



Other Hockey Leagues

American Hockey League (AHL) (AAA)

Team: Albany River Rats

Affiliate: Carolina Hurricanes

Principal Owner: Walter Robb

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Times Union Center

Date Built: 1990

Cost:. \$68 million

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Hurricanes have an agreement to extend their affiliation with the River Rats through the 2008-2009 season. However, the River Rats no longer will be affiliated with the Colorado Avalanche, as the Avalanche have made the Lake Erie Monsters their AHL affiliate.

NAMING RIGHTS: In January 2007, the county signed a \$3.5 M 10-year naming-rights contract with the Times Union which will expire in 2016. The newspaper agreed to pay \$350,000 a year, as well as provide advertising and other promotional benefits.

Team: Binghamton Senators

Affiliate: Ottawa Senators

Principle Owner: Thomas Mitchell (also the Executive Vice President of Operations)

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena

Date Built: 1973

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In February 2007, the Binghamton Senators reached a new five year lease to use Broome County's Veterans Memorial Arena, which prompted a five year extension of Binghamton's affiliation agreement with the Ottawa Senators. Both deals will run through 2012. Per the lease, the B-Senators will pay the county \$2,000 for the use of the Arena for each home game, and the Senators will also pay an escalating price per ticket each year for the next five years (\$.10 per ticket in year one, increasing by ten cents in each year). Plans are underway to remedy a problem that was created when the Binghamton Government Plaza Parking Garage closed. About 180 season ticket holders and employees use the parking garage for all home games.

Team: Bridgeport Sound Tigers

Affiliate: New York Islanders

Principal Owner: Charles Wang

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Bridgeport Arena at Harbor Yard

Date Built: 2001

Facility Cost (millions): \$35

Facility Financing: 100% publicly funded.

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Chicago Wolves

Affiliate: Atlanta Thrashers

Principal Owners: Don Levin, William Meyers and Seth Gold

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Allstate Arena

Date Built: 1980 (renovated in 1999)

Facility Cost (millions): \$11

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Once again in the 2008-09 season, the Chicago Wolves will be the only AHL team to broadcast all eighty regular season games and playoffs on the television with its agreement with Comcast. Wolves owner, Don Levin, is a finalist to purchase the Chicago Cubs. He has been approved by the MLB to see the Cubs' books later this year.

NAMING RIGHTS: Allstate Insurance Company is paying \$10 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2009. In addition, Allstate paid \$20 million to renovate the arena in 1999. As 2009 approaches, it is likely both sides are preparing to discuss an extension of the naming rights to the arena.

Team: Grand Rapids Griffins

Affiliate: Detroit Red Wings

Principal Owner: Dan DeVos and David Van Andel

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Van Andel Arena

Date Built: 1996

Facility Cost (millions): \$75

Facility Financing: DeVos paid \$15 M, the Van Andels paid \$11.5 M, \$8.5 M was paid for by other private interests and state taxes were used to fund the remainder.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In April 2007, the Griffins and Red Wings reached an agreement to extend their affiliation three more years. Just before the 2007-08 season, the Van Andel Arena opened its new \$350,000 VIP Club. It will be built in what is now the arena's largest banquet room. The Grand Rapids-Kent County Convention Arena Authority received thirty percent of gross sales at the VIP Club, with the remainder being split between facility operator SMG and, when applicable, event promoters or teams.

NAMING RIGHTS: Grand Action was responsible for securing the name to the Van Andel Arena, named for Amway founder, Jay Van Andel, who gave \$11.5 M toward the arena.

Team: Hamilton Bulldogs

Affiliate: Montreal Canadiens
Principle Owner : Michael Andlauer
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Copps Coliseum

Date Built: 1985

Facility Cost (millions): \$42.7

Facility Financing: The city borrowed \$17.79 M from the Ontario Municipal Board, \$8 M came from federal and provincial government contributions, \$10.9 M from taxpayers and city reserves, and \$3.5 M came from public contributions.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In May 2007, it was announced that Jim Balsillie had reached a tentative agreement to buy the Nashville Predators. Balsillie had stated that he would move the Predators to Hamilton, Ontario, as there is an exit clause in Nashville's lease with the Sommet Center that can be activated if attendance does not improve. Balsillie's company, Golden Horseshoe Sports & Entertainment had secured exclusive rights to bring an NHL team to Copps Coliseum. In June 2008, William Del Biaggio, the owner of a minority share of the Predators, tentatively agreed to sell his portion to Balsillie, however the NHL cautioned against the deal, and no deal has been reached to date. It remains to be seen if Balsillie will be successful in any attempt to move a team to the Copps Coliseum.

