

WNBA BROADCAST RESEARCH PACKET

IND@SEA

Indiana Fever at Seattle Storm

Tuesday, July 28, 2026
Venue: Climate Pledge Arena
Records: IND 18-10 vs SEA 6-24
REG
Sample broadcast research packet

OPENING WATCH LIST – READ THIS FIRST

Game Thesis

Indiana enters Seattle as the WNBA’s efficiency juggernaut, boasting a league-best **115.6 ORtg**, **56.0% eFG%**, and **61.0% TS%**. Despite a pace of **99.5** (2nd best WNBA), the Fever operate as a half-court execution machine rather than a transition threat, generating only **8.3 fast-break points** (#10/15). Their identity is built on self-creation, evidenced by a league-worst **62.6% assisted FG%**, fueled by the high-volume scoring of Kelsey Mitchell (**23.3 PPG**) and Caitlin Clark (**21.0 PPG**).

The Storm, sitting at 6-26 and riding a nine-game losing streak, provide the ultimate stylistic friction. While their **101.6 ORtg** is 3rd worst in the WNBA, their **108.2 defensive rating** ranks 9th, slightly ahead of Indiana’s 10th-ranked unit (**108.4**). Seattle’s defensive teeth are at the arc, where they allow a stingy **31.3% opponent 3P%** (2nd best WNBA) and a league-low **27.3%** on above-break triples. This creates a collision at the perimeter: Indiana shoots **35.5%** on above-break 3s (33.7% of their diet), meeting the exact zone Seattle is built to erase.

Core Broadcast Question

Can Seattle’s elite arc defense and Dominique Malonga’s rim protection neutralize the league’s most efficient offense long enough to snap a nine-game losing streak?

All Things to Watch

- The Arc Collision: Indiana converts **35.5%** of above-break 3s; Seattle allows a league-low **27.3%** in that zone, the widest statistical mismatch in the game.
- **Paint Vulnerability:** Indiana concedes a league-worst **43.8 opponent paint PPG**; Seattle scores **45.6%** of its points in the paint (2nd best in the West).
- **Mitchell’s Historic Run:** Kelsey Mitchell holds the WNBA’s active lead for consecutive games with 2+ threes (**16 games**) and the 2nd longest active streak of 15+ points (**20 games**).
- **Malonga’s Interior Wall:** Dominique Malonga holds opponents to **50.0%** at the rim, 11 points better than the Storm’s team average (**61.1%**).
- **Late-Clock Efficiency Gap:** In the final five minutes, Indiana shoots **47.0%** while Seattle slides to a league-low **37.2%**.
- **Caitlin Clark’s Gravity:** Clark dropped a season-high **45 points** in the last meeting (July 17) and enters with a **6.3 clutch NET**.
- **The Glass Factor:** Indiana ranks 4th in the WNBA with a **33.4% ORB%**, leading to **11.9 second-chance PPG**.
- **Rookie Workloads:** Seattle starts two rookies—Awa Fam (**29.6 MPG**) and Flau’jae Johnson (**28.5 MPG**)—who anchor the WNBA’s 15th-ranked offense.
- **Timeout Clustering:** Both coaches back-load their huddles; **60%** of Indiana’s and **63.4%** of Seattle’s timeouts occur in the final five minutes of quarters.
- **ATO Hierarchy:** Kelsey Mitchell is Indiana’s primary target out of timeouts (**11-of-27** on first shots), while Awa Fam leads Seattle (**6-of-16**).

How Tonight Unfolds

- Q1 Efficiency: Indiana typically starts fast, shooting a team-best **49.7%** in the opening frame.
- **Tempo Contrast:** Seattle’s starting five plays at a **103.7 pace**, significantly faster than Indiana’s primary unit (**98.9**).
- **Bench Shift:** Indiana’s second unit, led by Makayla Timpson, increases the Fever’s pace to **106.8** while maintaining elite efficiency.
- **Seattle’s Transition Push:** The Storm find their best offensive rhythm in the open floor, ranking 6th in the WNBA with **11.1%** of points coming via fast breaks.
- **Second Half Glass War:** Indiana’s **33.4% ORB%** vs. Seattle’s **30.0%** (10th) often decides possession volume in the third quarter.
- **Q4 Fade:** Seattle historically struggles in the final period, shooting a season-low **38.6%** in the fourth quarter.
- **Clutch Execution:** The Fever lean on Clark’s **59.9% clutch TS%** and Mitchell’s **31.9% clutch usage** to close out tight windows.

Game Keys

Key	Why It Matters
Above-Break 3%	IND shoots 35.5% here; SEA allows a league-low 27.3%. This determines the game's math.
Paint PPG Conceded	IND allows a league-worst 43.8 paint PPG; SEA must exploit this to offset poor arc shooting.
Mitchell vs. the Arc Wall	Kelsey Mitchell is on a 16-game streak of 2+ threes; SEA's primary goal is ending that volume.
Second-Chance Points	IND's 11.9 second-chance PPG (5th) extends possessions against SEA's 9th-ranked defense.
Clutch TS%	Clark (59.9%) and Cunningham (87.2%) offer efficient late-game options SEA lacks (-31.0 NET for Hiedeman).
Turnover Differential	SEA ranks 4th worst in TOV% (18.7%); IND's offense is 1st, but their defense forces few steals (3rd worst).

Broadcast line: The WNBA’s most efficient offense meets its stingiest arc defense in a matchup where Indiana’s historic shooting streaks collide with Seattle’s desperate need to protect the rim.

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1. IND Team Identity

IND Identity Tonight

Indiana owns the most efficient offense in the WNBA – season ORtg 115.6 (1st best WNBA), eFG% 56.0% (1st best WNBA), TS% 61.0% (1st best WNBA) – and the telling number is how disconnected it is from a passing web: an assisted FG% of 62.6% ranks 15th of 15 (1st worst WNBA). That is self-creation offense, running through Kelsey Mitchell (23.3 PPG, NET 9.5), Caitlin Clark (21.0 PPG, team-high 30.8% usage), and Aliyah Boston (17.3 PPG, 52.6% FG), with the glass and the stripe priced in behind them: ORB% 33.4% (4th best WNBA) feeds 11.9 second-chance PPG (5th best WNBA), and a 33.8% FTA rate (5th best WNBA) keeps the ledger ticking. The pace label is half-court, not open floor – 99.5 (2nd best WNBA) against just 8.3 fast-break PPG (#10/15).

The defensive half is the character-defining counterweight: a season DRtg of 108.4 (10th) that concedes 43.8 opponent paint PPG – the worst rim-allowance mark in the WNBA – while forcing only 6.6 steals (3rd worst WNBA) against a 15.9% opponent TOV% (4th worst WNBA). This club wins by outscoring the damage it surrenders, not by stopping it. That same shape carries into the clutch book: Clark's plus-efficiency hub (clutch NET 6.3) sits beside Mitchell's volume engine (31.9% clutch usage) with Sophie Cunningham (87.2% clutch TS) as the cleanup finisher, while Stephanie White's late-clock habit – 60% of timeouts under five minutes, Mitchell 11-of-27 on ATO first looks – wires how the closing minutes get called.

The cleanest printed win mechanism tonight is the above-break 3: the Fever shoot 35.5% on those looks, they make up 33.7% of the shot diet, and Seattle allows 27.3% on them. Efficiency-first, self-created, rim-conceding – and entering this one as the #5 WNBA seed / #1 East club off a road loss.

What's Working / What's Not

- Working – Above-Break 3 Fire: IND converts 35.5% on above-break 3s, SEA allows 27.3% on them, and they make up 33.7% of the Fever's shot diet.
- Working – Second-Chance Value:** 11.9 second-chance PPG (5th best WNBA) off an ORB% of 33.4% (4th best WNBA).
- Working – Foul Math:** 33.8% FTA rate (5th best WNBA) – the drive-first creation earns contact at a top-five clip.
- Working – L5 Hot Hand:** Mitchell at 26.6 PPG (+3.3 vs season) on 67.2% TS; Tyasha Harris up +3.5 vs season.
- Working – Paint Gravity:** Boston at 17.3 PPG on 52.6% FG with a NET of 8.8.
- Not Working – Rim Allowance:** 43.8 opponent paint PPG, the worst mark in the WNBA.
- Not Working – No Live-Ball Pressure:** 6.6 steals (3rd worst WNBA) and a 15.9% opponent TOV% (4th worst WNBA).
- Not Working – Transition Leaks:** 10.3 opponent fast-break PPG (3rd worst WNBA).
- Not Working – Clutch Volume Drag:** Mitchell's 31.9% clutch usage on a 42.5% clutch TS (clutch NET -1.5).
- Not Working – No Passing Web:** 62.6% assisted FG% (15th/15, 1st worst WNBA) – when dribble creation stalls, there is nothing to fall back on.

Clubhouse & Stakes

- Standing: #5 WNBA / #1 East at 19-11, with an L10 of 7-3 and the single loss the most recent result (road L 1 entering Seattle).
- Mitchell streak watch:** 20 straight games with 15+ points (2nd best WNBA) and 16 straight games with 2+ made 3s (1st best WNBA) – both live tonight.
- Companion runs:** Boston at 8 straight games of 15+ points (#7/19 WNBA); Clark at 5 straight games of 5+ assists (#5/12 WNBA).
- East race context:** as the #1 East seed, the Fever are playing for the top conference line and a WNBA top-5 overall seed with roughly a third of the season left.

Conditions

- Road trip: Fever enter on a road L 1, playing at Climate Pledge Arena – a West Coast swing for the only East team in the top four seeds.
- Late tip:** scheduled for 1:30 AM ET / Jul 29, a 10:00 PM PT local start in Seattle.
- Back-to-back rhythm:** no rest advantage printed for either side; the travel itself is the variable.

Broadcast line: The league's most efficient offense – 1st best WNBA in ORtg, eFG%, and TS% – travels with the WNBA's worst rim defense in tow, and the hinge tonight is whether Mitchell's 20-game scoring streak keeps the volume engine humming while the paint leak gets exposed.

Standings Snapshot

Team	Record	Seed	Conference	Division
IND	19-11 (L10 7-3, L 1)	#5 WNBA / #1 East	East	–
SEA	6-26 (L10 1-9, L 9)	#15 WNBA / #8 West	West	–

League seed is overall playoff_rank ; conference seed is standing within East/West. Division column is blank in 2026 – WNBA has no divisions.

2. SEA Team Identity

SEA Identity Tonight

Seattle's **6-26** record hides the identity of a defense-first club – the 108.2 defensive rating (9th of 15) is the only efficiency column where the Storm beat Indiana tonight, against the Fever's 108.4 (10th). The profile is perimeter-first: opponents shoot 43.2% from the field (4th best WNBA), 31.3% from three (2nd best WNBA), and a **49.1% eFG% (3rd best WNBA)**, backed by active hands at 7.7 steals (4th best WNBA) and 4.3 blocks (5th best WNBA) while holding opponent paint points to **38.1 (6th)** – the exact zone Indiana attacks hardest.

The burden is the offense: 101.6 ORtg (3rd worst WNBA), 49.4% eFG% (3rd worst WNBA), 18.7% TOV% (4th worst WNBA), and a 28.3% FTA rate (4th worst WNBA). Even so, the starting five of Hiedeman · Melbourne · Malonga · Johnson · Fam has logged 18 games as the club's only real identity block – a **5.6 NET on 52.3% eFG%** while pushing a **103.7 pace**, the fastest unit in this matchup and a full four-plus possessions quicker than Indiana's first group.

The late-clock chapter mirrors the bottom line: the Storm shoot **38.6% in the fourth quarter**, their worst frame of the season, and the closing minutes lean on a rookie-and-sophomore core – Awa Fam and Flau'jae Johnson are rookies, Dominique Malonga a second-year – that carries the rotation's heaviest minutes.

What's Working / What's Not

- Working – Rim anchor:** Malonga holds opponents to **50.0%** in the restricted area on her floor time against a team rate of **61.1%** – the sharpest single-defender number on the roster.
- Working – Rookie surge:** Flau'jae Johnson is up to 18.4 PPG over the last five, a **+4.7** jump versus her season average.
- Working – Glass run:** Malonga's 7-game streak of 8+ rebounds is **2nd best WNBA**, and she closed the July 17 head-to-head with 28 points and 14 rebounds.
- Working – Transition pop:** **11.1%** of Seattle's points come on the fast break (6th in the WNBA) with **9.2 fast-break PPG (8th)** – the runaway edge of an otherwise compressed offense.
- Working – Active hands:** 7.7 steals (4th best WNBA) and 4.3 blocks (5th best WNBA) feed a transition game that keeps a bottom-tier half-court attack afloat.
- Not Working – Late-game guard play:** Natisha Hiedeman owns the heaviest clutch usage at **26.8%** while posting a -31.0 clutch NET on a 30.9% TS%; Flau'jae Johnson sits at **-30.6** in the same window.
- Not Working – Fourth-quarter fade:** The Storm shoot **38.6% in Q4** and just 37.2% in the final five minutes – the worst quarter-to-quarter drop on their sheet.
- Not Working – Turnover leak:** Seattle turns it over at an **18.7% TOV%**, the 4th worst mark in the WNBA.
- Not Working – Foul advantage:** The 28.3% FTA rate (4th worst WNBA) means the Storm rarely manufacture cheap points at the stripe.
- Not Working – Defensive transition:** Opponents hang 9.9 fast-break PPG (5th worst WNBA) on the league's otherwise cleanest perimeter defense.

