



Other Basketball Leagues

American Basketball American (ABA)

Team: Atlanta Vision

Principal Owner: Atlanta Vision LLC, owned by Quentin and Akilah Townsend

[Team Website](#)

Arena: The Sampson's Center

UPDATE: The Townsends acquired the Atlanta franchise in the middle of the 2004-05 season, restructured and renamed the team to the Vision.

Team: Baltimore

Principal Owner: Serena Locker-Coles

UPDATE: Baltimore is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team name, athletes and location have yet to be determined. Rod Turner was named General Manager and Head Coach in June.

Team: Bellevue Blackhawks

Principal Owner: Puget Sound Sports and Entertainment, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Renton High School

Team: Bellingham Slam

Principal Owner: Action Entertainment Group, Inc., owned by John Dominguez
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Whatcom Pavilion at Whatcom Community College

UPDATE: Bellingham is a 2005 expansion team that was originally expected to play in Everett.

Team: Birmingham Magicians

Principal Owner: Reginald McDaniel
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Knox Gymnasium at Miles College

UPDATE: Birmingham is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Boston Frenzy

Front Office: Dan Savage - General Manager
[Team Website](#)

UPDATE: The Frenzy was established for the 2004-05 season and is looking for a venue in the Boston-Metro area for the 2005-06 season. The Frenzy played in North Dartmouth for their first season.

Team: Buffalo Rapids

Principal Owner: Gary Nice
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Flickinger Center at Erie Community College

Date Built: 1993

Facility Cost (millions): \$25 M

Facility Financing: Publicly Funded.

UPDATE: Buffalo is a 2005 expansion team.

Team: California Eagles

Front Office: Robert Chiang - President
[Team Website](#)

UPDATE: California is a 2005 expansion team that will be located in Ventura, California. The Venue has yet to be announced.

Team: Charlotte Krunk

Principal Owner: Spydo Music Inc., led by Duane 'Spyder' Hughes

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Cricket Arena

Date Built: 1955

Facility Cost (millions): A \$4 M renovation was completed in 1992.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Charlotte is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Chattanooga Steamers

Principal Owner: Ralph Underhill

[Team Website](#)

UPDATE: Chattanooga is a 2005 expansion team. Mid July 2005, it was reported that the Steamers had secured a venue but were waiting to release information about it.

Team: Columbus

Front Office: Dave Cecutti - General Manager

UPDATE: Columbus is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team name, athletes and location have yet to be determined.

Team: Detroit Wheels

Principal Owner: Antoine Joubert and Chris Dryer

UPDATE: January 2005, the Detroit team changed management, ownership, and name (from the Motown Jammers), and continued playing the Jammers scheduled games. The team should be fully functional for the 2005-06 season.

Team: Florida Pit Bulls

Principal Owner: Demetrius Ford, Frank Rosso, Tim Hardaway, Jay Fiedler, and Angela Rizzi
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Office Depot Center

Date Built: 1998

Facility Cost (millions): \$212 M

Facility Financing: Broward County financed \$185 M, partially funded by adding a 2% tourism tax. The team covered the remainder of the cost.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Florida is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Fresno Heat Wave

Principal Owner: Reggie Davis

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Selland Arena

Date Built: 1966

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Heat Wave folded in December 2004, after a month of play. However, the Heat Wave is looking for a new coach for the 2005 season, implying they will return.

Team: Gallup Talons

Principal Owner: Joseph Kolb

Arena: Gallup Junior High School

UPDATE: The Talons are striving to be a predominantly Native American team. The team is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Harlem Strong Dogs

Principal Owner: Kaizen International, LLC.

[Team Website](#)

Arena: The Riverbank State Park

Team: Hawaii Mega Force

Principal Owner: Orrys Williams

UPDATE: Hawaii is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. The Mega Force will be a mix of athletes from the continental US, Hawaii and Asia. No venue has been named as of July.

Team:

Indianapolis Alley Cats

Principal Owner: Rob Blackwell, Reggie Jones

UPDATE: Indianapolis is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, athletes and location have yet to be determined.

Team: Inglewood

Principal Owner: Nine Sports Entertainment LLC

UPDATE: Inglewood is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team name, athletes and location have yet to be determined. However, the team is working on securing a deal with the Forum, where the Lakers played prior to playing at the Staples Center.

