



## Other Basketball Leagues

### American Basketball Association (ABA)

**Team:** Anderson Champions

**Principal Owner:** Jesse Wilkerson and Bobby Wilkerson

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Anderson High School Wigwam in Anderson, Indiana

**UPDATE:** The team was acquired by Jesse Wilkerson in 2006. Since then, the team has gained the backing of the City of Anderson, local businesses, and many area churches and has confirmed play at both the Wigwam and the local Anderson High School.

**Team:** Arkansas Fanatics

**Principal Owner:** Charles Wilkerson

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Northside High School

**UPDATE :** The newly founded Arkansas Fantastics announced that although Fort Smith will be their base of operations, they plan to play home games throughout the state. The majority of the team's 18-home game schedule will be played at Fort Smith's Northside High School, with games also played in Fayetteville at the University of Arkansas HPER complex and in Little

Rock at the Barton Coliseum. The team is co-owned by former America's Next Top Model contestant Furonda Brasfield and Arkansas Razorbacks all-time assist and steals leader Kareem Reid.

**Team: Atlanta Vision**

**Principal Owner:** Quentin and Akilah Townsend, Carter Patterson, and Brian Richey

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Suwanee Sports Academy

**Team: Baltimore Pearls**

**Principal Owner:** Matthew E. Bradby

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Northwestern Senior High School

**UPDATE:** Matthew Bradby purchased the team from Melvin Coles in June 2006. Bradby is a Baltimore area pastor and entrepreneur.

**Team: Beijing Aoshen Olympian**

**Principal Owner:** Xin Li, George Pickering (U.S. Contact)

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Felix Events Center at Azusa Pacific University

**Team: Big Valley Shockwave**

**Principal Owner:** Catrice J. Claxton  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Modesto Junior College

**UPDATE:** The Shockwave began play in November 2006 and are based in Turlock, California. In December, the team ran into some financial problems and the two previous owners, William G. Davidson, III and Kenny Trader, Jr. were unable to support the team. In February 2007, the Shockwave suspended its operations for the remainder of the season since no one had been paid since January. The ownership group retains the ABA rights to the region for next season and will make an effort to return in the fall of 2007.

**Team: Brooklyn Comets**

**Principle Owner:** Daisy Brand, Elton Brand (former L.A. Clipper)  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Kingsborough Community College

**UPDATE:** The ABA announced in August 2006 that a new franchise would be coming to Brooklyn, named the Wonders. The team was then purchased in December by Daisy Brand from Leigh Sutton. The team resumed play in February 2007 as the Brooklyn Comets.

**Team: Buffalo Silverbacks**

**Principal Owner:** Dan Robbie and Thaddeus Wier  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Buffalo State College's Sports Arena

**UPDATE:** The Team began play during the 2005 season and was sold halfway through to Dan Robbie and Thaddeus Wier. The Silverbacks continued play in 2006-2007 and have reached a tentative agreement to make Buffalo State College's Sports Arena their home. The team's name was changed from the Rapid to the Silverbacks following the 2005-2006 season. The Silverbacks tested the local Southtowns market waters by playing its 2006-2007 final games at Iroquois High School in Elma, a rural community outside of Buffalo. The team is thinking it may move to a rural area where the town will fully embrace and support the Silverbacks just as other successful ABA teams have done.

**Team: Cape Cod Frenzy**

**Principle Owners:** Ian McCarthy, Jason Briggs, and Bentley Thompson

[Team Website](#)

**UPDATE :** Following the 2006-2007 season, Cape Cod is one of five ABA teams to have completed its third straight season.

**Team: Chicago Throwbackss**

**Principal Owner:** George Bellevue

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Emil and Patricia Jones Convocation Center

**UPDATE :** The Chicago Throwbacks are scheduled to begin their inaugural season in the fall of 2007.

**Team: Cometas de Chicago**

**Principal Owner:** Javier Haggar

**UPDATE :** The Cometas de Chicago (Spanish for Chicago Comets) will begin their inaugural season in the fall of 2007. They are the United States counterpart to the Cometas de Queretaro of the Liga Nacional de Baloncesto Profesional (Mexican equivalent of the NBA).

**Team: Corning Bulldogs**

**Principal Owner:** James R. Schutz, Jeannine DeLine

[Team Website](#)

**Arena** : Corning Community College

**UPDATE** : Based in Corning, New York, the smallest city with its own ABA franchise, the Bulldogs are scheduled to make their first appearance in the fall of 2007.

**Team: Delaware**

**Principal Owner:** Bob Reed

[Team Website](#)

**UPDATE** : The 2006 franchise team began a Name Your Team Contest in Delaware in September 2006 and still has not announced the winner as of June 2007. In addition, the ABA team has not chosen a venue for its games. The Delaware team is scheduled to begin play in the fall of 2007.