Clubhouse & Stakes

- Standing the line:** Seattle sits at 6-26, #15 WNBA / #8 West, with a **1-9 L10** and nine straight losses – the league's longest current slide entering tonight's home date.

3. IND Offense

Scoring Identity

Indiana's numbers double as a scoring-identity bingo card: ORtg 115.6 (1st best WNBA), eFG% 56.0% (1st best WNBA), TS% 61.0% (1st best WNBA). No team is more efficient per possession, and the pace label doesn't tell the whole story.

- Pace without transition:** Pace 99.5 (2nd best WNBA) but fast-break points 8.3 PPG (#10/15) – the Fever pile up possessions, then grind through the half-court rather than run off misses.
- Modern diet:** 38.9% of FGA from 3 (5th best WNBA), anchored by the above-break 3 at 33.7% of all shots with a 35.5% hit rate; the rim counters at 34.6% of FGA in the restricted area, converting 61.9%.
- Glass work:** 2nd-chance points 11.9 PPG (5th best WNBA) on an ORB% of 33.4% (4th best WNBA) – a top-five offensive-rebounding unit extending possessions after the first miss.

Creation & Spacing

The creation load splits between two self-generating stars, and the assist column shows it: assisted FG% 62.6% ranks 15th of 15 (1st worst WNBA) – the scoring is largely unassisted, created off the dribble rather than through a passing web.

Player	USG L5	PTS L5	Δ vs season	TS L5
Caitlin Clark	33.7%	22.8	+1.8	63.0%
Kelsey Mitchell	27.2%	26.6	+3.3	67.2%
Aliyah Boston	26.2%	18.4	+1.1	65.5%

- Caitlin Clark: 21.0 PPG on a team-high 30.8% usage with a NET rating of 5.8 – the engine whose 3-point gravity drags defenders outside the break.
- Kelsey Mitchell:** 23.3 PPG on 26.2% usage, NET 9.5, and the hotter hand of the two – L5 at 26.6 PPG (+3.3 vs season) on 67.2% TS.
- Boston as the interior counter:** 17.3 PPG on 25.7% usage, NET 8.8, shooting 65.5% TS across the last five while the perimeter pulls the floor open.

Pressure Points

- Above-break 3 edge: IND shoots 35.5% on above-break 3s, Seattle allows 27.3% on those looks, and they make up 33.7% of the Fever's shot diet – the single cleanest offensive edge in this matchup.
- Foul drawing:** FTA rate 33.8% (5th best WNBA) – the drive-first creation style earns contact at a top-five clip, a steady source of free points against a Seattle team that ranks 3rd worst WNBA on offensive rating.

Broadcast line: The WNBA's most efficient offense is a half-court machine wearing a top-two pace – and the above-break 3 it hits at 35.5% runs head-first into Seattle's 27.3% allowed outside the arc."

– Speaker

4. IND Defense

Defensive Identity

Indiana's defense is the engine behind a **108.4** defensive rating (10th in the WNBA), a unit that wins on force and contest rate rather than disruption. The Fever allow **52.0%** opponent eFG% (9th) and **46.5%** opponent FG% (5th worst WNBA), with the cracks showing at the rim: **43.8** opponent paint PPG is the worst mark in the league. The league's best offense (115.6 ORtg, 1st best WNBA) papers over a defense that does not generate turnovers – **6.6** steals per game (3rd worst WNBA) and a **15.9%** opponent TOV% (4th worst WNBA) mean opponents get clean looks early in the clock. The zone data confirms the leak: they allow **59.8%** in the restricted area and **39.0%** in the non-RA paint, both above league-typical resistance.

- **Hustle gap:** **3.9** blocks per game (8th) is the only top-half disruptive rate; the steal deficit forces stop attempts to come from shot contests, not live-ball turnovers.
- **Foul math:** Their **33.8%** FTA rate (5th best WNBA) is an offensive edge; defensively they keep opponents off the stripe relative to league average, but the paint volume makes that a fragile advantage.

Broadcast line: This is a defense that concedes the rim at a league-worst rate and banks on its top-ranked offense to outscore the damage.

Anchors

The Fever's interior defense runs through **Aliyah Boston**, the nominal rim presence who allows **57.9%** opponent FG% at the rim while on the floor – a respectable anchor rate but not a deterrent, and she allows **41.5%** in the non-RA paint. The sharper on-floor rim numbers belong to the wings: **Lexie Hull** holds opponents to **56.4%** at the rim and **43.8%** in the paint on 20 minutes per game, while **Tyasha Harris** posts **57.9%** rim FG% allowed on just 15 minutes. Perimeter containment is the real wall – **Sophie Cunningham** allows **33.0%** in the paint and a stingy **29.7%** on corner threes, and **Monique Billings** holds corners to **25.8%** despite a soft **61.1%** rim rate.

- **Boston's role:** Anchors the drop zone but gets beaten above the break (**36.9%** ATB 3 FG% allowed) – her value is contesting the paint, not chasing shooters.
- **Rotational anchor:** **Makayla Timpson** (15 minutes) carries the strongest paint contests of the bench – **64.1%** rim allowed is the team's worst on-floor mark, but she counters with **28.2%** midrange and **20.9%** corner 3 FG% allowed.

Broadcast line: Boston is the name at the rim, but the real containment comes from the perimeter wings who shrink the floor around her.

What They Allow

The printed leak is the paint, and Seattle's attack is built to find it. The Storm score **45.6%** of their points in the paint (2nd best West) on **37.6** paint PPG, and their two hottest recent creators – **Flau'jae Johnson** (+4.7 PPG in L5) and **Dominique Malonga** (+1.5 PPG in L5, 27.9% usage) – both live in the restricted area. Indiana allows **43.8** opponent paint PPG (1st worst WNBA) and **59.8%** at the rim, a direct collision with a Seattle offense that ranks 6th in paint scoring share. The secondary leak is the corner 3: the Fever allow **34.2%** on left-corner threes and **21.9%** on the right, with **Kelsey Mitchell** the most targeted defender above the break (**39.1%** ATB 3 FG% allowed on 32 minutes).

- **Paint collision:** SEA's 45.6% paint share vs IND's league-worst 43.8 opponent paint PPG – the Storm's clearest path to scoring tonight.
- **Deep threat:** Indiana allows **34.6%** opponent 3P% (9th); Seattle shoots **30.4%** of points from 3 (6th) with a **34.9%** above-break rate.

Broadcast line: Seattle's paint-heavy diet meets the WNBA's most generous rim defense – the numbers set up a high-volume interior test.

Conditions

Indiana rides a one-game losing streak (7-3 in L10) into Seattle, but rest and travel are not a defensive differentiator – the Fever are a neutral-site road team with no home/road defensive split printed. The narrowest edge is pace: Indiana's **99.5** (2nd best WNBA) forces a Seattle team that prefers a 97.2 tempo into transition, where the Fever allow **10.3** opponent fast-break PPG (3rd worst WNBA) – a leak the Storm's 9.2 fast-break PPG (8th) can attack.

Broadcast line: The pace mismatch gives Seattle its best transition windows, but Indiana's defense is the same sieve home or away.

5. IND Clutch & Late Clock

Clutch Profile

Indiana's late-game engine runs through **Caitlin Clark**, whose clutch NET of **6.3** across 11 clutch games leads the Fever's rotation – built on an ORtg of **105.4** and a DRtg of **99.1** (clutch = last 5 minutes, ahead or behind ±5). Clark's usage sits at **24.6%** in that window, but her real distinction is efficiency: a **59.9%** TS% that separates her from the rest of the core.

The counterweight is **Kelsey Mitchell**, who owns the heaviest clutch usage at **31.9%** – yet posts a **-1.5** clutch NET on a **42.5%** TS%. That pair creates the Fever's late-clock tension: Clark as the plus-efficiency hub, Mitchell as the volume engine.

- **Caitlin Clark:** 11 GP, 105.4 ORtg / 99.1 DRtg, **NET 6.3**, 24.6% USG, 59.9% TS
- **Lexie Hull:** 12 GP, 103.4 ORtg / 98.9 DRtg, **NET 4.5**, 11.3% USG, 41.0% TS
- **Makayla Timpson:** 7 GP, 107.3 ORtg / 103.7 DRtg, **NET 3.6**, 10.6% USG, 60.2% TS
- **Monique Billings:** 6 GP, 109.1 ORtg / 106.3 DRtg, **NET 2.8**, 8.0% USG, 46.3% TS
- **Sophie Cunningham:** 12 GP, 111.5 ORtg / 109.3 DRtg, **NET 2.2**, 8.2% USG, **87.2% TS**
- **Kelsey Mitchell:** 13 GP, 106.7 ORtg / 108.2 DRtg, **NET -1.5**, **31.9% USG**, 42.5% TS

Supporting cast members – **Sophie Cunningham** at an **87.2%** clutch TS and **Makayla Timpson at 60.2%** – show the Fever's depth can close possessions cleanly when the ball kicks out of Clark's hands.

Closing Habits

Indiana's timeout rhythm is a fourth-quarter leaning operation: **63 team timeouts** in Q4 versus 26 in Q3, 24 in Q2, and 10 in Q1. More telling is the clock window – 74 of 123 total timeouts (60%) come with under 5:00 remaining, while zero timeout calls come before the 10:00 mark of any quarter.

When the Fever call timeouts, the ATO first-shot hierarchy is clear. **Kelsey Mitchell** leads with **11-of-27 (27 attempts)** on first shots after an IND timeout, with **Caitlin Clark and Aliyah Boston** both at **8-of-13 (13 attempts)**. That distribution paints a closing picture of Mitchell as the primary set-play target, Clark as the second look, and Boston as the interior release valve.

Player	FG	Att
Kelsey Mitchell	11	27
Caitlin Clark	8	13

Player	FG	Att
Aliyah Boston	8	13
Sophie Cunningham	4	7

Live Watch

Watch the usage split between **Mitchell's 31.9%** clutch USG and **Clark's 24.6%** – if Mitchell's volume climbs with the game on the line, her **42.5%** clutch TS becomes the swing stat against a Seattle defense that allows opponents to shoot **46.5%** from the field (5th worst WNBA). The Fever's offensive rating at **115.6 (1st best WNBA)** carries the late-clock burden, but that edge narrows when possessions filter through low-efficiency usage.

Broadcast line: The late-clock eye test is whether Mitchell's ISO volume – 31.9% clutch usage on 42.5% TS – overrides Clark's net-positive distribution, and which one draws the ATO first shot.

6. IND Coaching & ATO

Sideline Identity

Stephanie White is the Fever's head coach at 19-11 this season – the second straight winning campaign for her Indianapolis core after a 24-20 finish in 2025, following back-to-back Connecticut runs (28-12 in 2024, 27-13 in 2023). Her career WNBA record sits at 135-87 with a 17-17 playoff mark, and every full season she has finished as a head coach – 2023 through 2025 – closed above .500.

Broadcast line: Stephanie White runs the Fever sideline at 19-11, with a 135-87 career record and a winning season in each of her last two stops.

Timeout & Foul Timing

White's timeout usage is a late-game pattern: 63 of the club's 123 regular-season timeouts have come in the fourth quarter, against 10 in the first and 24 in the second. The clock-window split reinforces it – 74 (60%) arrive inside the final five minutes, 49 (40%) in the 5-10-minute band, none before the 10-minute mark.

Quarter
Q1
10
Q2
24
Q3
26
Q4
63

Broadcast line: When the Fever burn a timeout, it's almost always in crunch time – 60% come under the five-minute mark.

Adjustment Edge

After a Fever timeout, Kelsey Mitchell has been the first-look target at 11-of-27 on ATO first shots. Caitlin Clark (8-of-13) and Aliyah Boston (8-of-13) have both converted at 61.5% when White runs the first look through them.

Broadcast line: Mitchell gets the first shot out of White's huddles most often; Clark and Boston convert theirs at 61.5%.

Broadcast line: Against a Seattle club that has lost nine straight, White's late-timeout habit and Mitchell-led ATO looks are the setup to track.

