



First Pro basketball team in Providence set to begin play in 2020

In 2020, basketball fans will have a pro team to cheer for in Providence.

Rhode Islanders now have both a name and a logo to go along with their new professional basketball team. The Providence Pirates will start their inaugural season in 2020 as part of the American Basketball Association (ABA), America's largest and most diverse professional sports league with over 150 teams nationwide. Some of ABA's notable players who went on to play for the NBA include: Julius Irving (Dr. J), George Gervin (The Iceman), Ricky Barry, Moses Malone, among others.

The Providence Pirates will compete in ABA's Northeast Region with teams from New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The team will use orange, black, and white as its colors. The Owner/President of the Pirates, Sercan Fenerci, is a 15 year coaching veteran and former player of Northern Essex Community College (where he was named player of the region) and Angelo State University (TX), NCAA Division II. Fenerci received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Angelo State and Master of Science in Sports Management from Southern New Hampshire University. Fenerci is a native of Turkey where he has been serving as a coach for the Turkish National Team youth levels for the past three years. Fenerci resides in Pawtucket with his wife and serves as the Assistant Athletic Director for Bunker Hill Community College. Fenerci is also the Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach for Acton-Boxborough Regional High School in Acton, Massachusetts and President/Founder of the Basketball Academy of New England. In the 2018-2019 season, Fenerci led the A-B Boys team to the State Semi-Finals, and was awarded Massachusetts Basketball Coach Association's Coach of the Year award. This honor was one of five Coach of the Year awards Fenerci has received in the last 10 years.

"I've been really interested in owning and managing a basketball team for quite some time. I've done a good amount of research, and when I had the opportunity to speak with Joe (Newman-CEO of ABA), he was great. A person usually doesn't get the chance to talk directly to a CEO of a large organization like ABA that easily. Joe returned my inquiry very quickly, and was very genuine about the process. My conversations with Joe and a few other ABA team owners really helped me learn about the process of establishing an ABA team," said Fenerci.

Basketball is very popular sport in the State of Rhode Island. Currently there are four NCAA Division I and four NCAA Division III teams along with one NJCAA Community College team. Rhode Island also has professional hockey and soccer teams, and is home of the minor league baseball team for the Boston Red Sox (the PawSox) although this team will be relocating to Worcester, MA in 2021. Despite Rhode Islanders love for sports, the state has yet to have its own professional basketball team. Fenerci aims to fill this gap with the launch of the Providence Pirates.

"We want this team to represent the capital of our great state," Fenerci said. "We are thrilled to provide Rhode Islanders with an exciting and fun style of basketball that families can enjoy every Saturday night," Fenerci added.

"The Northeast region is one of the strongest regions in the ABA; the teams are outstanding. We are looking forward to the challenge," said Fenerci. Tryouts for the Pirates will be held in the Summer of 2020 (dates will be announced in Spring 2020). The roster will feature a mix of regional, national, and international players.

For more information please email: ProvidencePirates@gmail.com or visit: www.abaliveaction.com