



A Letter to the Fans and Media Voters of the WNBA

“Has anyone had a better second half than Tamika Catchings?”

In the Fever PR guy's recent letters to fans and media, discussion has surrounded Tamika Catchings' increased efficiency and splendid field goal shooting this season, in addition to poking holes in all the supposed arguments why Tamika Catchings has never won the WNBA's MVP award.

She is one of the world's most likeable and respected female athletes; one of the WNBA's most accomplished and experienced veterans; and one of the league's most gifted and hardest-working competitors. Yet, she has never been honored as the MVP of the league which she has dominated for a decade.

In this third and final MVP Letter, one week before ballots are due by voting media members, the question is posed – “Has anyone had a better second half than Catchings?” Let's face it – games are won in crunch time. Playoff MVPs are often decided on exploits in the deciding game of a series. It also is true that Season MVPs are decided during a season's most critical games – after the All-Star Break and

during a playoff chase. This is still one more reason that Tamika Catchings should earn votes as the 2010 WNBA Most Valuable Player.

Already established is the fact that nobody in the history of the WNBA has posted such gaudy, stat-sheet filling numbers as Catchings. This letter won't discuss her career milestones or placement on a myriad of WNBA career charts – those are already well documented. Also well documented is the fact that she is the only player in WNBA history ever to rank in the league's top 10 in scoring, rebounding, assists, steals and blocks in the same season.

Catchings has done it twice, in fact, and currently ranks in the top 12 of all those categories again – plus a few others! Among current WNBA statistical leaders, she is currently 6th in points (17.8), 9th in rebounds (7.0), 12th in assists (4.0), 1st in steals (2.47) and 11th in blocks (0.97). This season, she also enjoying the best 3-point percentage of her career (5th, .432) and her best season shooting overall (10th, .493). She ranks 13th among league leaders with an 83.9 percent mark from the free throw stripe.

Last week's letter discussed her efficiency. This week, let's take a look at the fact that she's even **BETTER** in all those rankings and with **HIGHER** numbers when statistics are examined after the All-Star Break. Using the same six probable top MVP candidates, here are Post All-Star rankings in seven top categories.

SCORING	PPG	REBOUNDING	RPG	ASSISTS	APG	STEALS	SPG
1. Diana Taurasi	23.5	2. Sylvia Fowles	10.8	2. Diana Taurasi	6.31	1. Angel McCoughtry	2.31
2. Cappie Pondexter	23.4	7. Lauren Jackson	8.3	8. Cappie Pondexter	5.00	2. Tamika Catchings	2.23
3. Angel McCoughtry	22.5	8. Tamika Catchings	7.9	11. Tamika Catchings	4.46	28. Sylvia Fowles	1.23
4. Lauren Jackson	20.7	29. Cappie Pondexter	4.7	18. Angel McCoughtry	3.15	37. Diana Taurasi	1.08
5. Tamika Catchings	19.9	35. Angel McCoughtry	4.5	35. Sylvia Fowles	2.08	NA. Lauren Jackson	
6. Sylvia Fowles	16.5	46. Diana Taurasi	4.1	NA. Lauren Jackson		NA. Cappie Pondexter	
BLOCKS	BPG	EFFICIENCY	AVG	DOUBLE-DOUBLES	TOTAL		
1. Sylvia Fowles	2.46	1. Tamika Catchings	24.8	1. Sylvia Fowles	8		
7. Lauren Jackson	1.18	3. Sylvia Fowles	24.0	3. Tamika Catchings	5		
11. Tamika Catchings	1.00	4. Cappie Pondexter	23.9	8. Lauren Jackson	3		
		5. Diana Taurasi	22.4	11. Diana Taurasi	2		
23. Diana Taurasi	0.62	6. Lauren Jackson	21.6				
36. Angel McCoughtry	0.38	11. Angel McCoughtry	18.0	17. Angel McCoughtry	1		
NA. Cappie Pondexter				NA. Cappie Pondexter	0		

* MVP candidates among Top 50 rankings are considered in all categories. NA reflects those not ranked in the top 50.

It has been noted previously that MVPs are often chosen purely on scoring alone. Ranked purely by scoring in the second half, Catchings is 5th in the WNBA, just one-tenth of a point below 20-points per game. That is surely MVP-worthy.

It is also worth noting that, of those seven categories, all six top MVP candidates are found among the league's Top 12 in just two of them – scoring and efficiency. Who tops the efficiency rating during the second half? You guessed it – Catchings!

With six of the league's top seven teams in the East (by W-L records) and the East boasting a 45-20 mark vs. the West in 2010, it is easy to expect a nightly dose of Eastern Conference competition to be significant in sizing MVP candidates. The reigning Defensive Player of the Year is performing at the highest level of her career – and doing it against the league's best competition during the most crucial stretch of the season.

Tamika Catchings has finished among the top three in balloting for the WNBA MVP Award in four of her eight active seasons. She has finished among the top five in MVP balloting in 7 of 8 active seasons. Pacing the defending Eastern Conference champions and the current Eastern Conference leader, Catchings' 2010 season might be her most complete season yet.

She is the WNBA's most constant, most versatile and most efficient threat on both ends of the court. She is the most complete and best all-around player in the game today – and she is proving it when stakes are the highest.