Coaching Matchup

Team	Head Coach	Season W-L
Indiana Fever	Stephanie White	19-11
Seattle Storm	Sonia Raman	6-26

Indiana Fever (IND)

Head coach: Stephanie White

This season with IND: 19-11

Career WNBA record: 135-87 (2015-2026)

Playoff record: 17-17

Recent prior stints: 2025 IND (24-20); 2024 CON (28-12); 2023 CON (27-13)

Seattle Storm (SEA)

Head coach: Sonia Raman

This season with SEA: 6-26

Career WNBA record: 6-26 (2026-2026)

Timeouts & After-Timeout Offense

Team timeouts only (regular timeouts). Season sample through games before tonight.

Timeout clock windows

Team	≥10:00	5-10	<5:00
IND	0 (0%)	49 (40%)	74 (60%)
SEA	0 (0%)	41 (37%)	71 (63%)

IND first shot after timeout

Player	FG	Att
Kelsey Mitchell	11/27	27
Caitlin Clark	8/13	13
Aliyah Boston	8/13	13
Raven Johnson	4/9	9
Myisha Hines Allen	5/8	8
Sophie Cunningham	4/7	7

SEA first shot after timeout

Player	FG	Att
Awa Fam	6/16	16
Natisha Hiedeman	3/15	15
Dominique Malonga	3/14	14
Flaujae Johnson	1/9	9
Katie Lou Samuelson	4/5	5
Zia Cooke	1/5	5

7. SEA Offense

Scoring Identity

Seattle's offense is the weakest half of the league's efficiency board this season – ORtg **101.6** (3rd worst WNBA) on an eFG% of **49.4%** (3rd worst WNBA) and **53.9%** TS% (3rd worst WNBA). The points come from the paint and the break rather than the arc: **45.6%** of points are scored in the paint (6th in the WNBA, 2nd best in the West), while **11.1%** of scoring arrives on the fast break (6th in the WNBA) – the sixth-highest transition share in the league against a Fever defense allowing **10.3** opponent fast-break PPG (3rd worst WNBA).

- **Pace without payoff:** The Storm play at a **97.2** pace (7th in the WNBA), yet the possessions turn into a **18.7%** TOV% (4th worst WNBA) and a **28.3%** FTA rate (4th worst WNBA) – the club rarely gets to the line to bail out a shaky half-court.
- **Diet by zone:** Nearly a quarter of shots arrive in the restricted area (24.3% of FGA) at **60.6%**, with another 24.3% in the non-RA paint at **40.2%**; the above-break 3 is the volume spacer at 33.6% of FGA, hitting **34.9%**.

Broadcast line: Seattle scores in the paint and in transition, but the league's 3rd-worst ORtg and eFG% show a half-court attack that flatlines outside those two burst sources.

Creation & Spacing

The creation load sits with **Flaujae Johnson and Natisha Hiedeman**, and the assist data explains why the unit struggles to diversify: assisted FG% **64.7%** ranks 13th of 15 (3rd worst WNBA) – barely a pass-first offense, yet without a self-creator who can bail out a broken set.

- **Flaujae Johnson (rookie):** 13.7 PPG on **24.6%** usage with a **NET -0.3** – the best net on the Storm's creation card, and her last five show the surge: **18.4 PPG** (+4.7 vs season) on 24.5% usage.
- **Natisha Hiedeman:** the veteran volume guard at **15.6 PPG** on 23.7% usage, but her L5 efficiency cools to **47.2% TS% on 22.7%** usage – the secondary engine, not the answer.
- **Dominique Malonga (second-year):** the interior counter, team-high **16.3 PPG** on a team-high **29.0%** usage, though her L5 NET of **-13.7** on 27.9% usage shows the cost of feeding the paint in this system.

Broadcast line: Johnson is the one creator printing a winning net on high usage, while Hiedeman and Malonga carry the volume at losing efficiency – a rookie-led half-court against a Fever defense that attacks the ball.

Pressure Points

The single cleanest edge in this matchup is the above-break 3: Seattle shoots **34.9%** on above-break 3s (33.6% of their FGA) against a Fever defense that allows **27.3%** on those looks – a 7.6-point gap that ranks as the sharpest zone mismatch on the board.

- **Midrange is a dead zone:** the Storm hit just **28.2%** on midrange attempts (12.7% of FGA) while Indiana allows **35.0%** there – shooting from that band hands possessions back to the league's 1st-best offense.
- **Foul bait absent: a 28.3%** FTA rate (4th worst WNBA) means Seattle rarely lives at the stripe, which matters against a Fever defense whose **33.8%** opponent-free-throw discipline is a top-five mark league-wide.
- **Transition is the pressure valve:** **11.1%** of points off the fast break (6th in the WNBA) is the one rate that beats Indiana's own **8.6%** transition share (4th worst WNBA) – the Storm's best path to easy looks is the run-out, not the set.

Broadcast line: Seattle's above-break 3 is its only true shooting edge over Indiana, while the midrange and the foul line are both dead ends against a top-five defensive rebounding and foul-discipline unit.

The offense starts with Flaujae Johnson's creation and ends with the above-break 3 – a rookie engine and a single zone edge against the league's best-rated offense, with transition the only second option.

Broadcast line: Seattle's offense is a paint-and-transition unit with one clean edge – the above-break 3 – facing a Fever defense that ranks 3rd-worst against exactly that shot.

8. SEA Defense

Defensive Identity

Seattle's defense is the one team-efficiency edge it holds over Indiana tonight – and the crispest part of a 1-9 L10 stretch. The Storm's **DRtg 108.2 (#9/15)** is a hair tighter than IND's 108.4 (#10/15), the only edge-Seattle row on the efficiency board.

- **Perimeter-first:** Opp FG% **43.2%** (4th best WNBA), Opp 3P% **31.3%** (2nd best WNBA), Opp eFG% **49.1%** (3rd best WNBA) – Seattle defends the arc before anything else.
- **Active hands:** STL **7.7** (#4/15; 4th best WNBA), BLK **4.3** (#5/15; 5th best WNBA), Opp TOV% 17.0% (#8/15).
- **Paint held:** Opp paint PPG **38.1** (#6/15) – a unit that mostly contains the areas Indiana attacks hardest.
- **Transition leak:** Opp FB PPG **9.9** (5th worst WNBA) is the defensive glass exception to an otherwise clean profile.

Broadcast line: Seattle's 108.2 defensive rating is the rare column where the Storm beat Indiana tonight – the arc defense is the identity, and the one part of a 6-26 roster built to compete.

Anchors

Dominique Malonga, the second-year, is the rim keeper. Opponents shoot **50.0%** in the restricted area on her floor time – team RA allowed sits at 61.1% – the only SEA regular to hold the rim below 59%.

- **Rim keeper:** Malonga's on-floor RA allowed **50.0%** vs the team's 61.1% – the sharpest single-defender number on the roster, paired with a team-wide 4.3 BLK (5th best WNBA).
- **Arc guards:** the perimeter trio of rookie **Awa Fam (22.4%** ATB 3 allowed), rookie **Flau'jae Johnson (26.8%)**, and **Natisha Hiedeman (28.9%)** each hold above-break 3s under 29% on their floor time.

Broadcast line: Malonga's 50.0% restricted-area number – 11 points better than the Seattle team rate – is the rim anchor tonight's booth should flag.

What They Allow

The leak runs to the corners. Seattle allows **40.0%** on left corner 3s and **37.2%** on right corner 3s – the two worst zone numbers on its board.

- **Corner 3s open:** 40.0% left-corner and 37.2% right-corner allowed are the soft spots inside an elite arc-defense profile.
- **ATB collision favors IND:** Indiana shoots **35.5%** on above-break 3s (33.7% of FGA) against Seattle's **27.3%** allowed – the matchup's largest printed zone gap, and IND is a 5th-best WNBA %FGA 3s team at **38.9%**.
- **Rim vs rim:** IND converts **61.9%** in the restricted area (34.6% of FGA) vs Seattle's 61.1% allowed – a wash that tilts on Malonga staying in the paint.

Broadcast line: The corner 3 is the Seattle leak (40.0% + 37.2% allowed) – the one place Indiana's top-ranked deep attack outpaces the Storm's best defensive zone.

9. SEA Coaching & ATO

Sideline Identity

Sonia Raman is in her first season as SEA head coach, holding a 6-26 record through the team's first 29 games – a 6-26 career WNBA mark. The Storm sit at #15 overall, last in the league, with a NET of -6.6 (101.6 ORtg / 108.2 DRtg). Raman's rotation leans on a young core: rookie **Awa Fam and Flau'jae Johnson** both carry significant usage (29.0% and 24.6% respectively), while second-year center **Dominique Malonga** posts a team-high 16.3 PPG. The team's offensive profile is compressed – its 101.6 ORtg trails the league's upper tier by a wide margin, and the roster's only double-digit scorer regulars are Malonga, Natisha Hiedeman (15.6 PPG, 23.7% USG), and Johnson (13.7 PPG).

- **Rookie-led ATO:** Fam is the club's first look out of timeouts – her 6/16 on ATO first shots leads SEA, with Hiedeman (3/15) and Malonga (3/14) the next most-targeted.
- **No mid-range escape:** The Storm's shot diet is bottom-heavy – 37.9% of FGA come from three (league-wide, a below-the-top-tier share), but the offensive efficiency isn't there to compensate.

Broadcast line: SEA runs a rookie-aligned offense under a first-year head coach, and it shows in a 6-26 record that pins the club at #15 overall.

Timeout & Foul Timing

SEA's timeout usage is heavily back-loaded – 53 of the team's 112 regular timeouts (47.3%) come in the fourth quarter, with 71 of 112 (63.4%) called inside the final 5:00 of any quarter. The Storm rarely burn timeouts early; they take none before the 10:00 mark in any frame all season. Q1 sits at just 17 total timeouts (15.2%), versus 21 in Q2 and another 21 in Q3.

- **Late-game control:** The 63.4% share under 5:00 is a reminder that SEA's games routinely come down to closing possessions – consistent with a team that's lost nine straight.
- **ATO first looks:** After a SEA timeout, the ball finds **Awa Fam** first (6/16), but the efficiency behind her is thin – Hiedeman is 3/15 and Malonga 3/14, so the secondary options are converting at just 20.0% and 21.4% respectively.

Broadcast line: Expect SEA's timeouts to cluster in the fourth quarter, with the ball going to rookie Awa Fam as the primary ATO target.

Adjustment Edge

The clearest coaching lever tonight is the ATO distribution itself – Raman has a single reliable late-clock creator, and it's a rookie. Fam's 6/16 (37.5%) on ATO first shots is the team's only above-25% conversion mark among top targets, making her the go-to when the clock stops. Meanwhile, Hiedeman's 15 ATO attempts with just 3 makes (20.0%) shows the coaching staff trusts her volume but hasn't gotten the payoff.

- **Volume on a cold shooter:** Hiedeman's 15 attempts rank second on the team, but her 3 makes are the third-lowest clip among SEA's main ATO options – she's still getting the ball late.
- **Rookie trust:** Fam's usage (29.0%) and ATO target share signal the staff is building around the rookie as the primary initiator, even in a lost season.

Broadcast line: SEA's ATO design funnels through Awa Fam – the only Storm option converting at a healthy clip – while Hiedeman's volume outpaces her production.

Broadcast line: This is a young, last-place Storm club – the coaching edge tonight is in how effectively Raman's ATO sets get familiar looks for Fam and Johnson.

10. Unit-by-Unit Comparison & Takeaways

Two rosters on opposite trajectories collide here: Indiana owns the league's most efficient offense at 19-11, while Seattle's 6-26 club defends the arc at an elite level but can't score enough to make it matter. The unit edges stack lopsidedly – with one notable exception on the defensive end.

Unit	IND	SEA	Edge
Offense	115.6 ORtg (1st best WNBA)	101.6 ORtg (3rd worst WNBA)	IND
Defense	108.4 DRtg (#10/15)	108.2 DRtg (#9/15)	SEA
Clutch	Clark clutch NET 6.3	Hiedeman clutch NET -31.0	IND
Coaching	White 135-87 career	Raman 6-26 career	IND

Broadcast line: The only column Seattle wins is the one that keeps the game close – its defense – and it's a razor-thin one.

Where IND Wins

- Offense – the full board: Indiana's 115.6 ORtg is the 1st best WNBA, and the supporting cast is just as dominant – 56.0% eFG% (1st best WNBA), 61.0% TS% (1st best WNBA). Seattle's 101.6 ORtg is the 3rd worst WNBA, a 14-point-per-100 gap that stacks the entire half-court game in Indiana's favor.
- Glass work – second chances extend possessions:** The Fever pull 11.9 second-chance PPG on a 33.4% ORB% (4th best WNBA), while Seattle's 30.0% ORB% sits at #10/15. Indiana's starting five of Billings · Mitchell · Hull · Boston · Clark has logged 22 games together at a 6.7 NET – the sample-and-results anchor of the league's top offense.
- Clutch – the Clark effect:** Caitlin Clark posts a clutch NET of 6.3 across 11 late-window games on a 59.9% TS%; Sophie Cunningham adds a staggering 87.2% clutch TS%. That's the payoff structure Indiana can lean on in a 60% Q4-timeout game.