NAMING RIGHTS: The coliseum is named after Vic Copps, a long-time Hamilton mayor and father of federal Heritage Minister Sheila Copps. In 2001, Ontario considered selling the naming rights of the coliseum to generate more revenue, but the city ceased its search after Sheila Copps claimed a name change would be an insult to her father Vic.

Team: Hartford Wolf Pack

Affiliate: New York Rangers
Principal Owner: Madison Square Garden L.P.
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Hartford Civic Center Veterans Memorial Coliseum

Date Built: 1975 (Heavily renovated in 1980 after the original roof collapsed).

Facility Cost (millions): \$75 M

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Rumors persist from Mayor Eddie Perez that the city is investigating the feasibility of building a new stadium. The current lease runs through 2013 and must be turned over to the city at the expiration of the lease. Perez has asked representatives of city, state, regional, and corporate entities to determine the level of private sector support for a world-class facility to host

NBA, NHL, and AHL teams, as well as the UConn Huskies. Expected costs are between \$300 and \$400 million. A study already shows the XL Center site as the preferred location because of its strong opportunities for development. The push from Mayor Perez comes after the Urban Land Institute told the city that a new arena would not be in its best interest, and reinventing the XL Center makes the most sense.

NAMING RIGHTS : While terms were not released, XL Capital Insurance has purchased the naming rights to the Coliseum in December 2007, and has re-named the coliseum XL Center. The deal is for six years and expected to reach upwards of seven figures, allowing XL to place its logo on the front of the building, as well as the playing surface.

Team: Hershey Bears

Affiliate: Washington Capitals

Principal Owner: Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company

[Team Website](#)

Arena: GIANT Center

Date Built: 2002

Facility Cost (millions): \$95 M for the arena, roads, parking lots, and infrastructures; \$65 M for the arena itself.

Publicly Financed: 40%

Facility Financing: The State contributed \$25 M towards building the arena.

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS : In May 2008, the Capitals and Bears agreed to extend their affiliation agreement through the 2009-10 season with an option for 2010-11. Furthermore, the GIANT Center has reached a deal with Pepsi Co. to provide all beverages in the arena. The arena previously had Coca-Cola products.

NAMING RIGHTS : Giant Food, a grocery store chain, is paying \$4.5 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2012.

Team: Houston Aeros

Affiliate: Minnesota Wild

Principal Owner: Craig Liepold

[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: Bob Naegele agreed to sell the Wild, and all of its assets which includes the Aeros, to Craig Leipold, the former owner of the Nashville Predators in January 2008. The price was reportedly between \$250 and \$260 million. The NHL Board of Governors officially approved the sale on April 10, 2008.

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 NBA's Houston Rockets 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: Iowa Stars

Affiliate: Dallas Stars

Principal Owner: Howard Baldwin and Bob & Kirby Schlegel

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Wells Fargo Arena

Date Built: 2005

Facility Cost (millions): \$217 M for the entire facility, called the Iowa Events Center. The Arena itself cost \$99 M.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Despite rumors to the contrary, the Iowa Stars have decided to end its affiliation with the Dallas Stars for the upcoming 2008-09 season. In an announcement from Schlegel Sports in June 2008, the Anaheim Ducks have been confirmed to overtake affiliation with the Iowa Stars. An announcement of a new name, logo, and color scheme is expected sometime in July 2008.

NAMING RIGHTS: Wells Fargo is paying \$11.5 M over twenty years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2025.

Team: Lake Erie Monsters

Affiliate: Colorado Avalanche
Principal Owner: Dan Gilbert
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Quicken Loans Arena
Date Built: 1994
Facility Cost (millions): \$100
[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: Naming rights for the Quicken Loans Arena was part of the \$375 M purchase deal from Gordon Gund in 2005 of the Cleveland Cavaliers and their properties.

