

Las Vegas Aces Grapple With Sharp Decline as Season Hits Midpoint

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The Las Vegas Aces, once the powerhouse of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), are navigating an unexpected slide midway through the season. The reigning champions have slipped far from their dominant form, prompting serious questions about whether their era of supremacy is coming to an end.

After securing back-to-back titles in 2022 and 2023, the Aces have stumbled to a disappointing 10–11 record, marking their slowest start since 2018. Head coach Becky Hammon has not hesitated to voice her displeasure over the team's lack of discipline and effort. Following a demoralising 27-point defeat to the Indiana Fever, who were missing rookie standout Caitlin Clark, Hammon called the performance “one of the worst games I've ever seen.” She criticised her players' professionalism and insisted their offensive struggles were simply inexcusable.

Statistically, the numbers confirm Hammon's frustration. Las Vegas ranks ninth in the league in scoring with just 80.2 points per game, 10th in rebounding, and sits near the bottom in assists and field-goal percentage. Even the Aces' usually reliable defence has faltered, ranking near last in fast break points allowed. This steep decline has caught many off guard, considering the club's recent dominance under Hammon, who took over as head coach in December 2021 and immediately guided the team to historic success.

Veteran guard Chelsea Gray acknowledged the challenges, telling reporters, “It's uncharted territory right now. We haven't played like this since we've all been together under Becky.” While some observers have attributed the slump to complacency and lack of energy, others believe deeper issues in roster construction may be to blame.

As competition across the league grows more balanced, the Aces' once-clear advantage has steadily narrowed. Last year, their quest for a third straight title ended abruptly in the semifinals with a loss to the eventual champions, the New York Liberty. Now, with parity tightening and rival teams gaining ground, Las Vegas must quickly rediscover its identity if it hopes to salvage the season and prove its championship window remains open.