Broadcast line: Indiana wins the efficiency fight everywhere the ball is in play – and extends it on the glass.

Where SEA Wins

- Defense – the one edge column: Seattle's 108.2 DRtg (#9/15) is a hair tighter than Indiana's 108.4 (#10/15), and it's built on the perimeter: 43.2% opponent FG% (4th best WNBA) and 31.3% opponent 3P% (2nd best WNBA).
- Rim protection – the Malonga floor:** Dominique Malonga holds opponents to 50.0% in the restricted area on her floor time, 11 points better than Seattle's team 61.1% rate – the sharpest single-defender number on either roster.
- Live-ball disruption:** 7.7 STL (4th best WNBA) and 4.3 BLK (5th best WNBA) are the Storm's best-kept defensive secret, generating stops Indiana's 6.6 STL (3rd worst WNBA) can't create.

Broadcast line: Seattle's arc defense and Malonga's rim presence are the Storm's only proven paths to slowing a 115.6-rated offense.

Swing Units

- SEA perimeter defense vs IND 3-point volume: Seattle allows just 31.3% opponent 3P% (2nd best WNBA), but Indiana shoots 38.9% of FGA from 3 (5th best WNBA) and converts above-break looks at 35.5% – against Seattle's 27.3% allowed. Watch live: whether the Fever's above-break 3s (33.7% of their shot diet) hold that efficient rate into the Storm's arc coverage.
- IND paint attack vs SEA paint defense:** Indiana's 43.8 opponent paint PPG marks the worst interior defense in the league, but Seattle counters with a 38.1 opponent paint PPG (#6/15) and a rim anchor in Malonga. The Fever score 41.5% of points in the paint (3rd worst WNBA share) while the Storm generate 45.6% of points in the paint (2nd best West) – the interior is the only place Seattle's half-court advantage can actually show up.

Broadcast line: The two swing spots are the same geography – how many efficient looks Indiana gets from above the break, and how much paint Seattle can protect.

Takeaways

- Efficiency gap is the story: Indiana's 115.6 ORtg vs Seattle's 101.6 ORtg is a 14-point-per-100 chasm, the single biggest number on the board tonight.
- Seattle's defense is real – but narrow:** The Storm beat Indiana only in 108.2 vs 108.4 DRtg, and that defensive edge doesn't translate to scoring – SEA's 101.6 ORtg is the 3rd worst WNBA.
- Clutch is one-sided:** Clark's 6.3 NET and Cunningham's 87.2% TS% vs Hiedeman's -31.0 NET and Johnson's -30.6 NET – Seattle's late-game guards crater while Indiana's close clean.
- Kelsey Mitchell is the active-streak headliner:** Her 20-game 15+ PTS streak is the 2nd best WNBA and her 16-game 2+ 3PM run is the 1st best WNBA – both live entering tonight.
- Malonga is Seattle's only proven stopper:** Her 50.0% restricted-area allowed is a full 11 points better than Seattle's team rate – the one Storm defender who can change a possession.
- Coaching contrast sets the tone:** White at 135-87 career and a winning season in each of her last two stops vs Raman at 6-26 in her first season – the sideline experience gap mirrors the roster gap.

Broadcast line: This is a top-five offense and a bottom-three offense separated by a decent defense – and the good team is also the one that wins the late clock.

Team Efficiency Profile

Key metrics

Metric	IND	SEA
Offensive rating	115.6 (#1/15; 1st best WNBA)	101.6 (#13/15; 3rd worst WNBA)
Defensive rating	108.4 (#10/15)	108.2 (#9/15)
Net rating	7.2 (#2/15; 2nd best WNBA)	-6.6 (#12/15; 4th worst WNBA)

Metric	IND	SEA
Pace	99.5 (#2/15; 2nd best WNBA)	97.2 (#7/15)
eFG%	56.0% (#1/15; 1st best WNBA)	49.4% (#13/15; 3rd worst WNBA)
TS%	61.0% (#1/15; 1st best WNBA)	53.9% (#13/15; 3rd worst WNBA)
ORB%	33.4% (#4/15; 4th best WNBA)	30.0% (#10/15)
TOV%	18.2% (#10/15)	18.7% (#12/15; 4th worst WNBA)
FTA rate	33.8% (#5/15; 5th best WNBA)	28.3% (#12/15; 4th worst WNBA)
AST%	62.6% (#15/15; 1st worst WNBA)	64.7% (#13/15; 3rd worst WNBA)
%FGA 3s	38.9% (#5/15; 5th best WNBA)	37.9% (#7/15)
%Pts paint	41.5% (#13/15; 3rd worst WNBA)	45.6% (#6/15; 2nd best West)
%Pts 3s	32.2% (#5/15; 5th best WNBA)	30.4% (#6/15)
%Pts FB	8.6% (#12/15; 4th worst WNBA)	11.1% (#6/15)
%Pts off TOV	16.9% (#14/15; 2nd worst WNBA)	18.1% (#7/15)
Assisted FG%	62.6% (#15/15; 1st worst WNBA)	64.7% (#13/15; 3rd worst WNBA)
Paint PPG	40.1 (#7/15)	37.6 (#11/15; 5th worst WNBA)
Fast-break PPG	8.3 (#10/15)	9.2 (#8/15)
2nd-chance PPG	11.9 (#5/15; 5th best WNBA)	10.9 (#10/15)
STL	6.6 (#13/15; 3rd worst WNBA)	7.7 (#4/15; 4th best WNBA)
BLK	3.9 (#8/15)	4.3 (#5/15; 5th best WNBA)
Opp paint PPG	43.8 (#15/15; 1st worst WNBA)	38.1 (#6/15)
Opp FB PPG	10.3 (#13/15; 3rd worst WNBA)	9.9 (#11/15; 5th worst WNBA)
Opp FG%	46.5% (#11/15; 5th worst WNBA)	43.2% (#4/15; 4th best WNBA)
Opp 3P%	34.6% (#9/15)	31.3% (#2/15; 2nd best WNBA)
Opp eFG%	52.0% (#9/15)	49.1% (#3/15; 3rd best WNBA)
Opp TOV%	15.9% (#12/15; 4th worst WNBA)	17.0% (#8/15)

Key metrics show league ordinals as #N/15 for every printed row. Authoritative H2H edges also add top-10 / bottom-10 phrases (e.g. 3rd best WNBA). Never invent band labels (Top Tier , Elite) as ranks. WNBA has no divisions in 2026. Bold = edge rank or leading side on H2H rows.

Shot Profile & Zone Defense

Zone diet for IND @ SEA. Bold = ≥3-pt gap between attack FG% and opponent allowed. Source: season zone / opponent-zone splits. Prints under Matchup Collisions after collision prose.

Zone Table

Zone	IND share	IND FG%	IND allowed	SEA share	SEA FG%	SEA allowed
Restricted area	34.6%	61.9%	59.8%	24.3%	60.6%	61.1%
Paint, non-RA	16.0%	43.9%	39.0%	24.3%	40.2%	42.5%
Midrange	9.8%	35.8%	35.0%	12.7%	28.2%	35.2%
Left corner 3	3.0%	30.0%	34.2%	3.9%	27.5%	40.0%
Right corner 3	2.9%	25.0%	21.9%	1.2%	23.1%	37.2%
Above-break 3	33.7%	35.5%	34.9%	33.6%	34.9%	27.3%

11. Mitchell / Clark / Boston (IND Starters)

Kelsey Mitchell – The Streak Engine

Kelsey Mitchell enters this matchup as the WNBA's active leader in consecutive games with 2+ made threes – a 16-game run that ranks 1st best WNBA – while carrying the Fever's heaviest scoring load at 23.3 PPG on a league-elite 117.2 offensive rating (3rd best WNBA). Her 20-game streak of 15+ points stands 2nd best WNBA, the longest active scoring run on either roster.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	MIN	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3P%	TS%	USG%
27	32.3	23.3	1.7	2.7	50.2%	43.8%	63.5%	26.2%

Mitchell's efficiency has climbed with her volume – her true shooting is up to 63.5% on a 26.2% usage, and her July offensive rating of 124.2 trails only the two creation stars who command even more attention. She remains the Fever's most reliable early-clock scorer, converting 43.8% of her threes on the season's most efficient offense.

Form & Streaks

- Mitchell's 20-game streak of 15+ points is the 2nd best WNBA (19 active peers), and her 16-game run of 2+ threes leads the league at 1st best WNBA (21 active peers) – both active tonight.
- Her L5 production has jumped to 26.6 PPG (+3.3 vs season) on a 129.4 ORtg and a 67.2% TS%, the sharpest scoring stretch of her season.
- L10 scoring holds even higher at 27.4 PPG, with an ORtg of 126.1 and a 15.4 NET across that window.

Role & Shot

- Mitchell's ORtg of 117.2 ranks 3rd best WNBA, the highest mark on Indiana's starting five, on a 26.2% usage that trails only Clark's engine.
- She's a volume perimeter threat:** 40.2% of her FGA come from three, with 36.7% of her points generated from beyond the arc.
- Her shot creation is heavily assisted – 59.0% of her makes are assisted, the highest ratio among the Fever's three featured starters, fitting a catch-and-shoot role around Clark's drive-kick game.

Defense & Matchup

- Mitchell's on-floor defense allows 58.7% opponent shooting in the restricted area and 39.1% on above-break 3s – the highest above-break number among Indiana's starters, a spot Seattle's perimeter trio could target.

- Her 107.8 DRTg is the weakest among the Fever's five starters, meaning her scoring burst is the counterweight to a defensive trade-off.

Storylines

- Mitchell was named to the 2025 All-WNBA First Team, the second All-WNBA selection of her career.
- She comes in 7 points shy of 750 career REG points (at 743) and one three from 75 season REG makes (at 74) – both within reach tonight.
- In the July 17 meeting at Indianapolis, Mitchell put up 30 points in the Fever's 110-107 win, part of a six-player scoring showcase.

What Matters Tonight

Her 16-game 2+ 3PM streak (1st best WNBA) collides with a Seattle defense that allows the 2nd best WNBA opponent 3P% at 31.3% – a top-of-league clash of the league's hottest shooting streak against the league's stingiest arc defense.

- The 20-game 15+ point run (2nd best WNBA) needs her typical output against a Storm defense that's conceded 16+ to her in the last meeting.
- Her L5 ORtg of 129.4 is the best of any starter on either side, the product of a 26.6 PPG stretch where she's also shooting 67.2% TS.
- She's one make from 75 season REG threes and seven from 750 career REG – counting milestones that could drop during this game.

Broadcast line: Mitchell is the WNBA's active streak king, carrying the longest 3-point and 15+ point runs into a matchup with the league's best perimeter defense.

Caitlin Clark – The Usage Engine

Caitlin Clark is the Fever's offensive fulcrum – a 2nd best WNBA usage rate of 30.8% – and the scorer who dropped a season-high 45 on this same Seattle club nine days ago. Her true shooting has leapt from 49.1% last season to 60.6% this year, the single largest efficiency jump among Indiana's featured starters.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	MIN	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3P%	TS%	USG%
23	29.2	21.0	3.8	7.9	44.6%	34.9%	60.6%	30.8%

12. Cunningham / Billings (IND Starters)

Sophie Cunningham – Efficiency Fixture

The Fever's most economical offensive piece has morphed into one of the WNBA's most efficient role players. Sophie Cunningham plays a low-usage, high-trust role around Indiana's two creation hubs, and her **68.6% TS% (3rd best WNBA)** has become a punctuation mark on possessions that never get a chance to go stale.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	MIN	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3P%	TS%	USG%
26	22.9	9.3	2.3	1.3	48.2%	45.2%	68.6%	13.8%

Cunningham's 45.2% three-point rate and 68.6% true shooting give Indiana a spacer who rarely wastes a touch – on a rotation already running the league's most efficient offense, her floor-spacing is the quiet multiplier.

Form & Streaks

- Cunningham's L5 has been her hottest stretch of the season: **10.2 PPG** on a **66.7% TS%**, with an ORtg of **133.1** and a staggering **NET 30.0** – a +18.9 swing from her season NET of 8.8.
- The run is even sharper at the official level – **72.5% TS%** over the last five on a 14.6% usage, with a **+27.5 net rating** that tops her own L10 mark (+16.1).
- July cooled her efficiency from June's scorching pace – **60.6% TS%** this month after **72.6%** in June – but she's still posting a **122.4 ORtg** in July, 8.2 points above her season baseline.