Team: Lowell Devils

Affiliate: New Jersey Devils
Principal Owner: New Jersey Devils
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Tsongas Arena
Date Built: 1998
Facility Cost (millions): \$28 Million
Facility Financing: \$4 Million from Lowell, Massachusetts, \$4 Million from UMass-Lowell Campus, and \$20 Million from the State of Massachusetts
[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Lowell has extended their lease with the Tsongas Arena through 2010. The new lease has the team paying \$275,000 per year to use the arena. Arena authorities are searching for a new company to manage marketing, booking, promotions, and/or concessions at Tsongas Arena. The finalists are SMG, who has operated the arena for five years but its contract expires on June 30, 2008, VenuWorks, Boston Culinary Group, the current food and beverage concessions provider who also has its contract expire on June 30, 2008, and Unidine Corp. Currently, Tsongas Arena pays SMG \$100,000 per year.

Team: Manchester Monarchs

Affiliate: Los Angeles Kings

Principal Owner: Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG)

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Verizon Wireless Arena

Date Built: 2001

Facility Cost (millions): \$67

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: While officials have debated the possibility of moving to a new arena, the current lease with the Verizon Wireless Arena extends to 2015, and it would be too costly to end the lease early and move into a new facility. Debate began when the Los Angeles Kings GM Dean Lombardi mentioned the Monarchs may join the Kings in the Kings' move to their new arena being built in Ontario, California.

NAMING RIGHTS : Verizon is paying \$11.4 M over fifteen years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2016.

Team: Manitoba Moose

Affiliate: Vancouver Canucks

Principal Owner: True North Sports & Entertainment Limited; headed by Kevin Maclean

[Team Website](#)

Arena: MTS Centre

Date Built: 2004

Facility Cost (millions): \$133.5 Canadian; \$126 US

Facility Financing: The public sector contributed \$40.5 M and the remaining \$93 M came from private entities.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Recent comments by Moose GM Craig Heisinger suggest an extension of their affiliation agreement with the Canucks may not occur. The current deal has one year left on it. It is also possible the Moose may exercise an option in their affiliation agreement to end the agreement for the upcoming 2008-09 season.

NAMING RIGHTS: Manitoba Telecom Services (MTS) is paying \$7 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2014.

Team: Milwaukee Admirals

Affiliate: Nashville Predators

Principal Owner: Milwaukee Admirals, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Bradley Center

Date Built: 1988

Facility Cost (millions): \$90

Facility Financing: Money for the arena was donated by the Pettit family as a gift to the people of Wisconsin and in memory of Jane Bradley Pettit's father Harry Lynde Bradley.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In January 2008, the Admirals and the Bradley Center came to an agreement on an extension of their current lease. The previous lease allowed the Admirals to play games at the Bradley Center for free. The new lease continues to allow the Admirals to play games for free on Sunday through Thursday, while adding language that the Admirals must pay \$2,500 for each Friday game and \$10,000 for each Saturday game. Additionally, the Admirals will receive additional revenue from recent Bradley Center improvements such as Club Cambria, the Courtside Club, and upgraded advertising and entertainment systems. The Admirals will also receive ten percent of all merchandise sales at Admirals games in excess of \$230,000 per season. The new deal is a four-year lease, retroactive to the 2006-07 season, thus will expire in 2010. Talk still remains of finding a viable option to build a new downtown arena.

NAMING RIGHTS: There was talk in April 2008 of selling the naming rights to the Bradley Center, which could generate up to \$2 million annually. However, management scrapped those plans when members of the Pettit family, whose \$90 million bequest allowed the stadium to be built, felt it would diminish Harry and Jane (Pettit) Bradley's legacy.

Team: Norfolk Admirals

Affiliate: Tampa Bay Lightning

Principal Owner: Norfolk Tides Baseball Club; managing partner Ken Young

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Norfolk Scope Arena

Date Built: 1971

Facility Cost (millions): \$28.1 (\$23 federally funded)

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In April 2007, the Norfolk Admirals announced a five-year NHL affiliate agreement with the Tampa Bay Lightning. The Norfolk Admirals used to be affiliated with the Chicago Blackhawks. Furthermore, a five year deal was announced with ESPN Radio to air all regular season games through the 2011-12 season. City officials commissioned a study to determine what to do with the Scope Arena. It found that building a new stadium would cost too much (\$230 million), as would a major renovation (\$77 million). Thus, the city decided to around \$9 million to upgrade the arena.

