



Photo courtesy of FIBA

After a deal between the Atlanta Dream and New York Liberty sending AD Durr to the Dream and Megan Walker and the rights to Raquel Carrera to the Liberty, the Liberty waived Walker. This paved the way for the Liberty to [sign Marine Johannes](#) to a contract filling the roster spot vacated after the trade.

Johannes played for the Liberty in 2019 and performed well during her rookie season in the WNBA, averaging 7.2 points & 2.4 assists on 43.6/37.9/78.9 shooting splits. She brought solid play then and flashed a bright future, but she hasn't played in the league since the 2019 season. What does she bring to the Liberty now?

When accounting for all of her overseas play during the 2021-22 season (Eurocup, Eurobasket, French League, FIBA), Johannes has played 49 games since October of 2021.

- 11.6 points per game on 59.2% True-shooting
- 39.7% from deep on 6.2 attempts per game
- 3 assists to 2.1 turnovers

Off rip, Johannes brings something the Liberty need in droves; extra ball-handling.

[Crystal Dangerfield's presence](#) has been a boon for New York and I would expect Johannes to be the same, albeit in very different ways.

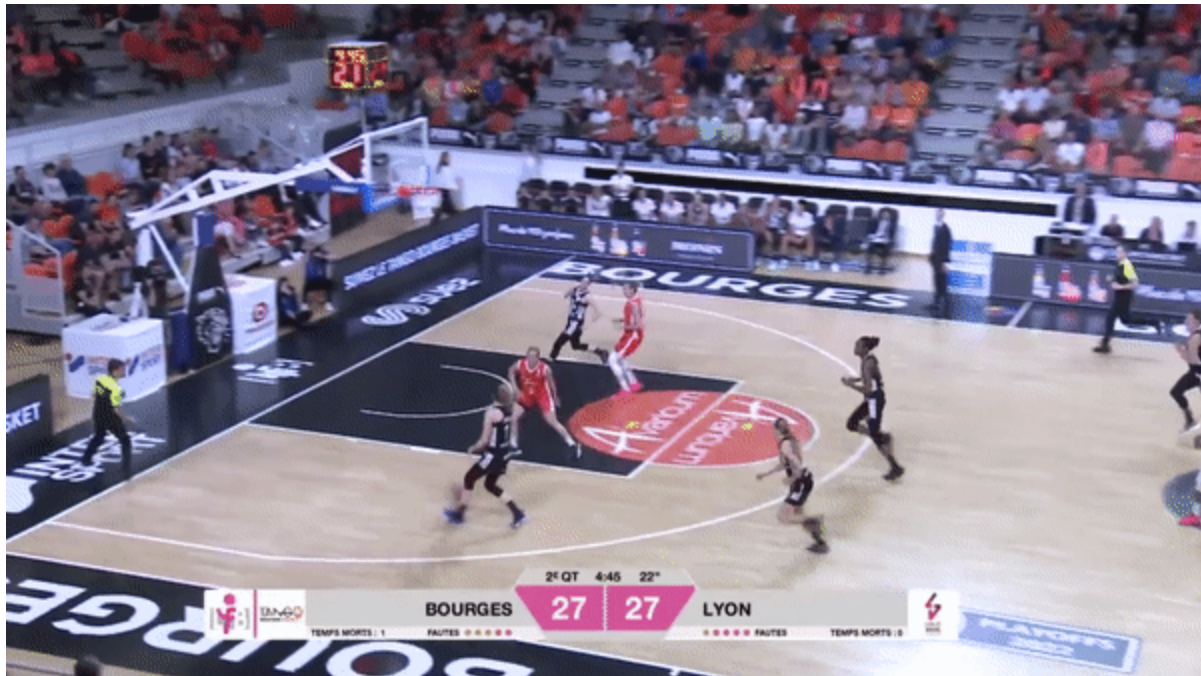
This team lacks playmaking off the dribble quite heavily outside of Sabrina Ionescu, Betnijah Laney, and Dangerfield. With Laney still out for at least the next month and a half, adding more juice in the halfcourt is essential for a team hoping to make a strong run the remainder of the season, building off of a positive stretch to start June.

