



# espnW's 8th Annual Women + Sports Summit

The Resort at Pelican Hill hosted top names in sports, business and entertainment to discuss creating opportunity for women in sports. VIPs included: Sheryl Crow, Bozoma Saint John Uber Chief Brand Officer, Stephanie McMahon WWE Chief Brand Officer, Jeanie Buss Los Angeles Lakers Owner/President, Julie Foudy FIFA World Cup Champion/Olympic Gold Medalist, Claire Liu World #1 Junior Tennis Player, Alana Nichols Paralympic Wheelchair Basketball Player/Skier, Dr. Jen Welter first female NFL Coach Arizona Cardinals, Megan Rapinoe U.S. Women's National Team/FIFA World

Cup star and Splash, a women's basketball team where players are 80+years old!



**Jeanie Buss, controlling owner President of Los Angeles Lakers**



**ON drafting Lonzo Ball:** "I can't remember anyone with more hype going into the draft except for Magic Johnson. We have a kid born and raised in Los Angeles, and that's exciting to know we have someone that represents the city. It seemed like I was watching a movie. It was special and a great opportunity for him and us."

**ON LaVar Ball:** "After the draft, we flew them back to LA, and I met him in my office. He's a dad who loves his children, and I admire that. It's a joy to work with him and his family. I won't be wearing Big Baller Brand... I have to stay neutral."

**ON hiring Magic Johnson:** "My dad always thought Irving and I would run the team together. We speak the same language because we were kind of raised by the same man. We are of like mind."

**ON coach changes and decline of the team:** "In my position you have to know how to price tickets and plan 24 months out. In the NBA, the most lucrative part of the season is the playoffs, which go pretty much right to your bottom line. The front office came up with the time line to evaluate our coaches and I supported that, but when you are changing coaches every 18 months it doesn't get you in the right direction. You can't switch things up that quickly. At the time, I couldn't see any progression that was getting us where we needed to be."

**ON the All Star game change:** "That draft in itself is going to be a great TV show. Our commissioner comes up with new ideas and continues to evolve the game. It shows what a great relationship we have with our players union." ■

**Sheryl Crow opened the Summit with an exhilarating performance. Later sat down to speak with Cari Champion.**

**ON a digital detox:** "Now that I have kids and think what they'll remember about me, I don't want them to remember me with my face in my phone. I made an agreement with myself that I would deter the feeling of needing to be somewhere else. I put my phone on silent and check it once an hour. It's been liberating for me. My new album, *Be Myself*, is about how it must be hard to grow up with a gadget that tells you what you need to look like, and need to do to have followers. I don't want people to be a follower. I want them to say, 'I love being who I am and I love you being who you are.'"

**ON Michael Jackson:** "You don't know how hard it is to invent something that doesn't exist. To watch Michael Jackson defying gravity, I could see the divinity in him. When he stepped out on stage, there was something that changed the molecules in the room. When you see Mia Hamm or Serena Williams, you see the odds of what goes into it; it propels all of us to be the best that we can be."

**ON redefining her life:** "After I found out I had breast cancer, it made me redefine and refine my life. I want to encourage everyone to quiet your brain, even if it is just for five minutes a day, so you are able to tap into the divine, and what is for you. Women are good at taking care of everyone but we put ourselves at the bottom. I learned how to say 'no.' I started listening to myself and prioritizing."

**ON How she feels at age 55:** "I don't like watching myself, and part of it is because I don't love aging. I still feel super young, and as excited and on fire about music and life as I ever have. I feel more connected to who I am than I ever have in life. If compassion isn't the basis of everything you do in your life, then you're short-changing yourself and others."

**ON Her advice to women:** "Don't base your life on what you think it is supposed to be. Maybe the adventure or challenge is not to tell the story at all. Maybe there is infinite possibility and something bigger than what your brain can picture." ■