Team: Peoria Rivermen

Affiliate: St. Louis Blues

Principal Owner: Anne Griffith and Bruce Saur

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Carver Arena at Peoria Civic Center

Date Built: 1982

Facility Cost (millions): \$64

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Renovations have recently been completed at the Peoria Civic Center, which includes the Carver Arena. The \$55 M revitalization plan was finalized for the Carver Arena and Peoria Civic Center in 2005. The project was financed through the city's Hotel/Restaurant/Amusement (HRA) taxes.

In March 2008, a report surfaced that SCP Worldwide, the owner of the St. Louis Blues, was purchasing the Rivermen for an undisclosed price. Rivermen team president Bart Rogers stated that for more than two years we tried to sell the move up from the ECHL to the AHL . . . That appealed to devoted hockey fans who want to see current and future NHLers playing in Carver Arena. But there weren't enough of them.

Team: Philadelphia Phantoms

Affiliate: Philadelphia Flyers

Principal Owner: Comcast-Spectacor, owned by Ed Snider

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Wachovia Spectrum

Date Built: 1967

Facility Costs (millions): \$7

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Preliminary talks have begun to develop a multi-million dollar entertainment complex where the Spectrum now stands. When Comcast-Spectacor agreed to build the neighboring Wachovia Center, it also acquired development rights for the surrounding area.

NAMING RIGHTS: CoreStates Bank purchased the naming rights for \$1.4 M a year until 2023 for the Wachovia Center and Wachovia Spectrum. CoreStates was acquired by First Union, which then merged with Wachovia Bank in 2001, keeping the Wachovia name. In 2003 the Center and Spectrum acquired the new name.

Team: Portland Pirates

Affiliate: Anaheim Ducks

Principal Owner: Portland Pirates, LLC; headed by Brian Petrovek

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Cumberland County Civic Center

Date Built: 1977

Facility Costs (millions): \$5

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Anaheim Ducks have announced that beginning with the 2008-09 season, they will no longer affiliate with the Pirates, and will take over the affiliation with the AHL franchise in Des Moines, Iowa. In June 2008, the Pirates announced a new affiliation agreement with the Buffalo Sabres that will keep the affiliation until 2011. After commissioning a firm to determine the viability of renovating the Civic Center for \$175,000, the Civic Center Board of Trustees selected Struever Bros., Eccles & Rouse to develop a phased renovation project that would add seats, improve access for the disabled, and expand amenities such as concession stands and bathrooms. City government has twice voted down proposals to build a new stadium to replace the Civic Center.

Team: Providence Bruins

Affiliate: Boston Bruins

Principal Owner: H. Larue Renfroe

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Dunkin' Donuts Center

Date Built: 1972

Facility Cost (millions): \$13

Facility Financing: Publicly funded.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In March 2008, an extension of the affiliation agreement was reached between the teams to run through 2016. Furthermore, completion of phase two of the three-part \$80 million renovation project was completed in November 2007. While construction will continue for the next eleven months, the Pirates were able to play in the arena after phase two completed. The Dunkin' Donuts Center was completely closed for six months. Phase One included a new ice surface, compressors, boards and glass, and other structural aspects. Phase two included a new front of the building and lobby, the main concourse made wider, new food courts, restrooms, and family restrooms created. Furthermore, two new wings were added on each side of the building, as well as new seats which will take place during phase three.

NAMING RIGHTS: Dunkin' Donuts is paying \$8.65 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2011.

Team: Quad City Flames

Affiliate: Calgary Flames

Principal Owner: The Calgary Flames

[Team Website](#)

Arena: i wireless Center

Date Built: 1993

Facility Cost (millions): \$36

Facility Financing: The arena was funded by \$28 M from a state grant, \$6.1 M from general obligation bonds, and \$2 M in private funds.