Team: Kansas City Knights

Principal Owner: Jim Clark

Arena: Kemper Arena

Date Built: 1974

Facility Cost (millions): \$22 M

Facility Financing: \$5.6 M came from general obligation bonds approved in 1954, R. Crosby Kemper Sr. donated \$3.2 M, \$575,000 came from bond interest, American Royal Association donated \$1.5 M, \$10 million dollars came from revenue bonds in conjunction with the Jackson County Sports Authority, and \$2 M came from federal grants.

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Kentucky Colonels

Principal Owner: Stephanie Roach

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Louisville Gardens

Date Built: 1905.

UPDATE: The gardens were originally built to be used as an armory. The arena received a \$150,000 upgrade at the end of 2004.

Team: Las Vegas Rattlers

Principal Owner: Gil Morgan and Roy Hammonds

UPDATE: Although the team folded during the 2004-05 season, the ABA website list the Rattlers as one of the active teams for the 2005-06 season. The Rattler's venue has been sold to a church, and the team is currently seeking a new venue, expressing a possibility of playing in one of the hotels in North Las Vegas.

Team: Long Beach Laguneros

Principal Owner: Jonathon Hernandez and Thomas Gillespie

Arena: Pyramid Arena at Cal State, Long Beach campus.

Date Built: 1994

Facility Cost (millions): \$22 M

UPDATE: In May 2005, the Long Beach Jam came under new ownership; the new owners changed the name to the Laguneros to help market itself to the Hispanics in Southern California.

Team: Los Angeles Aftershock

Principal Owner: Shawn Blattenberger

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Pyramid Arena at Cal State, Long Beach campus.

Date Built: 1994

Facility Cost (millions): \$22 M

Team: Louisiana Cajun Pelicans

Principal Owner: Sheldon Jones

[Team Website](#)

Arena: North Baton Rouge Community Center

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Maryland Nighthawks

Principal Owner: Tom Doyle

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Montgomery College's Rockville campus

Team: Mississippi Stingers

Principal Owner: Dr. Morris Britton

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Leflore County Civic Center in Greenwood

UPDATE: The Stingers were the first team in the ABA to have a female player on its roster. Amy Williams joined the Stingers for the 2004-05 season to rehabilitate her knee in hopes of trying out for the WNBA.

Team: Montreal

Front Office: Pascal Jobin - General Manager

UPDATE: Montreal is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team name, athletes and location have yet to be determined.

Team: Nashville

Principal Owner: Derek Watkins

UPDATE: In May 2005, the Nashville Rhythm came under new ownership. The team's name and venue will be changed, however neither has been announce as of July 2005.

Team: New Mexico Style

Principal Owner: Antonio Tree Adams

UPDATE: New Mexico is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, athletes and location have yet to be determined.

Team: New Orleans Blues

Principal Owner: Jim MaCaa

UPDATE: New Orleans is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team name, athletes and location have yet to be determined.

Team: Newark Express

Principal Owner: BNC Sports, LLC., led by Marsha Blount and Jacqueline Halyard

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Essex County College

UPDATE: Newark is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Niagara Daredevils

Principal Owner: Al Howell

Arena: Garden City Arena

Date Built: 1938

UPDATE: Niagara is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Norfolk

Principal Owner: James Keys

UPDATE: Norfolk is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team name, athletes and location have yet to be determined.

Team: Northeast Pennsylvania Breakers

Principal Owner: Bill Flemming

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Hoop City USA

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Breakers is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Ohio Aviators

Principal Owner: Joe Lewandowski

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Canton Memorial Civic Center

Date Built: 1951

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Ohio is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Orange County Buzz

Front Office: Burrel Lee III - General Manager

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Air Dome at the Orange County Fairgrounds

UPDATE: January 2005, part way through the 2004-05 season, the Orange County Crush changed ownership, name, venue and some athletes. The new team, the Buzz, maintained playing the Crush's schedule.

Team: Orlando

Principal Owner: Harrison Klein

UPDATE: Orlando is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team name, athletes and location have yet to be determined.

Team: Reigning Knights of Georgia

Front Office: Rufus Greer, Jr. - General Manager

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Buchanan High School of Technology Arena and the Meadowcreek High School Arena.

Team: Pittsburgh Xplosion

Principal Owner: Pro Basketball, Inc.

[Team Website](#)

UPDATE: Pittsburgh is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the venue has yet to be determined.

Team: Richmond

Principal Owner: Andre Walter

UPDATE: Richmond is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team name, athletes and location have yet to be determined.