**Team: Detroit Panthers**

**Principal Owner:** Kevin A. Carter and Bart Scott

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Cobo Arena

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** In January 2005, the Detroit team changed management, ownership and its name (from the Motown Jammers). The Team continued the Jammers scheduled games. Again in October 2006, the team's ownership and name changed from the Detroit Wheels to the Detroit Panthers.

**Team: Gallup Outlaws**

**Principal Owner:** Keith and Debora Money

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Gallup Junior High School

**UPDATE:** The team began play in the fall of 2005 as the Gallup Talons in Gallup, New Mexico. The Talons were announced as a Native American team; however, the team released its last Native American player in January of 2006. The Team is under new ownership and has changed its name from the Talons to the Outlaws. The Outlaws returned for the 2006-2007 season after taking a hiatus.

**Team: Georgia Gwizzlies**

**Principal Owner:** Pelican Properties; Embry Malone

**Arena:** Macon Centerplex Coliseum

**UPDATE :** The Georgia Gwizzlies, located in Macon, Georgia are expected to officially begin play in the fall of 2007, but will also compete in the prestigious Summer Pro League at the Pyramid in Long Beach, California.

**Team: Halifax Rainmen**

**Principal Owner:** Andre Levingston

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Metro Centre

**UPDATE :** The Rainmen will begin their inaugural season on November 15, 2007 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. TPH, a nationwide printing company with over 70 company-owned locations across Canada, has been secured as one of their Rainmaker sponsors. Westin Hotel & Resorts and Halifax Daily News will also sponsor the team, which was initiated during the 2007 ABA All-Star game.

**Team: Hawaii Hurricanes**

**Principal Owners:** Hawaii Basketball, Inc.; Andrew Moss and Ira Harge, Jr.

[Team Website](#)

**UPDATE** : The Hurricanes will return to Honolulu, Hawaii in November 2007 after a two year hiatus. In 2005, the team lasted only two games when it could no longer pay its players.

**Team: Henderson All Starz**

**Principal Owners:** Tyrone Nesby

[Team Website](#)

**UPDATE** : The Henderson All-Starz are scheduled to begin play in the 2007-2008 season in Henderson, Nevada.

**Team: Houston Takers**

**Principal Owner:** Larry Donnell Leonard II

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Reagan Pavillion

**Team: Jacksonville Jam**

**Principal Owner:** Felix Krupczynski

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** University of North Florida Arena

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** For now the team is playing its home games at University of North Florida but plans to move to Veterans Memorial Arena for the 2008-2009 season.

**Team: Jersey Express**

**Principal Owner:** Marsha Blount and Jacqueline Halyard  
[Team Website](#)

**UPDATE :** In June 2007, the Newark Express changed its name to Jersey Express and moved to Morris County to identify itself more with the state. Having the team in Morris County will work nicely with the Mayor's Wellness Campaign (MWC) and will encourage the community to become more active in improving its overall health.

**Team: Kentucky Retros**

**Principal Owner:** Steve Van Waes  
[Team Website](#)

**UPDATE :** Based in Murray, Kentucky, the Retros are scheduled to begin play in 2007. The team was previously named the Kentucky Colonels but was changed to the Retros in March 2007.

**Team: King County Royals**

**Principal Owner:** John Dominguez  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** North Seattle Community College

**Team: Las Vegas PROLYMs**

**Principal Owner:** PROLYM Enterprises  
[Team Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The team began play as the Las Vegas Venom, but suspended operations in November 2006. The team struck a naming rights deal with PROLYM Enterprises, a company specializing in pro and Olympic athletics and has been endorsed by celebrities such as Paris Hilton, Diddy, Sharon Stone, and Tom Arnold.



**Team: Long Beach Breakers**

**Principal Owner:** Carl Williams

[Team Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The team was known as the Long Beach Storm before changing ownership in April 2007.

**Team: Maywood Buzz**

**Principal Owner:** Jaime Garcia

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Maywood Activity Center

**UPDATE :** The team began play in 2004 as the Orange County Crush but in the middle of that season changed their name to the the Orange County Buzz. In May 2006, the team moved to Carson, California for the 2006-2007 season, but in November of that year they moved again to Maywood, California.

**Team: Miami Tropics**

**Principal Owner:** Imperiali Organization; Art Alvarez

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Health & Sports Center at Barry University

**Team: Mississippi Miracles**

**Principal Owner:** Annie P. Williams

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Washington County Convention Center

**UPDATE:** In January 2006, new ownership changed the team name from the Stingers to the Miracles.

**Team: Monterrey Veneno**

**Principal Owner:** Salvadore Rojo, Roberto Mayer, Hugo Diaz, Alfredo Gonzalez and Salvador Thomas

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Monterrey Gym

**Team: Montreal Royal**

**Front Office:** Luc Filiatrault

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Centre Pierre Charbonneau

**UPDATE :** The team is based in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and finished its second season. It was previously known as the Montreal Matrix before an ownership change in December of 2006.