Johannes is an atypical playmaker (not a bad thing!). In some ways I'd say that the assists per game quite undersells the level of court vision she displays and the array of ways she can get the ball off.

One handed whips across the body:



Awkward angle releases in extremely tight windows. This pass is a LASER.



This one is the icing on the cake and the showcase of how Johannes sees the game: If there is a window or the potential for an advantage, she's going to take it. With gumption, in audacious ways, and often at a high velocity, Johannes is going to find the cracks in a defense.



So what do I mean by atypical? On one hand, the unconventional nature of her passing factors in, but she doesn't bring the same sort of downhill burst you oft associate with the best playmakers of the game.

Johannes is incredibly pace and tempo based, utilizing her flexibility East/West as a driver and a nifty handle to command the court.

To break down her shot profile (per Instat Scouting)

- 20.6% of her shots came at the rim (59% field goal percentage)
- 15.1% of her shots came from mid-range (39.4%)
- 64.3% of her shots came from three (39.7%)

She's an efficient player, especially given how jumper heavy her profile is, and again, that's part of the atypicalness of her playmaking.

Her windows are heavily based on her shooting gravity, which is incredibly enticing when envisioning her and Ionescu sharing a backcourt. Both possess stellar shot gravity and the ability to manipulate out of the windows given to them. Especially for passers that have gravity wells fed by their shooting, operating as a secondary playmaker, attacking bent or tilted defenses on the weak-side makes them incredibly lethal.

While we've seen Sabrina's best basketball playing alongside a driving threat, I think we can see some of the same impact from Johannes in spite of the difference in skill set between her and Dangerfield. Johannes is so so good moving the ball even if she isn't initiating sets, ripping off quick decisions on boomerang passes and all avenues of connective facilitation.



I don't think I'd say I view Johannes as someone who is going to create much separation after watching her film, but that's watching her more as a primary. Playing off of Ionescu or Dangerfield, with the opportunity to attack off the catch, Johannes' quick decision-making and touch makes me pretty unbothered by any sort of limits with regard to burst or strength. You're not going to ask her to create without a ball screen 27 times a game!

Speaking of touch! LMAOOO what on earth.



That's just nutty stuff.