Team: River City Ballers

Principal Owner: Michael C. Jefferson

[Team Website](#)

UPDATE: River City, Omaha's ABA team, is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Rochester Razorsharks

Principal Owner: Dr. Sev Hrywnak

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Blue Cross Arena at the Rochester War Memorial

Date Built: 1955

Facility Cost (millions): \$7.5 M

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Rochester is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. A \$41 M renovation and expansion was completed in 1998. Blue Cross is paying \$2.975 M over fifteen years for a naming rights deal that expire in 2013.

Team: San Francisco Pilots

Principal Owner: Parimal Rohit

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Kezar Pavilion

Date Built: 1924

Facility Cost: \$300,000

Facility Financing: \$100,000 from the Kezar Family, \$200,000 from the city of San Francisco.

UPDATE: San Francisco is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: San Jose Sky Rockets

Principal Owner: Kazumi & James Hasegawa

[Team Website](#)

Arena: San Jose Civic Auditorium

Date Built: 1936

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: San Jose is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: St. Louis Flight

Principal Owner: Doug Mitchell, Larry Stricklin, and Mike Noll

[Team Website](#)

Arena: The Family Arena

Date Built: 1999

Facility Cost (millions): \$35 M

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Strong Island Sound

Principal Owner: Darren Cioffi

UPDATE: Strong Island is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team logo, coach, athletes, and location have yet to be determined.

Team: Tacoma

Principal Owner: Puget Sound Sports and Entertainment, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Tacoma Dome

Date Built: 1983

Facility Cost (millions): \$44 M

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Tacoma is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion. As of July 2005, the team name, coach, and athletes have yet to be determined. September 2005, Tacoma residents will vote to refurbish the Tacoma Dome through a \$45 M bond.

Team: Texas Tycoons

Principal Owner: Charles Key
[Team Website](#)

Arena: W.G. Thomas Coliseum

Team: Tijuana Dragons

Front Office: Lic. Carlos Atilano Peña - President
[Team Website](#)

Team: Toledo Ice

Principal Owner: Nathaniel Hopkins
[Team Website](#)

Arena: The Seagate Convention Centre in Toledo
Date Built: 1987
[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Toledo is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Team: Valley Legends

Principal Owner: Gary Grant
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Pasadena City College

UPDATE: The Valley Legends is one of over 30 teams planned for the 2005 expansion.

Continental Basketball Association (CBA)

Team: Albany Patroons

Principal Owner: Jim Coyne and Benito R. Fernandez
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Washington Avenue Armory
Date Built: Late 1890's as a munitions depot.
[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Patroons are returning for the 2005-06 season with the teams original colors and name. A naming rights deal is being sought for the Armory because of the return of the Patroons.

Team: Dakota Wizards

Principal Owner: Steve McCormick and Bill Sorensen

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Bismarck Civic Center

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Gary Steelheads

Principal Owner: A group of investors led by Jewell G. Harris Sr.

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Genesis Convention Center

Date Built: 1981

Facility Cost (millions): \$ 5 M renovation was completed in 2000.

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Idaho Stampede

Principal Owner:

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Bank of America Centre

Date Built: 1997

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: At the end of 2004, Bank of America chose not to renew their \$1 M over ten years naming rights deal. Although the naming right deal expired, the Centre will remain the Bank of America Centre until a new naming rights deal is found.

Team: Michigan Mayhem

Principal Owner: Jannie Scott

[Team Website](#)

Arena: L.C. Walker Arena

Date Built: 1960

Facility Cost (millions): \$2 M

Facility Financing: \$1 M from L.C. Walker for the arena, and \$1 M from the city of Muskegon for land and utility connections and furnishings for the arena.

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Rockford Lightning

Principal Owner: Wayne Timpe

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Metro Centre

Date Built: 1979

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In 2005 a \$3.8 M renovation was completed.

Team: Sioux Falls Skyforce

Principal Owner: D. Greg and Mike Heineman

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Sioux Falls Arena

Date Built: 1961

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Yakima Sun Kings

Principal Owner: John Uceny

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Yakima Valley SunDome

Date Built: 1990

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Yakima National Tribal Council has undergone steps to purchase the Sun Kings and keep them in Yakima. If the purchase is successful the price will be \$140,000.

National Basketball Developmental League

Team: Albuquerque

Principal Owner: NBA

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Tingley Coliseum

Date Built: 1957, after seventeen years of construction.

Facility Cost: \$500,000

Facility Financing: Paid for with Work Project Administration money.

UPDATE: The Huntsville Flight were relocated to Albuquerque for the 2005-06 season. The Tingley Coliseum has undergone \$9.6 M in renovations since 1999.

