

2015

real SPORTS®

Since 1997, The Authority in Women's Sports™

# SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR



Maya Moore

Credit: Danny Karwowski, Licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

2015 WNBA champion Maya Moore has won three titles, an MVP award, a Rookie of the Year award, and an Olympic Gold Medal in her first five seasons in the WNBA league. No NHL, NBA, NFL, or MLB player has ever done that.

## 2015 MOST IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN SPORTS

**#10**  
**USGA**  
**PARITY AT THE SENIOR RANKS**  
USGA announces it will launch Senior Women's Open.

**#9**  
**Carli Lloyd**  
**BACK WINNERS**  
Oracle Corporation brings Carli Lloyd to its 60,000 attendee Oracle Open World Conference as a sports celebrity for participant photo ops.  
Photo Credit: (C) ISI Photos by Steven Lisontnik

**#8**  
**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**  
**PATH TO MLB LEADS THROUGH FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE**  
Female French teen Elissa Mayeux is the first female to be added to the Major League Baseball's international registration list.

**#7**  
**SOLHEIM CUP**  
**EUROPE'S UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES**  
After being infuriated by a call they found unsportsmanlike, the Americans staged the biggest comeback in Solheim Cup history. No team had ever come from more than two down going into the singles.

**#6**  
**Becky Hammon**  
**BREAKING GLASS**  
Sarah Thomas became the first full-time female official in NFL history and USA Football tapped Boston Renegades CEO and Linebackers Coach Molly Goodwin for its Board of Directors.  
Becky Hammon became the first female head coach in the NBA Summer League and her San Antonio team won the championship and Nancy Lieberman joined her as a full-time NBA assistant coach when she joined the Sacramento Kings organization.

**#5**  
**UFC**  
**YOU GOTTA BELIEVE**  
Holly Holm knocks out former undefeated and sport pioneer Rhonda Rousey in Mixed Martial Arts.

**#4**  
**Geno Auriemma**  
**TALE OF TWO UNBEATENS**  
The Connecticut Huskies repeat as NCAA champions after downing the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, 79-58, earning the Huskies their fourth NCAA title in six years. Coach Geno Auriemma is tied with the legendary John Wooden of UCLA with 10 NCAA titles, the most in college basketball history.

**#3**  
**ANOTHER FIRST FOR SERENA**



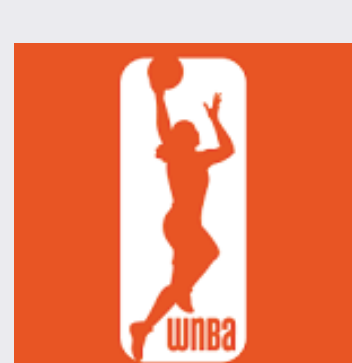
During one point in 2015, Serena had more than twice the number of points as her next closest competitors, 1st time in WTA history, all while Serena completed her 2nd Serena Slam.

**#2**  
**UNITED STATES RECAPTURES WORLD CUP**



U.S. Women's National Team stunned Japan, defeating the defending World Cup Champion 5-2. Team USA became the first three-time World Cup winner, on the cleats of Carli Lloyd's hat trick. The match also set a TV viewing record when 23 million tuned in to watch.

**#1**  
**CALLING IT AS HE SEES IT**



**Attendance Numbers:**  
2015: 7,318  
2014: 7,578  
1998: 10,864  
1997: 9,662

Just prior to the 2015 WNBA Playoffs, Adam Silver, NBA commissioner since February 2014, called into question the fans, the media and the foundation upon which the WNBA league is based. His comments were direct, honest and reflective. It was no surprise when WNBA President Laurel Richie stepped down later in the year.



**Publisher's Note: Amy Love**

A fresh approach is needed to enable the WNBA to thrive on its own terms, where it can be a profitable league while also serving as a mission-driven organization.

REAL SPORTS publishes this Annual Most Important Moments in Sports edition and Sportsperson of the Year as a commitment to the history of women's sports. This non-profit effort pays tribute to the passion exhibited by the 300,000 readership base that engaged with REAL SPORTS, The Authority in Women's Sports, when it was a printed publication.

real SPORTS  
Since 1997, The Authority in Women's Sports™