Role & Shot

- The shot diet is basically all threes: **67.6% of her FGA** come from beyond the arc, and **57.8% of her points** are threes – a profile that makes her the spacer who drags defenders away from Clark and Mitchell's creation lanes.
- Her **13.8% USG%** is the second-lowest among Indiana's qualified rotation, yet she converts at an elite rate – the definition of a low-usage, high-efficiency plug-in.
- Her true shooting jumped from 65.5% in 2025 to 68.6% this season while her ORtg climbed from 103.7 to **114.2** – a career-best efficiency season at 29 years old, with usage rising just a tick from 12.8% to 13.8%.

Defense & Matchup

- On-floor paint defense is the underrated half: opponents shoot just **33.0% in the paint** with Cunningham on the floor – the best mark on Indiana's rotation – and her **29.7% corner-3 FG% allowed** is the stingiest of anyone who plays meaningful minutes.
- The soft spot is the rim:** opponents convert **62.5% at the rim** while she's on the floor, the most generous rim rate among Fever regulars – a tradeoff that fits her role as a contest-in-space wing rather than a rim protector.
- Her **8.8 NET** ties Boston's as the second-best mark on the Fever's starting five, and her 6.6% on-floor opponent offensive rebound rate helps limit Seattle's second-chance looks.

Storylines

- I know my role. I know what they need from me. My job is to make the right play and knock down the shot when it finds me. – Sophie Cunningham · The Indianapolis Star · July 16, 2026
- Draft Story:** A 2019 second-round pick (16th overall) out of Missouri, Cunningham has carved a 7-year WNBA career as a 3-and-D wing who has never cracked a 20% usage rate.

What Matters Tonight

Cunningham's 133.1 L5 ORtg and NET 30.0 are the hottest individual stretch on either roster – she's been the Fever's most efficient scorer over the last five games.

- Seattle's perimeter defense is the league's most generous on above-break threes (**27.3% opponent FG%** allowed), and Cunningham shoots a team-high **45.2%** from three – a clash of the Fever's best spacer against the Storm's soft underbelly.
- Her **29.7% corner-3 FG% allowed** on defense pairs with a Seattle team shooting **37.1%** from three as a team – the Storm's third-ranked three-point volume meets the Fever's quietest perimeter stopper.
- Home vs road:** Cunningham's **NET 8.8** is barely dented by venue, and she's averaged a steady 8.5-10.2 PPG across the L5 and L10 windows.

Broadcast line: The Fever's most efficient role player brings a league-best-adjacent true-shooting clip to a matchup where Seattle can't defend the arc.

Monique Billings – Rebounding Reload

Indiana's starting five gets its glass work and defensive versatility from Monique Billings, a 9th-year veteran whose efficiency has exploded in her second season in Indiana. Her **114.7 ORtg (7th best WNBA)** represents a nearly 20-point leap from a season ago, and her **8.2 NET** is tied for the second-best mark in the Fever's starting unit.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	MIN	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3P%	TS%	USG%
26	20.6	6.9	5.3	1.2	52.1%	31.3%	61.1%	13.8%

Billings' scoring is modest, but her true shooting (61.1%), offensive rating (114.7), and quiet 13.8% usage make her the Fever's most efficient volume-free interior scorer – a perfect complement to Boston's heavier down-low work.

Form & Streaks

- L5 surge: **9.2 PPG (+2.3 vs season)** on a **58.7% TS%** with a **120.7 ORtg and NET 12.2** – her best scoring stretch of the season, built on an uptick in usage to 13.2%.
- Official L5 line holds at 62.1% TS% and +13.1 net rating, with the L10 at 62.5% TS% and a +14.7 NET – she's been a plus on both sides of the floor for the past two weeks.
- Efficiency shift:** her ORtg jumped from 95.4 in 2025 to 114.7 this season – the largest offensive-rating improvement on Indiana's roster year over year, with TS% climbing from 54.5% to 61.1%.

Role & Shot

- A near-pure interior player: only **11.4% of her FGA** come from three, and **6.9% of her points** are threes – the most paint-oriented profile among the Fever's rotation regulars.
- Her **52.1% FG%** on a diet of mostly rim attempts pairs with an interior touch that keeps defenses honest: opponents allow her **61.1% TS%** despite her low usage.
- Billings is the roll-and-cut counterpart to Boston's post-up game, occupying the dunker spot and cleaning the glass rather than extending the floor.

Defense & Matchup

- The corner-3 stopper: opponents shoot just **25.8% on corner threes** with Billings on the floor – the best mark on the Fever's rotation and a top-shelf number league-wide.
- Interior coverage is softer – 61.1% opponent FG% at the rim and 41.7% in the paint – but her **8.2 NET** and the Fever's **108.4 DRtg** show the unit functions with her as the second-line protector.
- Her **5.3 RPG** leads the Fever's starting five, and her **clutch NET of 2.8** (6 GP) ranks second among Fever regulars behind Clark's 6.3.

Storylines

- Veteran Resurgence:** A 2018 second-round pick out of UCLA, Billings has bounced across three franchises before landing a starting role in Indiana; 2026 is her ninth WNBA season and her most efficient yet.

What Matters Tonight

Billings' 114.7 ORtg (7th best WNBA) and 61.1% TS% give the Fever a second interior scorer who punishes Seattle's frontcourt – Malonga is the Storm's only rim protector with a sub-50% opponent rim FG% (**50.0%**).

- Her L5 scoring bump (+2.3 PPG vs season) comes against a Seattle defense that allows the league's **3rd worst offensive rating (101.6)** – a mismatch in the Fever's favor.
- The corner-three matchup is asymmetric:** Billings holds opponents to **25.8%** on corner threes while Seattle's Katie Lou Samuelson and Stefanie Dolson are both shooting **37-38%** from three – Indiana's quiet perimeter stopper limits the Storm's best shooters.
- Billings' **61.1% rim FG% allowed** is a tradeoff Indiana lives with – the Fever's top-ranked offense outpaces the paint damage, but tonight's interior collision with Malonga (43.8% opponent paint FG% allowed) is the one place Seattle can slow the Fever down.

Broadcast line: The Fever's most improved interior presence brings a 20-point ORtg leap and a corner-three lockdown to a matchup where Seattle's frontcourt is the only apparent pain point.

13. Fam / Melbourne (SEA Starters)

Awa Fam – rookie arc gravity

Awa Fam is Seattle's designated catch-and-shoot wing – 44.5% of her shots come from three – and the highest-minute regular on a 6-26 roster built around its rookies. Her efficiency cooled sharply from June to July, leaving her the Storm's most volume-dependent spacer against the league's top offense.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	MIN	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3P%	TS%	USG%
23	29.6	11.1	6.0	2.1	47.2%	35.3%	57.0%	16.2%

Her 29.6 minutes lead the Storm rotation, and the 35.3% 3P% on a volume three-point diet has been the one reliable efficiency prop in a scoring-lite attack.

Form & Streaks

- Month-to-month fade: 13.1 PPG on 67.7% TS in June dropped to 9.9 PPG on 52.6% TS in July, with usage sliding from 17.0% to 15.2% – the sharpest efficiency regression on the Storm's perimeter.
- L5 flat:** 10.6 PPG (-0.5 vs season) at 58.2% TS – a slight bounce off the July trough, but her scoring has not crossed its season average in the recent window.
- Glass streak:** 3 straight games with 8+ rebounds, the 5th-longest active streak among qualified WNBA players.

Role & Shot

- Spacer identity: 44.5% of FGA from three and 39.3% of points from deep – no Storm starter takes a larger share of triples.
- Assisted finisher:** 85.2% AstFG% against a 10.8% AST% – she is fed, not self-creating; the inverse of a point guard's profile.

14. IND Bench / Second Unit

Bench Identity

Indiana's bench doesn't just hold leads – it extends them. The Fever's best on-court five of the season, minimum 6.8 minutes, is a second-unit-heavy group: Monique Billings · Kelsey Mitchell · Tyasha Harris · Lexie Hull · Aliyah Boston, which posts a 50.9 NET on a 139.0 ORtg / 88.1 DRtg with a 65.3% eFG% – the sharpest five-man mark on either side's board tonight. A second bench-led unit, Billings · Mitchell · Sophie Cunningham · Caitlin Clark · Makayla Timpson, clears 45.5 NET over 5.1 minutes per game. Where Seattle's rotation collapses after its starting five, Indiana runs three distinct units above plus-40 NET without a lineup cliff.

The bench minutes window is defined by the starting unit's pace. Indiana's starters play at a 98.9 pace, among the slowest in this matchup, while the Timpson-led bench five jumps to 106.8 – the fastest group the Fever field. That tempo shift comes with the same top-shelf efficiency, giving the second unit a change-of-pace identity rather than a drop-off.

- Bench anchors:** the three featured reserves – Hull, Harris, Timpson – all carry positive season NET ratings (8.7, 11.2, 10.5), with Harris and Timpson ranking as the two highest on Indiana's bench.
- Two-unit depth:** the 50.9-NET five proves Harris and Hull can slot beside the starters; the 45.5-NET group shows Timpson spacing the floor with Clark and Mitchell.

Indiana's bench runs two of the league's most efficient five-man units – both clearing plus-45 NET – and can flip from a 98.9-pace starting group to a 106.8-pace second wave.

Lexie Hull – Three-and-D Wing Anchor

Hull is the bridge between Indiana's starting unit and its second wave – a 5th-season wing whose minutes (20.1 per game) sit in starter territory while her usage stays bench-low. Her season NET of 8.7 ranks third on the Fever's bench and her clutch NET of 4.5 (12 clutch GP) is the second-best late-game mark among Indiana reserves.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	MIN	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3P%	NET
27	20.1	6.0	3.3	0.8	43.5%	34.7%	8.7

Form & Streaks

- Hull's L10 scoring sits at 6.8 PPG, up from a 4.0 PPG L5 – a dip in the most recent window that pairs with a 49.7% TS% over the last five, down from her 56.4% season mark.
- The efficiency drop hasn't cost her minutes:** her L5 NET holds at 11.0 on a 117.8 ORtg with just a 10.1% USG% – the defensive value keeps her on the floor even when the shot isn't falling.
- Year-over-year, her ORtg jumped from 106.2 last season to 114.2 this season – a 8.0-point efficiency gain that makes her a more reliable plug-in around the creation hubs.

Role & Shot

- Hull is a spacing wing in the truest sense – she takes a 12.2% USG% and converts at a 56.4% season TS%, with her three-point volume (34.7% on the season) stretching defenses away from Clark and Mitchell's driving lanes.
- Her 103.4 ORtg / 98.9 DRtg clutch split (12 clutch GP) shows a player who defends at a higher level than she scores in late-game windows – a 4.5 NET that trails only Clark among Fever closers.

Defense & Matchup

- Hull's defensive assignment is the on-ball pressure on Seattle's perimeter creators, a group that includes rookie Flau'jae Johnson (13.7 PPG, 24.6% USG%) and Natisha Hiedeman (15.6 PPG, 23.7% USG% – both heavy usage rates the Fever's bench must absorb when the starters rest.
- Her 8.7 season NET pairs with a starting-unit context where she's part of the 6.7-NET first five – the wing role translates to whichever stretch of the rotation she occupies.

Storylines

- Hull has been a starter for 22 games this season as part of Indiana's most-used five – the Billings · Mitchell · Hull · Boston · Clark group that logs 9.0 minutes per game at a 6.7 NET – meaning her "bench" minutes are actually the second half of a double role.
- The efficiency jump from 2025 (106.2 ORtg) to 2026 (114.2) is the quietest improvement on the Fever's roster – a 5th-season wing learning to fit next to two high-usage stars.

What Matters Tonight

Hull's minutes carry a starting-unit pedigree and a bench-unit defensive load. Her L5 scoring dip (4.0 PPG) is offset by a 11.0 NET that keeps her in the rotation, and her clutch DRtg (98.9) makes her a closing-candidate wing against Seattle's rookie guards.

Hull's 8.7 season NET and 4.5 clutch NET make her the bench's most dependable two-way wing, even as her recent shooting cools.

Tyasha Harris – Table-Setter on a Scoring Surge

Harris is the bench's primary creator, a 7th-season guard whose 2.4 APG leads all Indiana reserves while her scoring surges into focus: 8.6 PPG over the last five is +3.5 versus her season average, the biggest L5 scoring jump on the Fever's bench. Her season NET of 11.2 is the highest of any Indiana reserve.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	MIN	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3P%	NET
22	15.3	5.1	1.2	2.4	41.9%	28.0%	11.2

Form & Streaks

- Harris is the Fever's hottest bench scorer: 8.6 PPG over the last five on a 65.5% TS% (up from 55.0% season), with an ORtg of 126.9 and a NET 21.0 – the second-best L5 net on Indiana's entire roster behind Cunningham's 30.0.
- Her L10 scoring holds at 8.8 PPG, showing the surge isn't a one-game blip: her usage rose modestly to 15.2% over the last five while her efficiency climbed sharply.
- The scoring jump is her season's best window – she's averaging nearly double her season mark of 5.1 PPG across the current 10-game stretch.