**Team: Norfolk Navigators**

**Principal Owner:** James Keys

[Team Website](#)

**Team: Ontario Red Wolves**

**Principal Owner:** Michael Kelly

**Arena:** Hershey Centre

**UPDATE** : The team was announced during the 2005-06 season in Mississauga, Ontario and was previously known as the Mississauga Red Wolves before changing its name to identify with the entire province.

**Team: Orange County Gladiators**

**Principal Owner:** David R. Clarke

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Aliso Niguel High School

**UPDATE:** In June 2007, the ABA announced that an expansion team will be located in Aliso Viejo, California and will begin play in 2007.

**Team: Orlando Aces**

**Principle Owner:** Todd Triplett

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Downtown Recreation Center

**UPDATE:** The team began play in November 2006 and was initially named Orlando Orange Men until Syracuse University sued the team and its former owner for trademark infringement. Even though Syracuse changed its nickname to Orange in 2004, it still owns the trademark rights to the name, Orange Men. After the lawsuit, the team's former owner, Jimmy Lyons, was replaced by present owner, Todd Triplett.

**Team: Palm Beach Imperials**

**Principal Owner:** Imperiali Organization; Dan Mangru

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** The Burrow at Florida Atlantic University

**Team: Peoria Kings**

**Principal Owner:** Jim McCaughey, Bill McCaughey, and Mike Van Antwerp  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Peoria RiverPlex

**Team: Quad Cities Riverhawks**

**Principal Owner:** Tom McGinn  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Marycrest College Activities Center  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** Team owner, Tom McGinn, paid between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for the ABA franchise in 2006 and said that he was willing to front \$250,000 in cash for a successful first season, but the 2006-2007 season's expenses were much more than McGinn expected. McGinn continues to have faith in the team though and hopes that in three years, the Riverhawks will have a bigger and better facility to play its games.

**Team: Quebec Kebekwa**

**Principal Owner:** Club de basketball professionnel de Quebec Inc.  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** PEPS Athletic Complex at Universite Laval

**UPDATE:** The Quebec Kebekwas will host the 2007-2008 ABA Championship Playoffs.

**Team: Richmond Ballerz**

**Principal Owner:** Ann Iverson and George Christopher  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** U-Turn Sports Performance Academy

**UPDATE:** Ballerz owner, Ann Iverson, will move her team to Hampton Roads, Virginia starting next season. The team will still retain the nickname Ballerz but will have a formal name that will associate itself with the entire Hampton Roads area. A new ABA franchise will move into Richmond to take the Ballerz place but deals are still in their development stages.

**Team: Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Silverados**

**Principal Owner:** Art Gonzalez and Kevin Mitchell  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** McAllen Convention Center

**Date Built:** 2007

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$50

[Facility Website](#)

**Team: Rochester Fire**

**Principal Owner:** Anthony Rodriques, Al DeBoer, Hal Henderson, Joe Weis, and Jim Bier  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Mayo Civic Center

**Date Built:** 1984

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** This will be Rochester, Minnesota's third ABA team, though the city has not had a team since 2000. The team investors believe that affordable family ticket prices ranging from \$5-\$10 will be key to their success. The Rochester Fire are part of a plan to revive Rochester's downtown. They will begin play in November 2007.

**Team: Rome, GA Knights**

**Principal Owners:** Alexis Presinos, Elena Brown, and Pat Martin  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Winthrop-King Centre

**UPDATE :** In early 2007, the team's owners bought the Rome Knights to ensure that basketball would stay in Rome. The Rome Knights are named in honor of Medieval Times, a popular restaurant in Rome, which is also one of the team's sponsors. The team will begin play in November 2007.

**Team: Sacramento Heatwave**

**Principal Owner:** Reggie Davis and Greg Chambers  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Cosumnes River College

**UPDATE :** The Heatwave, originally the Fresno Heatwave, began play in 2003 in Fresno, California. In December 2006, the team moved to Sacramento and officially became the Sacramento Heatwave where it hopes to draw a larger fan base in the capital city.

**Team: San Diego Wildcats**

**Principal Owner:** Anthony Lacey, Matty Allison, and Charles Hoge  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** San Diego High School

**UPDATE:** Owner, Anthony Lacey, bought the team in January 2007 and saved the team from folding in its first season. One of Lacey's goals for the 2007-2008 season is to find a new home to play in and to find more sponsorships. Lacey is talking with the city to lease Golden Hall for the team's 2007-2008 season, but a new basketball floor must be constructed first.