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: In August 2005, i-wireless (a T-Mobile affiliate) announced a 10-year agreement with The Mark and the Quad City Civic Center Authority to secure naming rights of the arena, but no name change has taken place as of July 2007.

Team: Rochester Americans

Affiliate: Florida Panthers

Principal Owner: Curt Styres (60%) & Steve Donner (40%)

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial

Date Built: 1955

Facility Cost (millions): \$7.5 M (\$41 M renovation and expansion completed in 1998).

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In May 2008, the AHL approved the sale of 60% of Donner's 100% share of the team to Styres. The price was not released, however it is expected to be over \$6.5 million. The sale comes after city officials stated they would not offer a new lease to the Americans if Donner remained in control of the team. In June 2008, the Sabres and the Americans announced they will end their twenty-nine year affiliation. Florida will take over as the primary affiliate of the Americans, however may not be willing to go beyond the 2008-09 season due to cash flow concerns.

NAMING RIGHTS: Blue Cross is paying \$2.975 M over fifteen years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2013.

Team: Rockford IceHogs

Affiliation: Chicago Blackhawks

Principal Owner: Centre Events, Dr. Kris Tumilowicz, and Craig Drecktrah

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Rockford MetroCentre

Date Built: 1979

Facility Cost (millions): \$3.8 M renovation was completed in 2005.

[Facility Website](#)

Team: San Antonio Rampage

Affiliate: Phoenix Coyotes

Principal Owner: Spurs Sports and Entertainment

[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. The Spurs 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](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: AT&T Inc. is paying \$41 M over 20 years for the naming rights that expire in 2022.

Team: Springfield Falcons

Affiliate: Edmonton Oilers

Principal Owner: Springfield Pro Hockey, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: MassMutual Center

Date Built: 1972

Facility Cost (millions): A \$71 M renovation of the existing building was completed in 2005.

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company is paying \$5 M for a naming rights deal that began in 2005.

Team: Syracuse Crunch

Affiliate: Columbus Blue Jackets

Principal Owner: Howard Dolgon

[Team Website](#)

Arena: War Memorial at Oncenter Complex

Date Built: 1951

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Within the 2008 Proposed Budget that County Executive Nicholas Pirro created is a plan to renovate the War Memorial at Oncenter Complex. An estimated \$7 million is required to complete the proposed renovations and is planned to be financed through county bonding and room occupancy taxes.

Team: Toronto Marlies

Affiliate: Toronto Maple Leafs

Principal Owner: Maple Leafs Sports & Entertainment

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Ricoh Coliseum

Date Built: 1921

Facility Cost (millions): \$38 M renovation of an existing building in 2003.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Beginning in the 2009-10 season, the Marlies and the Toronto Maple Leafs will be practicing in the new Lakeshore Lions Arena. It is the first arena to be built in Toronto in 25 years. The project is expected to cost \$33.65 million, funded primarily through private equity and fundraising efforts. The new arena will have four ice pads (three NHL size and one Olympic size).

NAMING RIGHTS: Ricoh Canada Inc. is paying \$10 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2013.

Team: Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins

Affiliate: Pittsburgh Penguins

Principal Owner: Pittsburgh Penguins

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Wachovia Arena at Casey Plaza

Date Built: 1999

Facility Cost (millions): \$44

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: Wachovia is paying \$2.3 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2009.

Team: Worcester Sharks

Affiliate: San Jose Sharks

Principal Owner: San Jose Sports and Entertainment Enterprises; headed by Greg Jamison, President & CEO.

[Team Website](#)

Arena: DCU Center

Date Built: 1982

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Worcester Sharks and the DCU Center has been selected by the AHL to host the 2009 All-Star Classic. After condensation rose from the hockey rink through the basketball court during a game in October 2007, a complete upgrade program has been planned to install a highly sophisticated dehumidifying system. The financing plan created a Special District Finance Zone that will collect money by hotel/motel occupancy taxes, food and beverage taxes, and sales taxes. Other renovations are planned for the DCU Center, the Hilton Garden Inn, the Residence Inn by Marriott, and the Major Taylor Boulevard parking garage after former Governor Mitt Romney signed a bill authorizing the Special District Finance Zone and up to \$30 million in bonds.