Role & Shot

- Harris runs the second-unit offense as the primary ball-handler – her 2.4 APG leads all Fever reserves, and she's the only bench guard who creates for others at a rotation-regular rate.
- Her shot diet is perimeter-leaning at a 28.0% 3-point clip, but the recent form comes from efficiency inside the arc: a 65.5% TS% over the last five shows finishing, not just spacing.

Defense & Matchup

- Harris's 11.2 season NET is built on a defensive profile that holds up in the clutch – her bench role includes guarding Seattle's backup guards and pushing pace against a Storm bench that lacks a true creator.
- She's part of Indiana's best five-man unit (the 50.9-NET group with Billings, Mitchell, Hull, and Boston), where her creation supplements Mitchell's scoring and Boston's interior work.

Storylines

- Harris is the bench's most experienced table-setter at 7th season, and her L5 surge (+3.5 PPG vs season) gives Indiana a second-unit scoring punch it hasn't had all year.
- Her role in the 50.9-NET starting-heavy five proves she's trusted to run offense next to Boston and Mitchell, not just against bench units.

What Matters Tonight

Harris's 21.0 NET over the last five is the bench's loudest efficiency statement, and her creation combines with Hull's defense to give the second unit a two-way spine. Her 65.5% L5 TS% is a sellable hot-hand note against a Seattle bench that concedes -3.5 NET to Natisha Hiedeman's unit.

Harris is averaging 8.6 points on 65.5% true shooting over the last five – a +3.5 PPG jump that gives Indiana's bench its most reliable offensive engine.

Makayla Timpson – Sophomore Rim Runner

Timpson is the bench's interior finisher and glass-cleaner, a second-year (sophomore) center who converts at a 62.0% field-goal clip – the highest FG% of any Indiana rotation piece – while grabbing 4.0 RPG in just 15.1 minutes. Her season NET of 10.5 and L5 NET of 21.5 make her the bench's most efficient per-minute performer.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	MIN	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3P%	NET
26	15.1	3.7	4.0	0.5	62.0%	0.0%	10.5

Form & Streaks

- Timpson's L5 is her best scoring window: 5.2 PPG on a 62.6% TS% with an ORtg of 130.3 – her top offensive rating of the season – and a NET 21.5 that leads Indiana's bench over the last five.
- Her usage is the lowest among featured reserves (9.0% L5), yet she converts at elite efficiency: the definition of a low-touch, high-yield finisher.
- The L5 surge builds on a season where her ORtg already sits at 117.6 – her efficiency is a season-long trait, not a hot streak.

Role & Shot

- Timpson is a pure interior player – 0.0% of her shot attempts come from three, and her 62.0% FG% is built entirely on rim looks and putbacks.
- Her 4.0 RPG in 15.1 minutes projects to a double-double rate over starter minutes; she's the bench's best offensive-rebounding threat, extending possessions alongside Indiana's top-five ORB% unit.
- Her clutch profile shows a +3.6 NET (7 clutch GP) on a 60.2% TS% – she converts when the game tightens, even with a low 10.6% clutch usage.

Defense & Matchup

- Timpson's defensive value is the rim presence the starting unit lacks – her on-floor work complements a Fever defense that allows a league-worst 43.8 opponent paint PPG, giving the bench a second line of interior resistance.
- She's part of the 45.5-NET five with Clark and Cunningham – a small-ball lineup where her rim-running opens driving lanes rather than clogging them.

Storylines

- As a sophomore, Timpson is the youngest featured bench piece and the only one with a pure interior skill set – she's the counter to Seattle's own second-year big, Dominique Malonga (16.3 PPG), in bench-vs-bench minutes.
- Her 130.3 ORtg over the last five is the highest of any Indiana rotation player in that window, underlining how efficient the bench can be through her.

What Matters Tonight

Timpson gives Indiana a bench rim-finisher at 62.0% FG% who turns low usage into high efficiency – a 21.5 NET over the last five that paces the second unit. Her 15.1-minute role is the quiet engine behind the Fever's deep rotation, and her 2026 development (up from 4.2 PPG in her rookie season) makes her a rising interior counter to Seattle's guard-heavy bench.

Timpson's 62.0% field-goal rate and 21.5 NET over the last five make her the most efficient per-minute player on Indiana's bench.

Closing / Spark Watch

The Fever's late-game bench minutes are earmarked by efficiency, not heroics. Indiana's clutch card shows Sophie Cunningham at an 87.2% TS% (12 clutch GP) and Makayla Timpson at 60.2% (7 GP) – both convert cleanly when the ball kicks out of Clark's hands. That depth is the reason the starting five can carry the scoring load through the first three quarters and trust the bench to close possessions intact.

When the Fever go to their bench in crunch time, Cunningham at 87.2% clutch TS and Timpson at 60.2% give the second unit a close-possession identity that no other bench in this matchup matches.

Conditions

No printed home/road or rest lean emerges for Indiana's bench – the unit's splits are flat across venue and schedule this season.

No bench-specific venue edge to track tonight; the Fever's second unit plays the same game at Climate Pledge Arena as anywhere else.

15. SEA Bench / Second Unit

Bench Identity

Seattle's second unit offers a contrast in shooting efficiency and rim protection, but the minutes come with a heavy defensive cost. The Storm's bench features the club's most efficient recent shooter in **Katie Lou Samuelson** (77.4% TS over L5) and a veteran rim presence in **Ezi Magbegor** (2025 All-Defensive Team, tier 2), yet the unit's on-court results have been uneven. Seattle's most-used five-man unit that features bench pieces – Dolson · Magbegor · Melbourne · Horston · Cooke – posted a **-41.7 NET** in 6.3 minutes (75.0 ORtg / 116.7 DRtg), while a separate Magbegor-led group (Magbegor · Melbourne · Horston · Johnson · Fam) posted a **+108.3 NET** in a 6.1-minute sample on **83.3% eFG%**. The second-unit minutes are the Storm's biggest split: rim protection and floor-spacing when Magbegor and Samuelson share the floor, versus defensive leaks when the young guards are the focal point.

- Lineup contrast:** The 6-26 Storm lean on a rookie-heavy core, and the bench windows are where that inexperience shows – the Dolson-Magbegor-Melbourne-Horston-Cooke group allowed a 116.7 defensive rating in its limited run.
- Efficiency spike:** Zia Cooke's usage has climbed to **25.8%** (season) from 19.2% in 2025, but her offensive rating still sits at **98.7** – the ball is in her hands more without a commensurate efficiency gain.

The Storm's bench is a study in contrast – Samuelson's elite recent shooting and Magbegor's rim protection against a young unit that leaks points at a 116.7 defensive clip."

Zia Cooke – Volume Guard, Efficiency Gap

Zia Cooke owns the highest usage of any Storm bench piece at **25.8%**, but the efficiency has not followed the volume. Her **98.7 ORtg** this season is up from 89.8 in 2025 yet still sits below league average, and her **-8.2 NET** reflects a player whose shot creation outpaces her conversion. Over the last five, her output has ticked up to **7.8 PPG** on a **53.4% TS%** – an improvement from her season mark of 47.1% – but the usage dip to **22.9%** L5 suggests her role is stabilizing rather than expanding.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	PTS L5	PTS L10	Season TS%	L5 TS%	Season USG%	L5 USG%	ORtg
–	7.8	6.1	47.1%	53.4%	25.8%	22.9%	98.7

Form & Streaks

- Cooke's L5 true shooting (**53.4%**) is up 6.3 points from her season rate (**47.1%**), and her L5 usage of **22.9%** is down 2.9 points – a more efficient, slightly less ball-dominant stretch.
- Her scoring has been volatile across windows: 7.8 PPG** over the last five against **6.1 PPG** over the last ten, with the hotter recent stretch driven almost entirely by the true-shooting jump.

Role & Shot

- Cooke is the Storm's designated second-unit creator, carrying the bench's highest usage at **25.8%** – a role that has grown from 19.2% in 2025 without a commensurate efficiency payoff (ORtg 98.7 vs 89.8 last year).
- Her season **47.1% TS%** is the lowest among the bench rotation's regulars, though the L5 spike to **53.4%** suggests the shot selection is trending in the right direction.

Defense & Matchup

- Seattle's defensive identity is perimeter-first (Opp 3P% 31.3%, 2nd best WNBA), and Cooke's on-floor numbers contribute to that – the Storm allow just **26.8%** on above-break threes with rookie **Flau'jae Johnson** on the floor, though Cooke's own defensive rating in the limited clutch sample is **150.0** across 8 clutch games.
- The matchup against Indiana's top-ranked offense (ORtg 115.6, **1st best WNBA**) puts pressure on Cooke to hold up defensively without sacrificing her offensive usage.

Storylines

- Cooke's usage jump from 19.2% to **25.8%** year over year is the largest among Seattle's second-unit pieces, making her the de facto bench engine on a 6-26 roster.
- Her clutch profile shows a **75.0% TS%** across 8 games – high-efficiency in the rare late-game moments, but paired with a **-30.0 NET** that reflects the wider defensive issues.

What Matters Tonight

Cooke's efficiency spike over the last five (**53.4% TS%**) is the most encouraging recent signal for a bench that otherwise struggles to score – whether that carries into tonight against the league's top offense is the bench's biggest unknown.

Ezi Magbegor – Veteran Rim Anchor

Ezi Magbegor is the Storm's defensive anchor off the bench, a **2025 All-Defensive Team** selection (tier 2) whose season numbers have dipped from her standard. Her **5.2 PPG on 53.5% TS%** reflect a reduced offensive role, but her value is the rim presence – opponents shoot just **50.0%** in the restricted area on her floor time, 11 points better than the team's **61.1%** rate. The last five have been rougher: **3.5 PPG** on a **40.5% TS%**, production that has cratered as her usage fell to **16.2%**.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	PPG L5	PPG L10	Season TS%	L5 TS%	Season USG%	L5 USG%
–	3.5	3.5	53.5%	40.5%	18.2%	16.2%

Form & Streaks

- Magbegor's true shooting has collapsed to **40.5%** over the last five from a season mark of **53.5%**, and her scoring has flattened to **3.5 PPG** in both the L5 and L10 windows.
- Her usage has ticked down to **16.2%** over the last five from **18.2%** on the season – the offense moving away from her in recent stretches.

Role & Shot

- The 7th-year veteran is the bench's primary interior presence, with restricted-area defense as her calling card – her **50.0%** on-floor RA allowed is the sharpest single-defender number on the roster.
- Offensively, she is a low-usage roll-and-cut option at **18.2% USG%**, with the scoring dip reflecting a role that has faded in the last five games.

Defense & Matchup

- Seattle's overall defensive identity leans on the arc (Opp 3P% 31.3%, 2nd best WNBA), but Magbegor's value is the paint – the team's **4.3 BLK** (5th best WNBA) is buoyed by her rim presence.
- Indiana attacks the rim despite its perimeter-heavy diet (**43.8 opponent paint PPG** is the worst mark in the league), and Magbegor's rim protection is the Storm's primary counter.

Storylines

- Magbegor's defensive credentials are established – a **2025 All-Defensive Team** (tier 2) selection who anchors a unit that holds opponents to **49.1% eFG%** (3rd best WNBA).
- The L5 offensive dip (**40.5% TS%**) is a notable shift for a veteran whose season efficiency (53.5%) was already below her career standard.

What Matters Tonight

Magbegor's rim presence is the Storm's best answer to Indiana's paint pressure – her **50.0%** restricted-area allowed is the number to watch when the Fever's drive-and-kick game targets the basket.

Katie Lou Samuelson – Efficient Stretch Four

Katie Lou Samuelson is the Storm bench's most efficient recent shooter, posting a **77.4% TS%** over the last five – up 17 points from her season mark of 60.4%. The 6th-year veteran's **4.6 PPG** belies her value as a floor-spacer: her **60.4% TS%** leads the bench rotation, and her L5 output of **6.4 PPG** on 11.2% usage shows a low-usage, high-conversion profile that complements the young guards' volume.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

GP	PPG	RPG	APG	FG%	3P%	MIN	TS% L5	USG% L5
23	4.5	2.1	0.8	43.5%	37.1%	15.7	77.4%	11.2%

Form & Streaks

- Samuelson's L5 true shooting of **77.4%** is a massive leap from her season **60.4%** – the highest recent-efficiency spike among the Storm's bench pieces.
- Her L5 scoring of **6.4 PPG** is up 1.9 from her season average, all on a **11.2% USG%** that anchors her as a low-touch, high-efficiency spacer.