Team: Arkansas RimRockers

Principal Owner: Arkansas RimRockers, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Alltel Arena

Date Built: 1999

Facility Cost (millions): \$65.7

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Alltel is paying \$7 M over fifteen years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2014. After the 2004-05 season, the RimRockers moved from the ABA to the NBDL.

Team: Austin

Principal Owner: Southwest Basketball, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Austin Convention Center

Date Built: 1992

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Austin is a new team planned for the 2005-06 season.

Team: Fayetteville Patriots

Principal Owner: NBA

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Crown Center Coliseum

Date Built: 1997

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Florida Flame

Front Office: Terry Thimlar - General Manager

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Germain Arena

Date Built: 1998

Facility Cost (millions): \$25 M

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Fort Worth

Principal Owner: David Kahn

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Fort Worth Convention Center

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Fort Worth is a new team planned for the 2005-06 season.

Team: Roanoke Dazzle

Principal Owner: NBA

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Roanoke Civic Center

Date Built: 1971

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Tulsa

Front Office: Joe Berry

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Tulsa Expo Square Pavilion

Date Built: 1966

Facility Cost (millions):\$3.5 M

Facility Financing: Paid for with a bond issue.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Phase I of the renovation was completed in September 2001, for \$21 M paid for by revenue backed bonds. The construction should be completed by fall 2005.

United States Basketball League (USBL)

Team: Brooklyn Kings

Principal Owner: Brooklyn Kings Basketball Club, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Long Island University - Schwartz Center

Date Built: 1963

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Dodge City Legend

Principal Owner: Dodge City Basketball, Inc.

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Dodge City Civic Center

Team: Kansas Cagerz

Principal Owner: Kansas Sportz, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Salina Bicentennial Center

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Nebraska Cranes

Principal Owner: Joel Weins

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Kearney Events Center

Date Built: 2000

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Nebraska is a 2005-06 expansion team.

Team: New Jersey Flyers

Principal Owner: New Jersey Flyers, Inc.

Arena: Stevens Institute of Technology

UPDATE: New Jersey is a 2005-06 expansion team.

Team: Oklahoma Storm

Front Office: Bryan Gates - General Manger

Arena: Chisholm Trail Expo Center

Date Built: 1998

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Pennsylvania Valley Dawgs

Front Office: John Capizzi

Arena: Dieruff High School

Team: Westchester Wildfire

Front Office: Jennifer Alpert - President

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Pace University

Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)

Team: Charlotte Sting

Affiliate: Charlotte Bobcats

Principal Owner: Robert Johnson

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Charlotte Arena

Date Built: 2005

Facility Cost (millions): \$265 M

Facility Financing: Two bonds, backed by revenue from city tourist taxes. Bank of America, Duke Energy and Wachovia are underwriting \$100 M in exchange for approximately \$50 M from the sale of real estate downtown, where the venue will be located. \$16.8 is coming from exclusive food and beverage rights, and there is a 3% seat tax at events in city arenas generating \$15 M. The balance is coming from the team.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Charlotte Arena is scheduled to open in the fall of 2005. When the arena opens, the scoreboard will be the most technologically advanced scoreboard in the country, and the arena will be completely wireless, allowing fans to order food and beverages from their seats, among other things. There will also be an interactive arcade sponsored by Coca-Cola.

Team: Chicago

Principal Owner: Michael Alter, with a select group of local investors serving as minority owners

[Team Website](#)

Arena: UIC Pavilion

Date Built: 1982

Facility Cost (millions): \$10 M

UPDATE: Chicago will get a WNBA team for the 2006-07 season. Chicago is only the second WNBA team owned and operated independent from the NBA.

Team: Connecticut Sun

Principal Owner: Mohegan Sun

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Mohegan Sun Arena

Date Built: 2001

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Sun was formerly the Orlando Miracle, affiliated with the Magic prior to the 2003 season. When Mohegan Sun purchased the team, it became the first WNBA team independently owned and operated from the NBA. The arena is within the Mohegan Sun Resort and Casino.

Team: Detroit Shock

Affiliate: Detroit Pistons

Principal Owner: William Davidson

[Team Website](#)

Arena: The Palace of Auburn Hills

Date Built: 1988

Facility Cost (millions): \$70 M

Facility Financing: Privately financed by a bank loan and equity contribution by team

ownership.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: A \$20 M renovation is taking place at the Palace that should be complete in spring 2006. A new entrance, new dining options, retail facilities, and new box office are a few of the items on the agenda. Since opening, the Palace has had \$77 M in renovations including this project. In 2005, ESPN The Magazine Ranked the Pistons as the #1 franchise in professional sports.

