

CLARK

FROM PAGE A5

year in college. ... How fast things change, and now I can see how great a college season it was.”

Iowa sold out all of its games at home and on the road with Clark as the main attraction. That momentum continued into the pros. Her No. 22 jersey was prevalent wherever she played during her rookie season and will be retired at Iowa.

“You’d be remiss not to acknowledge how crazy her fan base is and the eyes she gets with everything she does,” said Indiana Pac-

ers guard Tyrese Haliburton, who was often spotted courtside at Clark’s Indiana Fever games. “It’s a different type of popularity, she’s one of the most popular athletes in the world. It’s not just women’s sports anymore.

“It’s really cool to see and she just handles it with such grace.”

Clark said she enjoys spending time with fans at games, usually taking a few minutes before and after games to sign autographs.

“For me it’s still really fun,” she said. “Whether it’s 15 seconds or 10 seconds or 5 seconds can be very impactful in a young girl and young boys

life. Seeing the fans going crazy an hour before tipoff, I never take that for granted. That’s super cool and I never want that to go away.”

After a slow start to her WNBA career, Clark eventually found her stride there too. She set the single-game assist record with 19 and also had 337 assists on the season to break that mark as well. Clark, known for her logo-distance 3-pointers, was the fastest player to reach 100 3’s when she did it in 34 games which helped Indiana reach the playoffs for the first time since 2016.

Lobo, who won the

AP female athlete of the year award after lifting UConn to its first national championship, was on the court for launch of the WNBA two years later. The ESPN analyst sees Clark’s ascension as something different.

“She’s brought unprecedented attention both in the building, but also viewership to the sport that was worthy of it but didn’t have it yet,” Lobo said. “There’s never been anything like this.

“That timeframe from 1995-97 was a baby step in the progression of it all. This is a giant leap forward. I’ve never seen anything like this. There’s more attention

then the sports ever had.”

The numbers have been record breaking when Clark is part of a broadcast:

- TV viewership in the WNBA was up 300% thanks in large part to Clark with ABC, CBS, ION, ESPN, and ESPN2 all having record viewers when Fever games were on.

- The NCAA women’s championship game outdrew the men on TV for the first time in the sport’s 42-year history with 18.9 million viewers tuning it to watch the event. It was the second most watched women’s sporting event outside of the Olympics in the history of

U.S. television.

- The 2024 WNBA draft was the most watched in league history with 2.4 million viewers.

Clark credits the community of women athletes for the popularity increase of women’s sports, saying “we” did this or “we” did that when asked about it.

“It’s fascinating, you don’t always appreciate how many people 18 million is,” Clark said. “You see that number against a college football game or the Masters or whatever it is as far as the biggest sporting events in our country and it puts it in perspective. We outdrew the men’s Final Four.”



NASTY CRAWL SPACE?



SCAN ME!

FREE ESTIMATES
FINANCING AVAILABLE



ALL THINGS BASEMENTY!

Frontier
FOUNDATION & CRAWL SPACE Repair

270-278-1334
FrontierInTheSun.com

- ✓ DRY BASEMENTS
- ✓ HEALTHY CRAWL SPACES
- ✓ RADON MITIGATION
- ✓ LEVEL CONCRETE
- ✓ STABLE FOUNDATIONS
- ✓ HUMIDITY & MOLD CONTROL

McCRACKEN CO. | GRAVES CO. | MARSHALL CO. | LYON CO. | CALDWELL CO. | MASSAC CO.

CLASSIFIEDS

CALL **1-800-599-1771** OR EMAIL: classifieds@paducahsun.com
LOG ON TO CREATE YOUR OWN: PaducahSun.com (click Classifieds at the top of the page)



TIME FOR A NEW CAR?

The Paducah Sun Classifieds are the place to look!








Buy and sell across Western Kentucky & Southern Illinois in one location. Your ad will appear in 6 newspapers!


0900 LEGALS

Local contractor seeking qualified DBE, MBE & WBE subcontractors & suppliers for work relating to civil construction in the Western Kentucky area. Email info@vecllc.com or call 270-247-1400 to request information regarding the project.



Find it!

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!



Goes great with coffee

The Paducah Sun

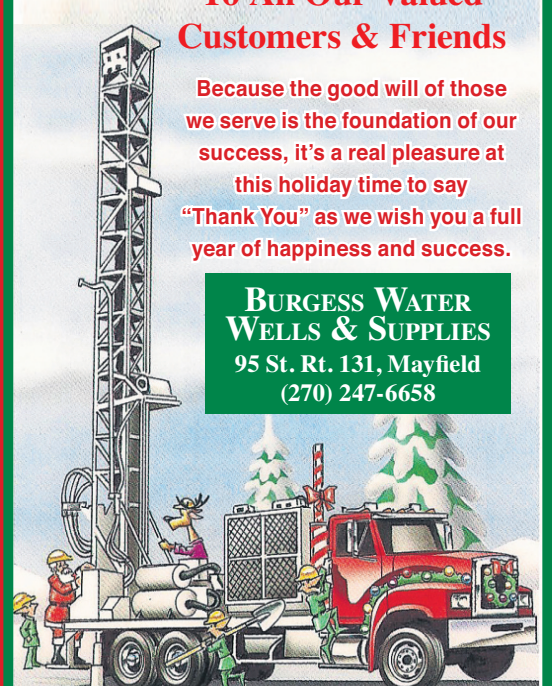
Miss a day Miss a lot!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

To All Our Valued Customers & Friends

Because the good will of those we serve is the foundation of our success, it's a real pleasure at this holiday time to say "Thank You" as we wish you a full year of happiness and success.

BURGESS WATER WELLS & SUPPLIES
95 St. Rt. 131, Mayfield
(270) 247-6658





is currently accepting applications for:

FULL-TIME OFFICE DELIVERY AGENT

Duties will include delivery of newspaper routes, making of new delivery tapes, delivery of missed papers of home delivery subscribers, assist with kiosk and increase circulation sales.
Company vehicle provided. \$12/hour.

Send Resumes to jhall@paducahsun.com
For more information contact Tonya Dickey at 270-575-8792

The Paducah Sun is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, national origin or disability.

To apply, call Tonya at 270-575-8792