**Team: Sauk Valley Rollers**

**Principal Owner:** Tom McGinn

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Sauk Valley Community College

**UPDATE:** The team was originally the Hammond Rollers based in Hammond, Indiana, but has now moved to Dixon, Illinois with McGinn as its new owner. Tom McGinn, also the Quad-City Riverhawks owner, bought the SV Rollers in December 2006.

**Team: St. Louis Stunners**

**Principal Owner:** Stunners Basketball & Entertainment, Inc

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** St. Louis Community College

**UPDATE:** In June 2006, Anthony Bonner announced that the new 2006 franchise team would play in St. Louis. Bonner played six years in the NBA and also serves as the team's coach and general manager.

**Team: Strong Island Sound**

**Principal Owner:** Darren Cioffi and Michele Wuestman

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Suffolk County Community College

**UPDATE:** The Strong Island Sound has played in Long Island since the 2005-06 season. The team's name is a cross between the hip-hop slang name for Long Island (Strong Island) and the Long Island Sound estuary.

**Team: Syracuse Bullies**

**Principal Owner:** Nicholas Fitts

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** War Memorial at Oncenter

**UPDATE:** The Syracuse Bullies is a new expansion team scheduled to begin play in November 2007; however, the team will not be keeping its name because the Syracuse community does not want to be known as a bully. Team owner Nicholas Fitts named the team in admiration of the Chicago Bulls, but a naming contest will be held so that the community can contribute to and embrace the team.

**Team: Tennessee Mud Frogs**

**Principal Owner:** Patrick Chatman

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Howard School of Academics and Technology

**Team: Texas Tycoons**

**Principal Owner:** Charles Key

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Mountain View College

**UPDATE:** The Texas Tycoons began playing in the ABA in 2004 in Fort Worth, Texas. In 2005, the team announced it was leaving the ABA but returned shortly thereafter for the 2006-2007 season after moving to Dallas. In February 2007, the team announced it would still play for the ABA during the Fall-Winter season but that it would also play for the World Basketball Association (WBA) during the Spring-Summer season.

**Team: Tijuana Dragons**

**Front Office:** Carlos Atilano

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Auditorio Fausto Gutierrez Moreno



**UPDATE:** Based in Tijuana, Mexico, the Dragons were originally the Tijuana Diablos, following the name of all Tijuana teams. The ABA franchise began play in the fall of 2004. The Dragons replaced the Tijuana Diablos in 2006.

**Team: Vermont Frost Heaves**

**Principal Owner:** Alexander Wolff

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Barre Auditorium and Burlington Memorial Auditorium

**UPDATE:** Alexander Wolff, also a writer for Sports Illustrated, bought the Vermont Frost Heaves in 2004 to breathe life back into the ABA. Wolff hopes that once the team reaches financial stability he can pass some ownership onto the fans, modeling after the NFL's Green Bay Packers. Being the 2007 ABA Champions, the team is well on its way to winning a local fan base and community support.

**Team: West Texas Whirlwinds**

**Principal Owner:** Cleveland Phelps

**UPDATE:** The Whirlwinds will begin play in fall of 2007 in Midland, Texas.

## Continental Basketball Association (CBA)

### Team: Albany Patroons

**Principal Owner:** Benito R. Fernandez

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Washington Avenue Armory

**Date Built:** Late 1890s as a munitions depot.

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** A naming rights deal is still being sought for the Armory since the return of the Patroons. In May 2007, former co-owner, Jim Coyne was hired as acting commissioner for the CBA's Albany-based front office, making Fernandez the Patroons's principal owner.

### Team: Atlanta Krunk

**Principal Owner:** Atlanta Krunk, LLC; Duane Spyder D Hughes, Freedom Williams, and Kenny Anderson

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** John H. Lewis Gymnasium at Morris Brown College

**UPDATE:** Atlanta Krunk LLC is looking to re-establish itself on the CBA scene. The team began in the ABA as the Charlotte Krunk in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2005. It had to discontinue its operations between late 2005 and early 2006 when other teams in its division ceased operation. In August 2006, the team announced it would be moving to the CBA as well as to Atlanta where it would be known as Atlanta Krunk. The team deferred play until the 2007-2008 season.

### Team: Butte Daredevils

**Principal Owner:** Apex Sportstainment

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Butte Civic Center

**UPDATE:** The Daredevils recently joined the CBA during the 2006-2007 season. Located in Butte, Montana, the team's name is attributed to Butte native and famous daredevil, Evel Knievel.

