

Name:

Day One

Better Than Ever

Part 1: Silent read

➔ A young basketball star makes a comeback. Read silently.

From a young age, Elena Delle Donne was a standout basketball player. She could score from anywhere on the floor. She grabbed rebounds. She played tough defense. People said she was like LeBron James.

College coaches began calling Elena when she was only in seventh grade. When she finished high school in Delaware, she was the number one college draft pick.

Elena signed with UConn, a basketball powerhouse. They had won the NCAA championship for five straight years. It was a perfect match—a great player on a great team.

Or was it? Elena had always been very close to her family. At faraway UConn, she was scared and lonely. She stayed at college for just two days. Then she went home. “I can’t do this,” she told her parents.

Had Elena burned out? Burnout is a real risk for young stars like Elena. In an interview with *NCAA.com*, she talked about walking away from the game. “I lost the love of the game because it was taking me away from my family,” she said.

Elena was not done with basketball. After a break, she returned to college ball at the University of Delaware—a school closer to home. Elena Delle Donne was back! She became the top scorer in the NCAA. After college, she was the second overall pick in the WNBA draft. In her first season, she got the most All-Star votes of any player in the WNBA. The comeback was sweet.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What happened when Elena got to UCONN?

How did Elena do in the WNBA draft?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

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College coaches began calling Elena / when she was only in seventh grade. // When she finished high school in Delaware, / she was the number one college draft pick. //

Elena signed with UConn, / a basketball powerhouse. // They had won the NCAA championship for five straight years. // It was a perfect match— / a great player on a great team. //

Or was it? // Elena had always been very close to her family. // At faraway UConn, / she was scared and lonely. // She stayed at college for just two days. // Then she went home. // “I can’t do this,” / she told her parents. //

Had Elena burned out? // Burnout is a real risk for young stars like Elena. // In an interview with *NCAA.com*, / she talked about walking away from the game. // “I lost the love of the game / because it was taking me away from my family,” / she said. //

Elena was not done with basketball. // After a break, / she returned to college ball at the University of Delaware— / a school closer to home. // Elena Delle Donne was back! // She became the top scorer in the NCAA. // After college / she was the second overall pick in the WNBA draft. // In her first season, / she got the most All-Star votes of any player in the WNBA. // The comeback was sweet. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.