NAMING RIGHTS: Digital Federal Credit Union is paying \$5.2 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2014.

Central Hockey League (CHL) (AA)

Team: Amarillo Gorillas

Front Office: Darren McLean

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Amarillo Civic Center

Date Built: 1964

Facility Financing: In 1999 a \$10 M bond was approved for a new arena at the fair grounds and renovations to the Civic Center. Private donations funded the remaining amount totaling \$19.6 M in construction for the two buildings. The construction was completed in 2003. The bond was secured by a 2% hotel tax and a 5% car rental tax.

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Arizona Sundogs

Affiliate: Phoenix Coyotes (NHL), San Antonio Rampage (AHL)

Principal Owner: Eric Lacroix and Shawn P. Fowler

Most Recent Purchase Price (millions): \$1

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Tim's Toyota Center

Date Built: 2006

Facility Cost (millions): \$25

Facility Financing: Prescott Valley paid \$3 M for the arena with 2% of the local sales tax generated within an adjacent entertainment area set aside each year to cover debt service on the private-sector bonds used to finance the arena.

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: With the opening of the building, Tim's Toyota, a local Toyota dealership in Prescott Valley, Arizona, purchased the naming rights to the Center. Terms remain undisclosed.

Team: Austin Ice Bats

Principal Owner: Capital Hockey Ventures Ltd.

[Team Website](#)

UPDATE: Citing lack of fan support at the Chaparral Ice Center, the Ice Bats have decided to suspend operations for the 2008-09 season. Team officials say they were in discussions with a few venues, however could not put all the required details together in time for the 2008-09 season. Officials are continuing to look for viable options, in and out of the Austin area, for the 2010-11 season.

Team: Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs

Affiliate: TBD

Principal Owner: John Madden and Rob Walker

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Century Tel Center

Date Built: 2000

Facility Cost (millions): \$56.5

Facility Financing: Paid for by the city.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: After the Buffalo Sabres switched affiliations in the AHL to the Portland Pirates, it remains to be decided whether the Mudbugs will keep its affiliation with the Sabres (and the Pirates of the AHL) or the Americans (and the Florida Panthers of the NHL who recently affiliated with the Americans).

NAMING RIGHTS: CenturyTel is paying \$5 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2010.

Team: Colorado Eagles

Principal Owner: Martin Lind & Ralph Backstrom

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Budweiser Event Center

Date Built: 2003

Facility Cost (millions): \$60

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: Budweiser is paying \$1.5 M over twenty years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2023.

Team: Corpus Christi Rayz

Principal Owner: Doug Frank

[Team Website](#)

Arena: American Bank Center

Date Built: 2004

Facility Cost (millions): \$50

Facility Financing : Funded by a 1/8th cent sales tax approved by Corpus Christi voters in November 2000.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Owner W. D. Frank announced on June 2, 2008 that the Rayz would not participate in the upcoming 2008-09 season due to a dispute with the city and the American Bank Center. However, only seven days later the CHL announced that Frank had sold the franchise to Tim Lange and would continue operations for the 2008-09 season. Plans are to continue to keep the franchise in Corpus Christi and the American Bank Center.

NAMING RIGHTS: American Bank secured a 10-year naming rights agreement that expires in 2014. The terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Team: Laredo Bucks

Principal Owner: Glenn Hart and Julian "Kiki" DeAyala

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Laredo Entertainment Center

Date Built: 2002

Facility Cost (millions): \$36.5

Facility Financing: Publicly financed through a sales tax increase.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: After averaging 6,200 fans (78% capacity) during the 2002 season when they moved to the Laredo Entertainment Center, the Center decided to lower capacity from 8,002 to 6,500 for the 2007-08 season.

Team: Mississippi RiverKings

Affiliate: Hartford Wolf Pack (AHL), New York Rangers (NHL)

Principal Owner: Maddox Hockey, Inc.

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Desoto Civic Center

Date Built: 2000

Facility Cost (millions): \$27.5

[Facility Website](#)

Team: New Mexico Scorpions

Principal Owner: Scorpions Hockey Club, LLC (Lead by former NHL players Dave Ellett and Brian Savage)

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Santa Ana Star Center

Date Built: 2006

Facility Cost (millions): \$47

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: The Santa Ana Star Casino purchased the five-year naming rights deal for \$2.5 million, which will expire in 2011.