**Team: Great Falls Explorers**

**Principal Owner:** Apex Sportstainment and Joe Clark  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Four Seasons Arena  
[Facility Website](#)

**Team: Indiana Alley Cats**

**Principal Owner:** Trinity Sports & Entertainment Group  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Anderson High School Wigwam

**UPDATE:** The Indiana Alley Cats were originally a part of the ABA in 2005, but moved to the CBA in 2006. The Anderson High School Wigwam is also the home arena for the Anderson Champions of the ABA. The Wigwam is the second largest high school basketball arena in the country.

**Team: Minot Sky Rockets**

**Principal Owner:** Apex Sportstainment  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Minot Municipal Auditorium  
**Date Built:** 1954

**UPDATE:** The team began play in 2005 as the San Jose Skyrockets of the ABA. In 2006, the team not only moved to Minot, North Dakota but also to the CBA.

**Team: Oklahoma City Calvary**

**Principal Owner:** Hopell Enterprises, LLC; Baron Hopgood

[Team Website](#)

**UPDATE:** After ten years, the CBA will return to Oklahoma for the 2007-2008 season. The city was home to the CBA from 1990-1997. As of June 2007, the team and the city, which has its sights set on an NBA team, could not agree on a venue.

**Team: Pittsburgh Xplosion**

**Principal Owner:** Freddie Lewis and Richard Hersperger

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Mellon Arena

**Date Built:** 1961

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The CBA founded the team in 2004 when it bought the ABA franchise license from the Pittsburgh Hardhats, who played from 2000-2004. Plans to build a new arena are in development, which is expected to be completed in 2009. Mellon Financial Corp. has the first chance to negotiate a naming rights deal as part of its old \$18 M naming rights deal for the current arena; however, there is doubt to whether Mellon will exercise those naming rights since the bank is merging with the Bank of New York and closing its Pittsburgh headquarters. The Mellon Arena is also home to the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Mellon Financial Corp. bought the naming rights to the former Civic Arena in 1999 for \$18 M over ten years, expiring in 2009.

**Team: Vancouver Dragons**

**Principal Owner:** Michael Tuckman  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** PNE Agrodome  
**Date Built:** 1963  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Vancouver Dragons deferred participation in the CBA until the 2007-2008 season, citing arena issues.

**Team: Yakama Sun Kings**

**Principal Owner:** Yakama Indian Nation  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Yakima SunDome  
**Date Built:** 1990  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The team was originally located in Kansas City, Missouri and then Topeka, Kansas. The team moved to Yakima, Washington in 1990. In 2005, the Yakama Indian Nation bought and renamed the team.

## National Basketball Developmental League (NBDL)

### Team: Albuquerque Thunderbirds

**Principal Owner:** Southwest Basketball, LLC; David Kahn

[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.

[Facility Website](#)

**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: Anaheim Arsenal

**Principal Owner:** Tom & Louise Jones, Gino Kwok, and Roy Englebrecht

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Anaheim Convention Center

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Arsenal began play in the 2006-07 season. The Arsenal is the first professional basketball team at the Convention Center since 1980.

### Team: Arkansas RimRockers

**Principal Owner:** Larry Crain

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Alltel Arena

**Date Built:** 1999

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$65.7

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** After the 2004-05 season, the RimRockers moved from the ABA to the NBDL.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Alltel is paying \$7 M over fifteen years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2014.

**Team: Austin Toros**

**Principal Owner:** David Kahn; Southwest Basketball, LLC

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Austin Convention Center

**Date Built:** 1992

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Toros began play during the 2005-06 season. The Toros were previously known as the Columbus Riverdragons but changed their name when sold to Southwest Basketball, LLC along with the Albuquerque Thunderbirds. The Toros name is the first D-League team to possess a nickname of Spanish origin.

**Team: Bakersfield Jam**

**Principal Owner:** Bakersfield Professional Sports, LLC

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Rabobank Arena

**Date Built:** 1998

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Jam were originally part of the ABA from 2003-2005 known as the Long Beach Jam. The Jam played its first season during the 2006-2007 season. In May the team had a renaming poll where the fans chose to keep the name Jam in a landslide vote.

**Team: Colorado 14ers**

**Principal Owner:** Timothy D. Wiens and John Frew  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Broomfield Event Center  
**Date Built:** 2006  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** Colorado began play in the 2006-2007 season. The team is named for the many 14,000 foot mountain peaks in Colorado.

**Team: Dakota Wizards**

**Principal Owner:** Steve McCormick and Bill Sorensen  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Bismarck Civic Center  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Team's inaugural NBDL season was the 2006-2007 season. The Wizards are a former member of the CBA. In April 2006, the team struck a three year agreement with the Bismarck Civic Center, allowing the team to bring in more revenue and move to the NBDL.

