

Caitlin Clark struggles early in WNBA debut before scoring 20 points in Fever's loss to Connecticut. The Caitlin Clark era in the WNBA has officially begun, although it got off to a slow start. The NCAA's all-time Division I scoring leader stole the ball around the foul line and drove the length of the court before laying the ball in. Clark had said before the game that she thought her first basket would come on a layup since it was a "high-percentage" shot. Clark later added two free throws and hit a 3-pointer with 29.9 seconds left in the first half to finish the opening 20 minutes with seven points, hitting two of her seven shot attempts. She carried some of that momentum into the third quarter when she scored five of her points to try to rally the Fever, but it just wasn't enough. "We got to help her out, better job coming back to the ball," Fever coach Christie Sides said. Her debut in Connecticut is sold out -- the first sellout for the Sun in a season opener since they played their inaugural game at Mohegan Sun Arena in 2003 after moving from Orlando. The crowd gave the No. 1 pick in the draft a loud ovation when she was announced in the pregame introduction. Before the game, Clark admitted she was eager for her WNBA debut. She did have an assist on one basket and threw a nifty behind-the-back pass to teammate Boston, but last season's Rookie of the Year was called for a traveling violation. New York, which was runner-up in the WNBA Finals, rallied to beat Washington 85-80 to start the evening. She sat around most of the day at the hotel and had to wait to get on the court when her team arrived nearly 2 1/2 hours before tipoff. The league's draft had record viewership, and her No. 22 Indiana Fever jerseys have been flying off the shelves. She had 10 of Indiana's 25 -- many unforced. The second one drew loud boos from the sellout crowd.