Team: Odessa Jackalopes

Affiliate: Edmonton Oilers (NHL)

Principal Owner: Miles Prentice and Bob Richmond

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Ector County Coliseum

Date Built: 1954 (renovated in 1991)

Facility Cost (millions): \$1.6 M for renovations.

UPDATE: In late 2007, the Jackalopes and the county of Ector agreed to a five year extension of their lease in Ector County Coliseum. Included in the lease was an approval for a business office for the Jackalopes to be built at the Coliseum. City officials expect the expansion to cost around \$350,000, but all costs are going to be paid for by the Jackalopes. The Coliseum already finished a \$4.1 million renovation of the air conditioning unit within in April 2008.

Team: Oklahoma City Blazers

Principal Owner: Express Personnel Services, Inc.; headed by Bob Funk
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Ford Center

Date Built: 2002

Facility Cost (millions): \$89

Facility Financing: Oklahoma City voters approved the MAPS Program in 1993 which imposed a citywide one-cent sales tax over a 66-month period to finance various projects, including the Ford Center.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In March 2008, Oklahoma City residents approved a 1% sales tax extension that was cast as a referendum on bringing a NBA franchise to the city (by a huge 69-31 percent margin). The tax is expected to bring in \$121.6 million, which will be used to renovate the Ford Center to NBA standards. While there is still details to be worked out in Seattle, it is expected that, if Clay Bennett (owner of the Seattle SuperSonics) can work out a lease buyout in Seattle, he will move the club to Oklahoma City, and the Ford Center will be atop the list of stadiums.

NAMING RIGHTS: Ford is paying \$8.1 M over fifteen years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2017.

Team: Rapid City Rush

Principal Owner: Scott Mueller, Barry Peterson, and Donnie Ward
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Arena

Date Built: 1977

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In preparing for its inaugural 2008-09 season, the team held a name-the-team contest to determine what the name of the team should be. The contest netted four finalists, Rush, Road Hogs, Bison, and Choppers. On September 12, 2007, the Rush was announced as the winning selection.

Furthermore, after strong support of the team, the Rush have requested the leaders of the Arena expansion project to build an extra 90-200 club seats. If approved, the team has agreed to pay the price of construction in the new addition to the Arena. Work on the \$25 million addition is expected to be completed by December 1, 2008, at which time the Rush will move operations to the new Arena located on the Civic Center grounds.

Team: Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees

Principal Owner: Joe Sakulenzki

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Dodge Arena

Date Built: 2003

Facility Cost (millions): \$23

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: Dodge is paying \$2 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2013.

Team: Rocky Mountain Rage

Principal Owner: Tim Wiens and John Frew

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Broomfield Event Center

Date Built: 2006

Facility Cost (millions): \$45

Facility Financing : The Event Center was financed through tax revenues generated by real estate development.

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Texas Brahmas

Principal Owner: Stuart Fraser, Dr. Salvatore Trazzera, Frank Trazzera, Knute Anderson and Jim Makens

[Team Website](#)

Arena: NYTEX Sports Centre

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The team returned to action after a one-year hiatus from the CHL for the 2007-08 season. The Brahmas and NYTEX Sports reached a leasing contract allowing the team to play at the former Blue Line Ice Complex in North Richland Hills in suburban Forth Worth, Texas. The arena had been closed for three years, however the lease allowed NYTEX to take over operations in the city center, as well as develop surrounding land. A library opened in March 2008, and a recreation center is planned for 2010.

NAMING RIGHTS: NYTEX Sports is a management firm located in New York and Texas. NYTEX purchased the stadium in March of 2007, and renamed it NYTEX Centre in June of the same year.

Team: Tulsa Oilers

Principal Owner: Jeff Lund

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Bank of Oklahoma Center (BOK Center)

Date Built: 2008

Facility Cost (millions): \$178,000,000

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Once the BOK Center opens, the Oilers will permanently move to the new center. The team signed a one-year lease to play in the BOK Center for the 2008-09 season, but it is expected to be extended after the first term to a long-term agreement.