**Team: Fort Worth**

**Principal Owner:** David Kahn Southwest Basketball, LLC  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Fort Worth Convention Center  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The team will not be returning to Fort Worth for the 2007-2008 season since it has spent \$3 M in the past year and has not been able to turn over a profit. The team is not set on a relocation city but one possibility is Reno, Nevada.

**Team: Idaho Stampede**



**Principle Owner:** Bill Ilett

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Qwest Arena

**Date Built:** 1997

**Facility Costs:** \$50 M

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Stampede left the CBA to join the NBDL for the 2006-2007 season.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** At the end of 2004, Bank of America chose not to renew its \$1 M 10-year naming rights deal. Qwest Communications signed a naming rights deal with Idaho Sports Properties/Block 22 in October 2005 for \$4 M over 15 years.

**Team:** Los Angeles D-Fenders

**Principle Owner:** Los Angeles Lakers

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Staples Center

**Date Built:** 1999

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$375

**Percentage of Arena Publicly Financed:** 19%

**Facility Financing:** Bank of America underwrote a \$305 M loan to finance construction. 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:** Like the LA Lakers, the team will play at the Staples Center until the Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario, California is completed in 2008. The Arena will be operated by AEG Worldwide.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Staples, an office supply company, is paying \$100 M over 20 years for the naming rights that expire in 2019.

**Team:** Sioux Falls Skyforce

**Principal Owner:** D. Greg Heineman  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Sioux Falls Arena  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** Sioux Falls began play in the NBDL 2006-2007 season. The Skyforce was originally a CBA team from 1989-2006.

**Team: Tulsa 66ers**

**Principal Owner:** Southwest Basketball, LLC  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Tulsa Expo Square Pavilion  
**Date Built:** 1966  
**Facility Cost (millions):** \$3.5  
**Facility Financing:** Paid for with a bond issue.  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The team was named after the famous highway, Route 66, which runs through Oklahoma. The team was originally the Asheville Altitude from 2001-2005, but changed the name when Southwest Basketball, LLC bought the team.

## **United States Basketball League (USBL)**

### **Team: Albany Patroons**

**Principal Owner:** Benito R. Fernandez

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Washington Avenue Armory

**Date Built:** Late 1890s as a munitions depot.

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** A naming rights deal is still being sought after for the Armory since the return of the Patroons. In May 2007, former co-owner, Jim Coyne was hired as acting commissioner for the CBA's Albany-based front office, making Fernandez the Patroons's principal owner.

### **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

**UPDATE:** The Dodge City Legend has played with the USBL since 2001. The Dodge City Civic Center received its last big overhaul in 1998 where the city spent \$1.5 M. The renovations included updating the Civic Center's 40-year old electrical wiring and installing safer catwalks, removing asbestos, installing air-conditioning and installing a theatrical dimming system.

**Team: Gary Steelheads**

**Principal Owner:** Showtime Sports and Entertainment, LLC

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Genesis Center

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The team was originally a member of the IBL and the CBA. The Steelheads announced in July 2006 that they would be sitting out the 2006-2007 CBA season. Then in October 2006, the Steelheads announced they would be joining the USBL for spring 2007 because it was in the team's best interest financially. The team is now negotiating with an undisclosed major sports ownership group in Florida to return to the CBA for its 2007-2008 season. Showtime Sports & Entertainment would merge with the Florida group to form a new company, of which the Florida group would be the majority owner, but the deal is not definite.

**Team: Kansas Cagerz**

**Principal Owner:** Kansas Sportz, LLC

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Salina Bicentennial Center

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** There is talk that the team may move from the Salina Bicentennial Center to Kansas Wesleyan University's new gym, which is under construction. In addition, Cagerz owners are negotiating a deal to be a part of a new basketball league after another financially unsuccessful USBL season. Many USBL owners believe the league will surely disband since four of the ten teams folded midway through the 2006-2007 season.

**Team: Long Island Primetime**

**Principle Owner:** United States Basketball League

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Louis Armstrong Gymnasium at the Elmcors Youth and Adult Activities Center

**UPDATE:** The team was pulled early on in the 2006-2007 season for not being able to financially support itself. Later in the season the team was able to play away games. The team's future outlook remains shaky.

**Team:** Oklahoma Storm

**Principle Owner:** Oklahoma Storm, LLC

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Mark Price Arena

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Arena was renovated in early 2006, making it the first upgrade since the 1950s.

## Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)

**Team: Chicago Sky**

**Principal Owner:** Michael Alter

**Year Established:** 2006

[Team Website](#)

**Most Recent Purchase Price (\$/Mil):** \$10 M

**Arena:** UIC Pavilion

**Date Built:** 1982

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$10

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The 2006-2007 season was the Sky's first season in the WNBA. The Sky became the second WNBA team to be owned and operated independent from the NBA, behind the Connecticut Sun.