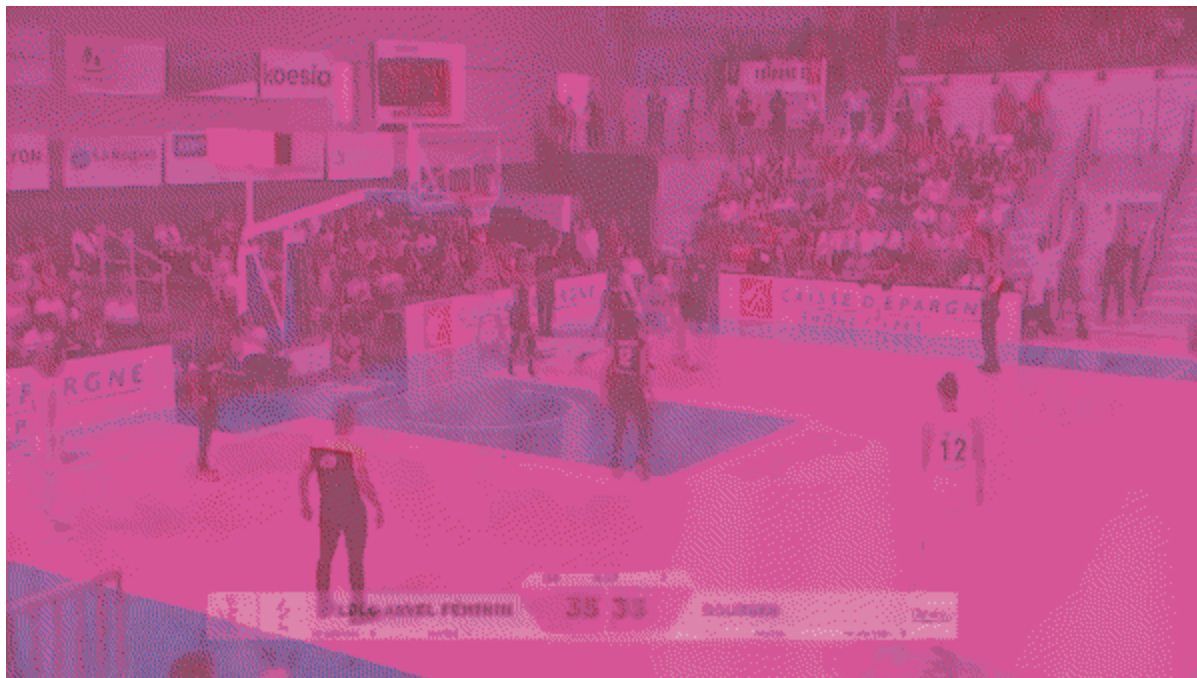
Adding in another player who puts tension on the defense while also being able to shift the pieces on the board with the ball in her hand is just something this Liberty team has lacked. I can't wait to see how she fits in. I'm curious to see if Sandy Brondello ups the pace at all as the Liberty are only 11th on the season per Her Hoop Stats ([sign up for it](#) it's like my favorite website).

This is just my two cents, but if you want to get the most out of players who thrive on manipulating angles, quick decisions, and shooting, lean into their strengths.

As for the shooting, this is not just a "yeah she can shoot on volume" type beat. This is an "oh my god how in the hell are we supposed to gameplan for lineups with Sabrina, Johannes, and Bec Allen?" type beat.

We already mentioned the high volume and remarkable marksmanship. What lies within the percentages?

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Falling out of bounds with a winding down clock off the inbounds play? SURE!

Just over half of her 3's during this past season were tracked as pull-ups and her percentage didn't dip much (36.7% on 3.2 pull-up 3's per game. Pretty pretty pretty good *nods*).

Her versatility is something I'm so excited for.

She can be utilized as a screener in a variety of actions to THEN flow into pick and rolls. Like, this Liberty team could be insanely dynamic with their shooting and playmaking ability in the halfcourt. We've already seen what they've looked like over the last week and a half with another guard alongside Ionescu as they've found a much better flow. Imagine Johannes being used as a screener for Ionescu? Or getting really funky and setting double drags for Crystal Dangerfield with Johannes AND Ionescu as screeners? Point being, there's a ton there with respect to optionality and I love that for this team.



I'd imagine Johannes takes a smaller dose of pull-ups in the W (could well be wrong too!), but the *threat* is what matters most here. The idea that "hey, she could hit a one-legged side step at a pretty high percentage," is in the back of a defender's mind and also the defensive coordinator's. That's substantial for opening lanes and the actual spacing granted by a defense

Accounting for multiple movement shooters is much easier said than done.



Johannes shot 45.6% on catch and shoot 3's and 42.1% off of screens. I'm not sure how else to sell: she is a legit legit SHOOTER shooter.

I don't have as full a grasp of her defense to dive into a soliloquy about it, but she has solid size for a guard at 5'10. My guess is that teams will really try to look and get her going through a lot of screens. She's a decent screen navigator in what I've seen (love her shoulder dip), but her reconnection speed is something I'd be a bit concerned by if she's on shiftier guards. Overall, I'd say she can be fine defensively, especially in a good team scheme, which the Liberty have really started to find, although I'd default to others who have a better handle on her defensively.

Regardless, I'm amped for what she can bring the Liberty. They need the shot creation, ball-handling, playmaking chops, and sheer randomness she can bring to a possession. Can't wait to see her impact on the team!