** under one roof.

## **Why This Matters to the WNBA**

- **Keeps the Sun at home** with a stable ownership group.
- **Protects players, staff, and community jobs** — no disruption.
- **Expands the league's footprint** by tying into corporate, fan, and NIL growth.
- **Sets a new standard:** Public-private partnership as a replicable model for future WNBA franchises.

## **Closing Statement**

*The Sun will not set on Connecticut. With the state as a partner, this is where it rises — stronger, brighter, and forever home. This isn't just a plan. It's a Blueprint the WNBA can say yes to.*