**Team: Connecticut Sun**

**Principal Owner:** Chris Sienko and the Mohegan Tribe of Indians

[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:** Palace Sports & Entertainment, owned by William Davidson

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** The Palace of Auburn Hills

**Date Built:** 1988

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$70

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

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** In the spring of 2006, a \$25 M renovation was completed at the Palace. The renovations include a new entrance, new dining options, retail facilities and a new box office. The 60,000 square foot new atrium is the largest aspect of the renovation. In March 2006, Comcast and the Pistons agreed to a naming rights deal for the new atrium. The atrium will be named the Comcast Pavilion. The terms of the deal were not disclosed; however, reports are that Comcast paid about \$1 M for the naming rights. In addition, the Detroit Pistons found new space to creatively fund their arena. The Detroit Pistons converted storage lockers beneath the stands at the Palace of Auburn Hills into "bunker suites." The suites resemble private clubs and courtside seats, which are leased for more than \$350,000 a year.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** In 1998 the owners of The Palace hired a marketing company to negotiate the rights to rename the arena, but no deal ever developed. As of July 2007, there are still no plans to sell the naming rights to the Palace.

**Team:** Houston Comets

**Principal Owner:** Hilton Koch

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Toyota Center

**Date Built:** 2003

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$235

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

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** In January 2007, Hilton Koch, who owns the Houston-based Hilton Furniture chain, bought the Houston Comets from Leslie Alexander, making the Comets the league's fifth independently owned franchise. The purchase price was not disclosed.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** 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.

**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

**Facility Financing:** Financing for the facility is a public/private partnership. Public contributions totaled \$79 M, which included \$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. The Pacer contributed \$57 M and other private sources paid for the rest.

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Simon brothers now head the Pacers Sports & Entertainment Group, which owns the Pacers, Conseco Fieldhouse, and the WNBA's Indiana Fever. In June 2006, the Pacers announced the addition of a new limited membership club at Conseco Fieldhouse. The club will be named Legends and will have approximately 600 seats. It will be the first major addition to Conseco Fieldhouse since it opened in 1999. Membership to Legends will include tickets for 45 Pacer games, 18 WNBA Fever games, food and beverages, VIP Parking, access to a private bar and a personal seat nameplate. Membership will cost \$5,750 per seat.

Conseco Fieldhouse was also recently awarded the 2008-2012 men's and women's Big Ten basketball tournaments.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Conseco, an insurance and financial services company, is paying \$40 M over 20 years for the naming rights, which expire in 2019.

**Team: Los Angeles Sparks**



**Affiliate:** Los Angeles Lakers

**Principal Owner:** Carla Christofferson and Kathy Goodman

[Team Website](#)

**Most Recent Purchase Price:** \$10 M (2007)

**Arena:** Staples Center

**Date Built:** 1999

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$375

**Facility Financing:** Bank of America underwrote a \$305 M loan to finance construction. 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:** Kathy Goodman and Carla Christofferson head an ownership group that purchased the Sparks from L.A. Lakers owner Jerry Buss in December 2006. The purchase price was not disclosed.

In September 2005, AEG set in motion a \$2.5 billion deal for the construction of LA Live. LA Live is a downtown development project next to the AEG owned Staples Center that combines theaters, nightclubs, shops, an ESPN studio, condominiums and hotels. In June 2007, AEG secured Wachovia Bank as a founding partner but did not disclose the amount the bank will finance. MacFarlane, an urban real estate development investor, will also finance the project offering \$400 million. The remainder of the financing will be provided by the city and through Live's condominium sales. AEG believes that this will revitalize the downtown area and is expected to be completed in 2010.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Staples, and office supply company, is paying \$100 M 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

**Facility Financing:** Financed through a tax exempt bond issue.

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** As of April 2007, the franchise has discussed replacing the Target Center's roof with a green roof. A green roof uses grass and vegetation on top of a waterproof membrane. Its

benefits include keeping buildings cooler in the summer and somewhat warmer in the winter. If the teams agreed to the \$2.2 million job, the Target Center arena would be one of the ten largest green roof projects in the world. Minneapolis also believes that by going green, it may be able to increase their sponsorship and be able to pay off the Target Center's mortgage. A decision will be made on the green roof in the fall of 2007, but whether or not the city decides to go green, a new roof will be installed in 2008.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Target was paying \$18.8 M over 15 years for the naming rights that expired in 2005. The agreement appears to have been extended because the venue has retained the Target name.