Team: Houston Comets

Affiliate: Houston Rockets

Principal Owner: Leslie L. Alexander

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Toyota Center

Date Built: 2003

Facility Cost (millions): \$235 M

Facility Financing: The city spent \$20 on the land for the arena. The sports authority will sell \$182 M in bonds to build the arena and secure \$125 M of that with money from hotel and car rental taxes. The garage project is paid for by private businesses. The Rockets are responsible for cost overruns and have pledged to spend \$20 M on enhancements.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In July 2003, the Rockets signed a 20-year, \$100 million deal with Gulf States Toyota Inc, which will expire in 2023. The major lure for Toyota to sign the naming rights deal with Houston was the signing of Yao Ming, who is very popular in the Asian market. While Toyota Motor Sales USA and Toyota Motor Corporation in Japan signed off on the deal and will fund an undisclosed portion of the purchase, Gulf States Toyota and the dealerships that it represents will be paying most of the fee. While the naming rights deal is for 20 years, it can be extended to 30 years to match the deal that the Rockets currently have to stay in the arena.

Team: Indiana Fever

Affiliate: Indiana Pacers

Principal Owner: Pacers Sports & Entertainment, owned by Melvin and Herbert Simon

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Conseco Fieldhouse

Date Built: 1999

Facility Cost (millions): \$183 M

Facility Financing: Financing for the facility is a public/private partnership. Public contributions include \$50 M from a professional sports developmental tax district around the new facility, \$4.7 M in infrastructure, \$9.3 M from Capital Improvement Board cash reserves and \$7 M from the

Circle Centre Mall revenues. Private contributions include \$57 M from the Pacers, a \$37 M loan from companies, which will be repaid by the city, and a \$10 M land grant from Eli Lilly & Co. for the arena site.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Conesco is paying \$40 million over 20 years for the naming rights that expire in 2019. Conesco has continued to defy Wall Street expectations since declaring bankruptcy in 2002. With the appointment of a new CEO, the company recently beat third quarter earning projections and has managed to stay out of legal trouble with New York Attorney General Elliot Spitzer. As the company continues to emerge from near financial ruin, it will maintain the naming rights of the Conesco Fieldhouse.

Team: Los Angeles Sparks

Affiliate: Los Angeles Lakers

Principal Owner: Dr. Jerry Buss

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Staples Center

Date Built: 1999

Facility Cost (millions): \$375 M

Facility Financing: Bank of America underwrote a \$305 M loan to finance construction. It was at the time the largest private financing for an arena. The city provided \$38.5 M in bonds and \$20 M in Los Angeles Convention Center reserves. This money will eventually be repaid through arena revenues. An additional \$12 M in tax incremental financing was also provided by the city's Community Redevelopment Agency.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: A company controlled by Denver billionaire Philip Anschutz has purchased Fox Entertainment Group's 40% interest in the Staples Center, allowing for work to begin on a \$1 billion addition to the area surrounding the arena. The deal is estimated at \$200 million. Anschutz's entertainment and development company, AEG, will now have greater control of the downtown arena and the surrounding 28 acres, where it plans to build a 4-million-square-foot development called L.A. Live. Construction is yet to begin on the new \$1 billion addition to the area between the Staples Center and the Los Angeles central business district. The development could house a 7,300-seat theater, a 1,200-room hotel, other smaller hotels, restaurants, stores, offices and residential units. Currently the developers who are asking for financial assistance from the city to help make the hotel finances work are holding up construction. Civic leaders including Mayor James K. Hahn have said they support the project but are reserving judgment on whether to help finance it until they see more specific figures. Staples is paying \$100 million over 20 years for the naming rights that expire in 2019.

Team: Minnesota Lynx

Affiliate: Minnesota Timberwolves

Principal Owner: Glen Taylor

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Target Center

Date Built: 1990

Facility Cost (millions): \$104 M

Facility Financing: Financed through a tax exempt bond issue.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Target is paying \$18.8 M over 15 years for the naming rights that expire 2005.

Team: New York Liberty

Affiliate: New York Knicks

Principal Owner: Cablevision

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Madison Square Garden

Date Built: 1968

Facility Cost (millions): \$43 M

Facility Financing: \$200 M in renovations completed in 1991.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Madison Square Garden officials say they are making plans for a new arena. NBBJ Sports has been hired to begin the planning. A deadline has not been set for construction and no location has been determined.

