



Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on June 15, 2024

White Girl Paid a Lot: Caitlin Clark's Woes in Racialized America

Caitlin Clark would assuredly just like to play basketball. Unfortunately for the WNBA standout, however, focus on the game has been subordinated to racial games in an America in which everything is now about identity politics.

Because of this, some may say the WNBA is snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Clark, much touted as one of the greatest female collegiate players of all time, could be the WNBA's ticket to success. The league has been losing approximately \$10 million annually every year since its 1997 launch, and only exists because the NBA subsidizes it financially. But instead of welcoming Clark as someone who could perhaps do for women's basketball what Tiger Woods did for golf — greatly increase the sport's fan base and earnings — some of her fellow players have signaled that she's less than welcome in their sisterhood.



AP Images
Caitlin Clark

Quite notably, on June 1, Chicago Sky player Chennedy Carter shoulder-checked Clark to the floor in what would later be ruled a "flagrant-1 violation." Carter's team would lose to Clark's Indiana Fever 71-70 that day, but she has received no penalty.

Then, this "past week, it was reported that Caitlin Clark was left off the U.S. Olympic Women's Basketball Team, with reports that 'there were concerns about her millions of fans' being upset that she wouldn't have gotten any playing time," [wrote](#) American Thinker Thursday. "This rationale is interesting on two fronts. One: Those millions of fans would have watched the Olympic games, and two: Playing time would have been what it was. If Clark were put in to help the team, then her playing time would be justified by her production."

Whatever the case, some are upset about another matter: that people dare speak of what many call anti-white bias against Clark, and that Clark didn't act offended by discussion of that bias. So after Clark said recently that she didn't really notice the negativity and just wanted to play ball — which once would've been considered an ideal diplomatic answer but is now deemed insufficient in this "silence is violence" time — the wokesters woke up.

For example, Connecticut Sun guard Dijonai Carrington tweeted the following:

(How "xenophobia" enters the equation here was not explained; of course, though, expecting commentary correctness from someone who begins her post with "Dawg" is perhaps silly.)



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Then there was *The Washington Post's* Kevin Blackistone, who, in what appears gaslighting, [complained](#) of “tired old tropes about [b]lack women.”

As a consequence, Clark was compelled to kiss the woke ring and [make a statement](#) about how the bigotry is “disappointing” and that people “should not be using my name to push those [racial] agendas” (tweet below).

Yet there’s a double standard here, one noted by many social media users. For example, “So when do y’all speak up about the attack on her for being white?” [asked](#) “CJ,” responding to Carrington. “The attack on black men for calling out the bs?”

“‘Black men are the lowest common denominator’ – liked by Chennedy Carter,” the poster added, making his case. “...[A]in’t heard a black woman or none of y’all say a peep about it. Silence is loud.”

As for the anti-white bias, one poster cheered Carrington on and [wrote](#), “That’s exactly why we call her fanbase the Cait Clux Clan or CCC.” Another tweeter provided the example below (scroll down to see the comment).

That Clark’s race has made her more marketable was also asserted by *The View's* Sunny Hostin (below).

It’s ironic that Hostin mentions attractiveness as playing a role, too, and not only because (just being honest, not cruel) Clark doesn’t exactly set off the pulchritude meter. It’s that Hostin does, and this is why she has a commentary job despite being wrong in most everything she says. Her comments above are no exception, either, save one point:

Clark’s being white *does* enhance her marketability and helps explain why she’s now the world’s highest-earning female basketball player.

But so what?

The issue isn’t “white privilege,” which doesn’t exist — but being a *novelty*.

There are other examples of this, too. Consider Tiger Woods, mentioned earlier. His race also enhanced his marketability, *greatly*, because he was history’s first dominant “black” (he calls himself “Cablinasian”) golfer. Then there’s ex-race-car driver Danica Patrick, who, though never winning a race and perhaps best known for crashing, was marketed relentlessly and enjoyed lucrative endorsements because she was a woman in a man’s realm.

In the early ’80s, there was boxer Gerry Cooney, who received great press and purses not just because he was destroying fellow heavyweights for a time, but also because he enjoyed the novelty status of being a “great white hope” chasing a title that had for decades been held almost exclusively by black fighters. Novelty sells — big.

So it’s no surprise that Clark, a white woman in predominantly black league, would raise eyebrows and revenue. This isn’t “racism,” but market reality.

And what of the controversy? Will it turn off new prospective fans? NBA Commissioner Adam Silver doesn’t seem to think so. “I think ultimately, this is very healthy for women’s basketball and the



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WNBA,” he recently said. “It’s generating tremendous additional interest” (tweet below).

He could be right, too. Just as with crashes in auto races, racial controversy does, unfortunately, sell in certain quarters. After all, if it didn’t, we wouldn’t have identity politics in the first place.



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