 NEWS RELEASE 

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***WAVES INK TWO***

**Kissimmee, Fl. – *The Orlando Waves continue to grow as on Friday they inked their first two players. The Waves are one of the newest members of the professional sports scene in Central Florida.***

***The Waves who will play in the American Basketball Association (ABA) conducted two open try-outs since announcing in May that Orlando will have a team. Last week the team introduced its first two players to a radio audience on the Tuck & O’Neill Show which airs on WHOO 1080 in Orlando. On Friday they made it official when Dazeran (Duke) Jones of Haines City and Anthony Bathalon of Vermont signed their names to a contract.***

***Jones attended Ridge Community High School and Warner University before an injury sidelined him. He later caught on with the ABA’s Jacksonville Giants and was known as a player whose game was played above the rim. The Giants’ are the two time defending league champions.***

***Jones has a family in Central Florida that he wanted to spend more time with so when the Orlando Waves came on the scene he immediately attended the first open try-out. Wave’s owner Anthony Stuckey was excited about being able to get Jones saying, “His experience in the league will be something that will help us as we continue to build our team”.***

***Anthony Bathalon is originally from New Orleans but was adopted and moved to Vermont where he learned the game. Bathalon Studied Sports Management at Lyndon State College, and has been a global ambassador for basketball. He has been an instructor, motivator, trainer, and mentor to everyone from preps through the NBA, working with names like Evan Turner and Reggie Bullock to name a few. Stuckey said, “He sees Anthony as more than a player and expects him to be one of the leaders on this team.” Anthony’s background worldwide experience should be valuable to this team.***

***The Waves will now hold an invite only try-out this Friday July 29. The team’s first game is scheduled for November 5 at the Kissimmee Civic Center. The team will also be hosting a Christmas Tournament in December, some of the teams scheduled to play will be Baltimore, Miami, and York. More information on this will be provided at a later date.***

***For media credentials please contact: News@orlandowaves.com***

*For more information on the Waves follow them here:* [*http://orlandowaves.com*](http://orlandowaves.com)[*https://twitter.com/ OrlandoWaves*](https://twitter.com/OrlandoWaves)[*https://www.facebook.com/OrlandoWaves*](https://www.facebook.com/OrlandoWaves) *Email:* *News@orlandowaves.com* *or* *Contact@OrlandoWaves.com*

*The original ABA did not have national television, national radio and today’s digital media. What it did have was the mystique of the ABA- featuring it’s red, white and blue ball, 3 point shots, wide open style of play including slam dunks (and the introduction of the first Slam Dunk Competition), and a remarkable group of players. The ABA produced some of the greatest players of the 20th century- Dr J, George Gervin, Spencer Haywood, Connie Hawkins, Dan Issel, Roger Brown, David Thompson, Mel Daniels, Moses Malone, Marvin Barnes and many others. In fact, 50% of the NBA All Star team in the first year of the merger were ABA players.*

*Today, the ABA has nearly 1000 players competing at the professional level, over 200 coaches and over 200 officials. It is made up of former NBA players, NCAA Division 1 and 2 players, McDonalds All Americans, international players, and is the platform for sending off many players to international teams.*

*The ABA will continue to grow as it continues to form valuable ties with basketball governing bodies, and grows its number of teams. Network coverage is set to broaden, as is the fan base and merchandising. Big things are in store for the ABA, and the red, white and blue ball is set to be around for a long time to come. For more information: www.americanbasketballassociation.org or www.abaliveaction.com.*