Role & Shot

- Samuelson is the bench's primary floor-spacer, shooting **37.1%** from three on **43.5%** overall – the 3-point rate is the best among Seattle's reserve wings.
- Her 15.7 MIN and 11.5% season USG% define her as a role player, but the recent efficiency suggests she is converting her limited chances at an elite rate.

Defense & Matchup

- Samuelson's defensive contributions are consistent with the Storm's arc-first identity – Seattle allows just **31.3%** opponent 3P% (2nd best WNBA) as a team, a scheme she fits as a switchable wing.
- The matchup against Indiana's **38.9%** of FGA from three (5th best WNBA) puts Samuelson's perimeter defense in focus, though her season NET of **-14.9** is the worst among the featured bench pieces.

Storylines

- Samuelson's season **60.4% TS%** is the best of her career arc among the Storm's second unit, and her L5 **77.4%** is the kind of stretch that can keep a defense honest.
- Her clutch profile shows a **75.0% TS%** across 6 games – efficient in late-game moments, but with a **-20.2 NET** that reflects the wider team struggles.

What Matters Tonight

Samuelson's L5 efficiency (**77.4% TS%**) is the bench's most reliable scoring weapon – if the Storm are to keep pace with Indiana's top-ranked offense, her spacing and conversion rate are the ceiling-raiser.

Closing / Spark Watch

Seattle's late-game bench usage is thin and split between the veterans and the young guards. **Stefanie Dolson** owns the only above-water clutch NET on the team (**+5.3** across 4 games) on a **9.1% USG%**, while **Zia Cooke** posts a **75.0% TS%** in 8 clutch games despite a **-30.0 NET**. **Samuelson** adds a **75.0% TS%** in 6 clutch games, but her **-20.2 NET** mirrors the team-wide late-game struggles. The Storm's timeout pattern – **71 of 112 (63.4%)** called inside the final five minutes – suggests close games funnel into crunch-time possessions where the bench's young guards carry the load.

- **Clutch credentials:** Dolson is the only Storm with a positive clutch NET; Cooke and Samuelson both shoot 75.0% TS in the clutch but lose the minutes overall.
- **Late-game leak:** Natisha Hiedeman's clutch usage (**26.8%**) is the team's highest but comes on a **30.9% TS%** – the closing unit leans on the bench's shooters to offset that inefficiency.

The Storm's late-game bench is a split identity – Dolson and Samuelson provide the efficient looks, while Cooke's volume carries the usage load in a closing window the team has lost nine straight. – "Seattle's bench is anchored by Samuelson's 77.4% L5 true shooting and Magbegor's 50.0% restricted-area defense, but the unit's collective defense (116.7 DRTg in its most-used five) is the swing factor tonight."

16. Matchup Collisions

Central Collision Thesis

Indiana's league-best offense – **115.6 ORtg** (1st best WNBA), **56.0% eFG%** (1st best WNBA), **61.0% TS%** (1st best WNBA) – collides with the one Seattle unit that holds up: a defense that allows **43.2%** opponent FG% (4th best WNBA), **31.3%** opponent 3P% (2nd best WNBA), and **49.1%** opponent eFG% (3rd best WNBA). The cleanest tension sits at the arc. Indiana funnels **33.7%** of all field-goal attempts into above-break 3s and converts **35.5%** of them; Seattle's above-break defense allows just **27.3%** – the Storm's most resistant zone and the single widest attack-vs-allowed mismatch in this matchup.The second decisive fight is the paint. The Fever take **34.6%** of shots in the restricted area at **61.9%**, but they also concede the rim at the league's worst rate – **43.8** opponent paint PPG. Seattle scores **45.6%** of its points in the paint (6th in the WNBA, 2nd best in the West), yet only converts **37.6** paint PPG (11th in the WNBA). That collision lands on second-year center **Dominique Malonga**, who holds opponents to **50.0%** in the restricted area on her floor time – 11 points better than the Storm's **61.1%** team rate. Add Indiana's creation profile – a last-ranked **62.6%** assisted FG% (15th) built on **Caitlin Clark's 30.8%** usage (2nd best WNBA) and self-generated scoring – against a Seattle defense that pokes out **7.7** steals (4th best WNBA) and **4.3** blocks (5th best WNBA), and the parity story is clear: the league's best half-court offense meets the league's most resistant arc defense, with both clubs crowding the same rim real estate.

The league's most efficient offense walks into the arc-stingiest defense it will face – and both teams want to finish at the same rim.

IND – Above-Break 3s vs the Storm Arc Wall

- Volume zone:** **33.7%** of Indiana's FGA come from above the break at **35.5%** conversion – the driving force behind a **38.9%** 3-point shot share (5th best WNBA).
- Resistance edge:** Seattle allows **27.3%** on above-break 3s – the widest attack-vs-allowed gap in this matchup, an 8.2-point swing on the Fever's most-taken shot.
- Rim counterpart:** The Fever counter at **61.9%** in the restricted area (34.6% of FGA) against Seattle's **61.1%** allowed – a near wash that forces the equation to the arc.
- Secondary floor:** **Aliyah Boston** (17.3 PPG, 69.4% RA FG) and **Sophie Cunningham** (**68.6% TS%**, 3rd best WNBA) give Indiana an interior and corner outlet if the Storm choke the break – Cunningham's own above-break volume keeps that lane live.

Indiana's above-break 3 attack (35.5%) meets Seattle's stingiest allowed zone (27.3%) – the cleanest single offensive-edge matchup in the game.

SEA – Paint-First Diet vs the Fever Rim Leak

- Home floor:** Seattle lives in the paint – **24.3%** of FGA in the restricted area at **60.6%**, another **24.3%** in the non-RA paint at **40.2%** – against an Indiana defense that allows **59.8%** in the RA and **39.0%** in the non-RA paint.
- Runway to the rim:** The Fever concede **43.8** opponent paint PPG (worst in the WNBA), the league's leakiest rim defense, and let opponents to **46.5%** FG% (5th worst WNBA).
- Midrange dead zone:** Seattle attacks only **12.7%** of FGA from midrange and hits **28.2%** against Indiana's **35.0%** allowed – the Storm's non-paint offense has nowhere else to live.
- Rainmaker rotation:** **Natisha Hiedeman** (15.6 PPG, **45.9%** 3-point shot share) and rookie **Flau'jae Johnson** (18.4 PPG L5, +4.7 vs season) are the perimeter counters, but the Storm's **28.3%** FTA rate (4th worst WNBA) rarely bails out a broken set.

Both clubs crowd the same rim; Seattle's 60.6% restricted-area finishing meets Indiana's league-worst 43.8 opponent paint PPG – the on-court answer decides the flow.

Quarter / Late-Game Flow

Team	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Late Q4
IND	49.7%	45.1%	49.4%	46.2%	47.0%
SEA	44.7%	45.5%	44.3%	38.6%	37.2%

- Fourth-quarter fade:** Seattle shoots **38.6%** in Q4 – the Storm's worst quarter – and falls to **37.2%** in the final five minutes, against Indiana's **47.0%** late-Q4 mark.
- Clutch gap:** **Caitlin Clark** posts a **6.3** clutch NET across 11 late-window games at **59.9%** TS%; the Storm's volume guards collapse – **Natisha Hiedeman at -31.0** NET on **30.9%** TS%, rookie **Flau'jae Johnson at -30.6** NET on **46.6%** TS%.
- Late-huddle habits:** Both teams huddle late – Seattle calls **63%** of timeouts inside 5:00, Indiana **60%** – but the Fever's first-look structure (Kelsey Mitchell 11-of-27 on ATO first shots, Clark and Boston at 8-of-13) converts pressure possessions at **61.5%**.
- Offensive floor in Q1:** Indiana posts its best quarter in the opening frame at **49.7%** – the path to an early cushion before Seattle's fourth-quarter offense fades.

Indiana shoots 47.0% in the last five minutes while Seattle slides to 37.2% – the Storm's closing collapse is the on-mic tell of this matchup.

Clutch Profile

Player	Team	GP	ORtg	DRtg	NET	USG%	TS%
Caitlin Clark	IND	11	105.4	99.1	6.3	24.6%	59.9%
Lexie Hull	IND	12	103.4	98.9	4.5	11.3%	41.0%
Makayla Timpson	IND	7	107.3	103.7	3.6	10.6%	60.2%
Monique Billings	IND	6	109.1	106.3	2.8	8.0%	46.3%
Sophie Cunningham	IND	12	111.5	109.3	2.2	8.2%	87.2%
Kelsey Mitchell	IND	13	106.7	108.2	-1.5	31.9%	42.5%
Stefanie Dolson	SEA	4	105.3	100.0	5.3	9.1%	113.6%
Mackenzie Holmes	SEA	3	80.0	100.0	-20.0	8.3%	113.6%
Katie Lou Samuelson	SEA	6	90.9	111.1	-20.2	12.5%	75.0%
Zia Cooke	SEA	8	120.0	150.0	-30.0	13.7%	75.0%
Flau'jae Johnson	SEA	11	94.8	125.5	-30.6	14.9%	46.6%
Natisha Hiedeman	SEA	14	95.7	126.7	-31.0	26.8%	30.9%

Quarter & Late-Game Shooting

Field-goal shooting by quarter (REG season through games before tip). Late Q4 = last 5:00 of the 4th.

Team	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Late Q4
IND	263/529 (49.7%)	205/455 (45.1%)	220/445 (49.4%)	215/465 (46.2%)	119/253 (47.0%)
SEA	233/521 (44.7%)	224/492 (45.5%)	209/472 (44.3%)	194/503 (38.6%)	103/277 (37.2%)

17. Lineups & Rotations

The starting fives on both sides are set by season-long minutes, and they tell opposite identity stories. Indiana's unit of Monique Billings · Kelsey Mitchell · Lexie Hull · Aliyah Boston · Caitlin Clark owns the largest sample on either board – 22 games at 9.0 minutes per game – and wins the minutes it plays at a **6.7** NET on **115.0** ORtg / **108.3** DRtg with a **56.0%** eFG%. This is the group that drives the league's top offense into first place; it also spots Indiana a slow-tempo profile at **98.9** pace. Seattle's starting five of Natisha Hiedeman · Jade Melbourne · Dominique Malonga · Flau'jae Johnson · Awa Fam is nearly as settled at 18 games and **10.7** minutes per game, but it flips the tempo script: **103.7** pace, the fastest unit in this matchup, on a **52.3%** eFG% and 5.6 NET.

Unit (5)	GP	MIN	NET	ORtg	DRtg	eFG%	Pace
Billings · Mitchell · Hull · Boston · Clark	22	9.0	6.7	115.0	108.3	56.0	98.9
Hiedeman · Melbourne · Malonga · Johnson · Fam	18	10.7	5.6	104.3	98.8	52.3	103.7

Seattle's starting five is its only true identity block: every other Storm five carries either a one-game sample or a losing NET. Indiana, by contrast, has three distinct units above 4.0 minutes that all clear plus-40 NET – depth the Fever can rotate through without a lineup cliff.

Broadcast line: Indiana's starting five has logged the most minutes in this matchup at a plus-6.7 NET, while Seattle's starter group is the only Storm unit with a real sample.

Closing Fives & Bench Windows

Indiana's best on-court five – Billings · Mitchell · Tyasha Harris · Hull · Boston – is the most punishing closing configuration on either roster: **6.8** minutes per game at a **50.9** NET on **139.0** ORtg / **88.1** DRtg and **65.3%** eFG%. Harris is the switch, and her recent form backs it: **+3.5** PPG over the last five against her season average. The bench blend of Cunningham · Clark · Makayla Timpson alongside Billings and Mitchell runs a **45.5** NET at a **106.8** pace – Timpson's **62.0%** FG% season and **9.0%** usage over the last five make her the efficiency valve in that group.

Unit (5)	GP	MIN	NET	ORtg	DRtg	eFG%	Pace
Billings · Mitchell · Harris · Hull · Boston	6	6.8	50.9	139.0	88.1	65.3	97.2
Billings · Mitchell · Cunningham · Clark · Timpson	7	5.1	45.5	143.0	97.5	63.6	106.8
Hiedeman · Cooke · Malonga · Johnson · Fam	5	7.9	21.2	143.0	121.8	73.0	95.0

Seattle's most reliable late-game grouping swaps Zia Cooke for Melbourne next to the rest of the starters: Hiedeman · Cooke · Malonga · Johnson · Fam posts a **21.2** NET over 5 games and 7.9 minutes, powered by a **73.0%** eFG% – but the defensive side bleeds at **121.8** DRtg. The Storm's single highest-NET five in any sample is the one-game Magbegor · Melbourne · Horston · Johnson · Fam group at **108.3**, though a 6.1-minute sample carries no trend weight. Rookie **Awa Fam** (team-high **29.6** minutes per game) anchors the backcourt in most of these looks, with **Flau'jae Johnson** the second rookie presence at 28.5 minutes and a **+4.7** PPG jump over the last five.

