

Recent Turmoil in The WNBA

The WNBA has been experiencing rapid growth the past several years. New players the last two years caused viewership and revenue to sky rocket. However, the players have strong thoughts about how league leadership is handling increasing spotlight.

A season long back and forth between players and commissioner Kathy Engelbert came to a head on September 30th. In her exit interview, Napheesa Collier of the Minnesota Lynx blasted Kathy Engelbert's handling of the league. Collier says she knows “just what the job entails,” because her husband is the president of Unrivaled, a professional 3-on-3 basketball league. As an MVP contender for the last couple years, Collier is highly respected in the league.

Collier and players in the WNBA have two main complaints: compensation and officiating. The players believe they deserve higher salaries due to increased revenue. In Collier's interview, she recalls a meeting with Kathy Englebert where when asked about salary increase, Englebert said the players should “be on their knees thanking her for the media deal she got them.”

In regards to the officiating complaint, once again Englebert had a response. She allegedly told Collier that “only losers complain about the officiating.”

The players' unrest with the league-wide officiating is nothing new. Since the beginning of last year, viewers of the WNBA have seen their favorite players go down with season ending injuries due to the physicality the league allows. Players and coaches alike have spoken out on this all year, but have only been met with fines, not solutions. Indiana Fever star Sophie Cunningham

went on her podcast, “Show Me Something,” with co-star West Wilson many times this year to criticize the officiating and publicly speaks about the fines she’s received. She made these complaints before and after her season ending injury.

With the WNBA season coming to an end, everyone is wondering how the league will respond to the unrest. Players all over the league have commented on Collier's exit interview with full support. This animosity is nothing new, but players are growing tired.