Team: Phoenix Mercury

Affiliate: Phoenix Suns

Principal Owner: >: Suns Legacy Partners, led by Robert Sarver

[Team Website](#)

Arena: America West Arena

Date Built: 1992

Facility Cost (millions): \$90 M

Facility Financing: The city of Phoenix contributed \$35 M with \$28 M going to construct the arena and \$7 M for the land. The Phoenix Suns contributed \$55 M. The city has a 30-year commitment from the Suns to repay a portion of the contribution at \$500,000 per year, with an annual 3% increase. The city will also receive 40% of revenue from luxury boxes and advertising.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In January 2005, the Suns reacquired the ownership interest held by Anne Mariucci and Kathy Munro, which was purchased the prior year that was intended to eventually give the women twenty-five percent. When the investment group led by Robert Sarver purchased the Suns, they determined it was in their best interest to have complete ownership over the Mercury. Mariucci and Munro expressed that they left on good terms and hope to be able to work with the Mercury in the future.

Team: Sacramento Monarchs

Affiliate: Sacramento Kings

Principal Owner: Gavin and Joseph Maloof

[Team Website](#)

Arena: ARCO Arena

Date Built: 1988

Facility Cost (millions): \$40 M

Facility Financing: Privately financed.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Owners Joe and Gavin Maloof are hoping to build a new arena because of ARCO Arena's age and current condition. Built inexpensively and lacking the modern amenities (luxury suites, club seats, etc.) necessary for owners to compete economically in the today's NBA, Arco is cracked and creaking, and the foundation is too unsteady to withstand massive renovation. It also has visibly exhausted its physical utility. Opposing players complain about the lack of hot water in the showers. The small concourses limit the number of concession stands and prompt long lines and large crowds. Conversations between the Maloof brothers and the civic leaders of Sacramento have been choppy at best, but David Stern recently intervened and attempted to get the talks jumpstarted. Unfortunately for the Maloofs, the community's reaction to a new arena is lukewarm at best. The family, who announced a \$600 M expansion to their Palms Casino in Vegas, is being criticized by locals for not wanting to spend more of their own money to build the new proposed arena. The Maloofs only want to spend approximately \$80 M leaving the city to cover the remaining \$320 M.

ARCO is paying 750,000 per year for ten years for the naming rights that expire in 2007. The naming rights deal was originally signed in 1985; since then British Petroleum bought ARCO, but BP is going to keep the ARCO name because of its recognition on the west coast.

Team: San Antonio Silver Stars

Affiliate: San Antonio Spurs

Principal Owner: Spurs Sports & Entertainment (SS&E)

[Team Website](#)

Arena: SBC Center

Date Built: 2002

Facility Cost (millions): \$175 M

Facility Financing: \$146.5 M was generated through a county tax increase and an increase in hotel and rental car taxes. SS&E contributed \$28.5 M themselves, which they raised through a \$1.00 increase in ticket fees for NBA games and a \$1.00 parking surcharge.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Prior to the 2003 season, the Silver Stars were the Utah Starzz, affiliated with the Utah Jazz. SBC Communications is paying \$41 M for 20 years for the naming rights that expire in 2022.

Team: Seattle Storm

Affiliate: Seattle Super Sonics

Principal Owner: The Basketball Club of Seattle, LLC led by Howard Schultz

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Key Arena

Date Built: 1995

Facility Cost (millions): \$94 M

Facility Financing: The arena cost the city \$75 M and the Supersonics \$19.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Key Bank is paying \$15.1 million over 15 years for the naming rights that expire in 2010.

Team: Washington Mystics

Affiliate: Washington Wizards

Principal Owner: Lincoln Holdings LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: MCI Center

Date Built: 1997

Facility Cost (millions): \$260 M

Facility Financing: Private loans financed the building, with the District of Columbia providing \$60 M for the infrastructure.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Sheila Johnson, co-founder of BET, became part owner in Lincoln Holdings LLC, the group that owns that own the Capitols and 45% of the Wizards and MCI Center. The group purchased the WNBA's Washington Mystics from Abe Pollin's Washington Sports & Entertainment in May 2005. The group owned 45% of the Mystics, and paid \$10 M for the remaining 55%. Johnson is the first African American woman to own a portion of three sports

franchises and will become the titles of President and Managing Partner of the Mystics. MCI is paying \$44 million over 15 years for the naming rights that expire in 2017.

© *Copyright 2005, National Sports Law Institute of Marquette University Law School (last updated 6/25/05)*