**Team: New York Liberty**

**Affiliate:** New York Knicks

**Principal Owner:** Cablevision

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Madison Square Garden

**Date Built:** 1968

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$43

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

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Empire State Development Corp. is negotiating with private developers on a plan that probably will include a new Madison Square Garden, to be built in the annex of the Farley Post Office on 8th Avenue. This will create more than 5 million square feet of new office space on the spot where the Garden stands now. These changes are part of a larger makeover for the area's subway system in which ESDC will build new stations in both the post office and nearby Penn Station. ESDC hopes the project will be completed by 2017. The proposed Madison Square Garden V would cost \$750 M.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Madison Square Garden's history is probably the most significant reason the owners have stated that they would never sell the naming rights to the arena. The history began when Madison Square Garden I opened in 1879. The current Madison Square Garden, Madison Square Garden IV, opened in 1968.

**Team: Phoenix Mercury**

**Affiliate:** Phoenix Suns  
**Principal Owner:** Robert Sarver  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** US Airways Center  
**Date Built:** 1992

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$90

**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:** After \$67 million and four years of renovations inside and out, the U.S. Airways Center has become a model arena to other franchises. Renovations started in 2001 when the Suns spent \$15 million to widen concourses, rebuild concessions, add rest rooms and build their first premium club with 1,400 seats. Prior to this, the Center had suites to accommodate a limited amount of wealthier patrons but it still lacked other premium experiences, such as clubs and restaurants, to increase revenue. In 2003, the Suns spent \$35 million to build a 15,000-square-foot glass pavilion, complete with will-call and ticket windows. Finally, in 2004, a new scoreboard and a second club were constructed. The Suns determined that renovating its arena would be just as profitable as building one from scratch.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** US Airways is paying \$26 M over 30 years for the naming rights that expire in 2019. In January 2006, the name of the arena was changed from America West Arena to the US Airways Center after America West and US Airways merged in 2005.

**Team: Sacramento Monarchs**

**Affiliate:** Sacramento Kings  
**Principal Owner:** Maloof Sports & Entertainment, owned by Gavin and Joseph Maloof  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** ARCO Arena  
**Date Built:** 1988

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$40

**Facility Financing:** Privately financed.

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** Plans for a new arena are still up in the air, but a complicated new \$70 million financing scheme for Arco Arena was agreed upon in May 2007. The Sacramento Kings, the

Monarchs affiliate, still own the arena but the city guarantees the \$70 million loan over a ten year period. The city plans to sell bonds and the franchise will repay the city in quarterly payments.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** 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 as a 99-year deal for only \$7.5 M. In 1997, the deal was renegotiated. Since then ARCO was bought by British Petroleum, but the company 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:** Peter Holt

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** AT&T Center

**Date Built:** 2002

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$175

**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:** The name of the arena was changed to the AT&T Center in January 2006. The change was made after SBC Communications acquired AT&T and adopted the name AT&T Inc.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** AT&T 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 Professional Basketball Club, LLC; owned by Clay Bennet

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Key Arena

**Date Built:** 1995

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$94

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

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** In July 2006, the Storm were sold to a group of investors from Oklahoma City. The group, which is headed by Clay Bennett, paid \$350 M for the Sonics and the Seattle Storm. Bennett has been upset at the city for its inability to raise revenue for a new arena to replace outdated Key Arena. Their lease does not expire until 2010, but the franchise could opt out for \$75 million after the 2007-2008 season if it wants. Possible relocation cities include Kansas City and Oklahoma City, where the New Orleans Hornets spent their time away from home after Hurricane Katrina. NBA Commissioner David Stern believes that Bennett will find a way to finance the arena, but Bennett is giving the city until October 31, 2007 to work out a deal.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Key Bank is paying \$15.1 M over 15 years for the naming rights that expire in 2010.

**Team: Washington Mystics**

**Affiliate:** Washington Wizards

**Principal Owner:** Sheila Johnson and Ted Leonsis, owners of Holdings LLC

[Team Website](#)

**Most Recent Purchase Price:** \$10 M

**Arena:** Verizon Center

**Date Built:** 1997

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$260

**Facility Financing:** Private loans financed the building. The District of Columbia provided \$60 M in infrastructure costs.

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** In April 2007, the D.C. Council acquiesced to, Wizards owner, Abe Pollin's request and gave preliminary approval to the sale of \$50 million in bonds to fund improvements to the Verizon Center. The city will increase taxes on tickets and merchandise at the downtown arena from 5.75 percent to 10 percent, with the additional tax revenue used to pay off the bonds. Pollin said he could not fund the improvements himself since he is still \$110 million in debt from the arena's construction.

In addition, part-owner, Sheila Johnson is the first African-American female to hold stakes in three professional sports franchises (the WNBA's Mystics, the NBA's Wizards, and the NHL's Capitals).

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Verizon is paying \$44 M over 15 years for the naming rights that expire in 2017. The name of the arena changed from the MCI Center to the Verizon Center in March 2006. The change was the result of Verizon's merger with MCI.

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