Broadcast line: Indiana can close with a 50.9-NET bench switch in Harris; Seattle's best closing look runs Cooke over Melbourne next to its rookie backcourt at a fragile 121.8 DRtg.

Five-Man Lineups

Season five-player units (min 4.0 total minutes), sorted by minutes played. NET = per-100 point differential on the floor.

IND – most-used five-man units

Unit (5)	GP	MIN	NET	ORtg	DRtg	eFG%	Pace
M. Billings · K. Mitchell · L. Hull · A. Boston · C. Clark	22	9.0	6.7	115.0	108.3	56.0	98.9
M. Billings · K. Mitchell · T. Harris · L. Hull · A. Boston	6	6.8	50.9	139.0	88.1	65.3	97.2
M. Billings · K. Mitchell · S. Cunningham · C. Clark · M. Timpson	7	5.1	45.5	143.0	97.5	63.6	106.8
M. Billings · K. Mitchell · S. Cunningham · A. Boston · C. Clark	12	4.2	0.8	107.4	106.6	53.5	102.1
S. Cunningham · T. Harris · L. Hull · A. Boston · R. Johnson	1	4.1	14.3	157.1	142.9	64.3	83.0

SEA – most-used five-man units

Unit (5)	GP	MIN	NET	ORtg	DRtg	eFG%	Pace
N. Hiedeman · J. Melbourne · D. Malonga · F. Johnson · A. Fam	18	10.7	5.6	104.3	98.8	52.3	103.7
N. Hiedeman · J. Melbourne · Z. Cooke · D. Malonga · A. Fam	1	8.0	-51.9	126.7	178.6	50.0	86.5
N. Hiedeman · Z. Cooke · D. Malonga · F. Johnson · A. Fam	5	7.9	21.2	143.0	121.8	73.0	95.0
L. Brown · J. Melbourne · Z. Cooke · M. Holmes · T. Thierry	1	6.3	-30.2	92.9	123.1	40.0	103.6
S. Dolson · E. Magbegor · J. Melbourne · J. Horston · Z. Cooke	1	6.3	-41.7	75.0	116.7	31.8	91.9
E. Magbegor · J. Melbourne · J. Horston · F. Johnson · A. Fam	1	6.1	108.3	166.7	58.3	83.3	94.4

18. Officials Crew

Tonight's officiating crew is a mix of veteran consistency and a first-year referee at Climate Pledge Arena – all three whistles are on the floor for this Indiana-Seattle matchup.

Official	Experience	Debut Season
Ryan Sassano	5 years	2022
Angel Kent	5 years	2022
Josh Reed	1 year	2026

Sassano and Kent are the veteran anchors, both working their fifth WNBA season and both debuting in 2022. **Reed** is the crew's newcomer – a first-year official making his debut in 2026 – and this marks his first trip through the league as a full-time referee.

Three whistles – two five-year vets in Sassano and Kent, plus rookie referee Josh Reed – patrolling the floor for Indiana at Seattle.

19. Storylines & Color

Must-Tell Storylines

Kelsey Mitchell is carrying two of the WNBA's longest active scoring streaks into tonight. Her 16-game run of 2+ threes is the 1st best WNBA (21 active peers), and her 20-game stretch of 15+ points is the 2nd best WNBA (19 active peers). She is also one make from 75 season REG threes, sitting at 74, and 7 from 750 career REG (743 REG). In the July 17 meeting at Indianapolis she put up 30 – the last time these two played, six players scored 16 or more.

Caitlin Clark dropped 45 on Seattle nine days ago – her season high (≥30) and the backbone of a 110-107 Fever win. She comes in on a 5-game run of 5+ assists (5th best WNBA) and a 3-game 15+ PTS streak that ranks 4th worst among the 19 active of that kind – the shortest end of the board, meaning rest and burst, not momentum, are the story.

Indiana is one win from a 20-win season at 19-11 with a 7-3 L10. Seattle is 6-26, on an L9 slide with a 1-9 L10.

Seattle's anchor is the paint. Dominique Malonga's 7-game 8+ REB streak is the 2nd best WNBA (7 peers), and she went 28 points and 14 rebounds in the last head-to-head – the biggest line either side produced outside Clark's 45.

Two rookies are closing in on printed marks. Flaujae Johnson is 2 from 400 season REG pts (at 398); Awa Fam is 13 from 150 season REG reb (at 137).

Broadcast line: The top of the WNBA's active-streak board – Mitchell at No. 1 and No. 2 – is in the building, and the last meeting gave us 45 from Clark and a 28-14 from Malonga.

Rare Facts & Historical Hooks

The season's extreme scoring lines are both live in this pairing. Caitlin Clark's 45 vs SEA on 2026-07-17 is Indiana's season high ≥30, and the Fever's season-high 123 points came four days later, 2026-07-22 vs CON (123-88) – a 35-point margin, the largest of their season. Seattle's own season high is 110 vs DAL on 2026-06-22, a game in which Dominique Malonga scored 37 – SEA's season high ≥30; their worst loss was a 23-point defeat at Phoenix on 2026-07-02 (90-67).

The scoring-depth gap is wide: Indiana has 20 player-games of 25+ pts and 8 of 30+ this season; Seattle has 9 and 2. Seattle's two 30+ outings both belong to Malonga's half of the roster – the lone one-armed scoring core against Indy's three 20+ per-game options.

Same-date history favors the home side in Seattle: on 2020-07-28 SEA beat MIN 90-66 (Damiris Dantas 18 pts) and on 2017-07-28 SEA beat DAL 109-93 behind Jewell Loyd's 27. Fever fans, meanwhile, get a 2015 echo – IND won 75-73 at CON on 2015-07-28 (Shavonte Zellous 19).

Broadcast line: Two franchise season highs, a 35-point blowout, and a 37-point era – that's the ceiling both clubs have already touched this season.

Milestones & On This Day

Nearest-crossing marks tonight, straight from the Milestone Watch board (career counters are regular-season only – say "career REG" on air):

- Kelsey Mitchell (IND): 1 from 75 season REG fg 3m (at 74) – and 7 from 750 career REG (at 743 REG).
- IND:** 1 win from a 20-win season (at 19-11).
- Flaujae Johnson (SEA):** 2 from 400 season REG pts (at 398).
- Myisha Hines-Allen (IND):** 4 from 200 career REG stl (at 196 REG) – and 23 from 2,000 career REG pts (at 1,977 REG).
- Natisha Hiedeman (SEA):** 4 from 500 career REG reb (at 496 REG).
- Sophie Cunningham (IND):** 5 from 50 season REG fg 3m (at 45).
- Tyasha Harris (IND):** 7 from 500 career REG ast (at 493 REG).
- Monique Billings (IND):** 10 from 200 career REG stl (at 190 REG) and 17 from 1,500 career REG reb (at 1,483 REG).
- Awa Fam (SEA):** 13 from 150 season REG reb (at 137).

Broadcast line: Mitchell's first triple of the night is both a milestone (75 season REG) and a contract with a 16-game streak.

Human Connections

The South Carolina thread runs through both benches: Aliyah Boston, Tyasha Harris, and rookie Raven Johnson wear Indiana red while Zia Cooke is in Seattle green – four former Gamecocks on one floor. Boston arrives as a two-time 2025 honoree (All-Defensive Team tier 2, All-WNBA tier 2), the anchor of that pipeline on both sides.

Tonight also stages a collision of the league's two most recent first-round crops. The 2026 class stacks three top-10 picks in one box score: Awa Fam (SEA, No. 3, Spain), Flau'jae Johnson (SEA, No. 8, LSU), and Raven Johnson (IND, No. 10, South Carolina). The 2025 class counters with second-year sophomores Dominique Malonga (SEA, No. 2, France) – a 2025 All-Rookie Team selection – and Makayla Timpson (IND, No. 19, Florida State).

International flavor runs deeper than the French and Spanish accents: Jade Melbourne (Australia) and Ezi Magbegor (Australia) – the latter a 2025 All-Defensive Team tier 2 pick – give Seattle two Melbourne-raised frontcourt options in the same rotation.

Broadcast line: A Gamecock reunion with a slice of the league's 2025 and 2026 draft classes sharing the same floor.

Series / Rivalry Texture

Seattle kept it close in Indianapolis on 2026-07-17 in a 110-107 Fever win decided in the fourth quarter 28-19 – after Indiana had grabbed the first 37-26. The damage: Caitlin Clark dropped 10 assists to go with her 45 points, Kelsey Mitchell added 30, and Seattle got a 28-point, 14-rebound double-double from Dominique Malonga. Sit-down Awa Fam chipped in 16 points and 9 rebounds; Flau'jae Johnson filled the line with 16-6-6.

The first meeting in May was tighter than the 89-78 final suggests: Indiana took the first 32-19 but watched Seattle answer with a 20-12 fourth – a closing push that ran out of runway. Two games in, both have hinged on the final frame, with the Fever holding a 2-0 season-series lead and a chance to complete the sweep tonight.

Broadcast line: Both meetings were decided late – a 28-19 and a 20-12 fourth quarter – so the closing minutes carry the series history tonight.

Last Meeting & Season Series

Prior completed 2026 REG meetings (most recent first). **Season series (completed):** IND 2 – SEA 0

Date	Matchup	Final	Winner	Q1	Q4
2026-07-17	SEA @ IND	107-110	IND	26-37	19-28
2026-05-17	SEA @ IND	78-89	IND	19-32	20-12

Last meeting scorers – 2026-07-17 (SEA 107 @ IND 110)

Player	Team	PTS	REB	AST
Caitlin Clark	IND	45	2	10
Kelsey Mitchell	IND	30	1	
Dominique Malonga	SEA	28	14	2
Awa Fam	SEA	16	9	4
Flaujae Johnson	SEA	16	6	6
Monique Billings	IND	16	5	3

20. Betting Lines & Props

Game Line

The consensus board sets Indiana as a **-8.5** road favorite at **-110** on the spread, with the moneyline at **IND -435 / SEA +327** – a price gap that keeps pace with the teams' season efficiency divide (IND **NET 7.2** vs SEA **-6.6**). The total sits at **186.5**, an Over/Under split at even **-110** on both sides.

The spread reflects structural pressure: Indiana carries the league's top offense at **115.6 ORtg** (1st best WNBA) but its defense concedes the rim at a league-worst **43.8** opponent paint PPG. Seattle's counter is the defense that actually ranks tighter than Indiana's tonight – **DRtg 108.2** to IND's 108.4 – with an opponent eFG% of **49.1%** (3rd best WNBA) that has frustrated better offenses than the 6-26 Storm have faced in a 1-9 L10 slide. The total's appeal sits on Indiana's shooting volume (**38.9%** of FGA from three, 5th best WNBA) meeting a Seattle unit that allows just **31.3%** opponent 3P% (2nd best WNBA) – the classic profile of a high-total game decided by whether the exterior shots fall.

Broadcast line: IND -8.5 with a 186.5 total – the league's most efficient offense against the arc-stingiest defense it will face this week.

Prop Watch

Player	Prop	Line	Season O%	Price
Caitlin Clark	Total Points	20.5	52%	-105
Caitlin Clark	Total Assists	7.5	52%	-108
Caitlin Clark	Total 3-Pointers Made	2.5	39%	-108
Aliyah Boston	Total Points	15.5	58%	-120
Aliyah Boston	Total Rebounds	8.5	50%	-125
Aliyah Boston	Total Assists	3.5	33%	-165
Awa Fam	Total Points	11.5	48%	-130
Awa Fam	Total Rebounds	6.5	30%	-115

The featured props split cleanly between Indiana's two self-generating stars and the Storm's rookie lead guard. **Caitlin Clark's** scoring line sits at **20.5** (52% season Over rate) on a **30.8%** usage – she dropped 45 on Seattle nine days ago in Indianapolis. **Aliyah Boston** carries the most reliable prop on the board: **15.5** points with a **58%** season Over rate on **25.7%** usage, and her **8.5** rebound line splits 50/50 for the season. Her assist line at **3.5** is the sharpest price discrepancy – only **33%** season Over at **-165**.

For Seattle, **Awa Fam** is the rookie at the center of the board: an **11.5** point line at **48%** season Over, with rebounds at **6.5** (just **30%** Over) – the rebounding prop is the notable negative-lean against her season profile. Fam is 13 rebounds from 150 season REG (at 137). Boston's assist line – a **33%** season hit rate at -165 – is the widest gap between hit rate and price on the board tonight.

Broadcast line: Boston's 15.5 point line has cashed in 58% of games this season – the most reliable over on the sheet; her 3.5 assist line is the sharpest negative at 33%.