NAMING RIGHTS: The Bank of Oklahoma purchased naming rights for \$11 million over 20 years.

Team: Wichita Thunder

Owner: Brian Slagel
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Kansas Coliseum
Date Built: 1977
Facility Cost (millions): \$10
[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Thunder expect to move to the near completed Intrust Bank Arena when it opens in 2009 or 2010. The arena is budgeted to cost \$185 million and is financed by a \$.01 increase in the county sales tax. The increase, which expired in December 2007, was approved by a 52% majority vote.

NAMING RIGHTS: Intrust Bank purchased naming rights for the incomplete arena in January 2008. It paid \$8.75 million for 25 years. Furthermore, Cessna Aircraft Company will pay \$3 million over 20 years to name an adjacent outdoor plaza.

Team: Youngstown SteelHounds

Affiliate: Columbus Blue Jackets (NHL), Syracuse Crunch (AHL), and Dayton Bombers (ECHL)
Principal Owner: Herb Washington
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Chevrolet Centre
Date Built: 2005
Facility Cost (millions): \$41
Facility Financing: \$26.8 M was paid for by a federal grant.
[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In June 2008, the CHL announced that the Youngstown SteelHounds have left the CHL. The reasons stated by the league were non-payment of assessments and fees and non-attendance at league meetings. However, the parties have been entrenched in litigation over these and other issues since November 2006. The SteelHounds have made counterclaims that CHL promised subsidies on travel expenses that well exceed the assessments and fees it claims were not paid. A settlement conference is scheduled for sometime before August 2008. The Youngstown SteelHounds hope to return for a fourth season to the Chevrolet Centre, most likely as a member of a different professional hockey league.

NAMING RIGHTS: General Motors agreed to a five-year naming rights contract of \$1 million, which will expire in 2010.

East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) (AA)

Team: Alaska Aces

Affiliates: St. Louis Blues (NHL), Peoria Rivermen (AHL)

Principal Owner: Terry Parks

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Sullivan Arena

Date Built: 1983

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In June 2007, Governor Sarah Palin vetoed the Alaskan legislature's \$2.5 million appropriations to fix Sullivan Arena's leaky roof. Although \$2 million will only begin to fix all that needs to be done, repairing the 24-year-old arena's leaky roof is critical since buckets suspend from the arena's rafters to collect the water. Furthermore, in October 2007, the Aces and the Blues renewed their affiliation agreement.

NAMING RIGHTS: The Arena is named after former Anchorage mayor George M. Sullivan and is now owned by the Municipality of Anchorage.

Team: Augusta Lynx

Principal Owner: Jan Hodges Burch, Robert Burch, and Dan Troutman

[Team Website](#)

Arena: James Brown Arena

Date Built: 1973

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In May 2008, the Lynx and the Arena Football/Hockey Committee came to an agreement to extend the current lease of the James Brown Arena through the 2009-10 season. The new lease would give the Lynx a portion of the parking and concessions revenue generated during hockey games, reduced advertising fees, and the purchase of a new Zamboni. The next step was for the Committee to present its approval to the Full Board. However, during that meeting, the Committee Chairman inadvertently said the Committee did not approve the lease, thus the Full Board denied the lease. A meeting has been scheduled for mid-May to reconcile the difference. Team management is also currently looking for a NHL and AHL affiliate for the

2008-09 season after the Anaheim Ducks chose to sign an affiliation agreement with the Bakersfield Condors.

NAMING RIGHTS: The arena was renamed the James Brown Arena from the Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center in August 2006. It was named in honor of the musician, James Brown, who grew up in Augusta, Georgia.

Team: Bakersfield Condors

Affiliates: Anaheim Ducks (NHL), Des Moines (AHL)

Principal Owner: Jonathan Fleisig

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Rabobank Arena

Date Built: 1998

Facility Cost (millions): \$38

Facility Financing : Publicly financed by the City of Bakersfield.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In May 2008, the Anaheim Ducks and the Condors agreed to an affiliation agreement for the upcoming ECHL season.

NAMING RIGHTS: Rabobank acquired naming rights to the then Centennial Gardens Convention Center in 2005. It is reported the agreement was for ten years and \$250,000 per year.

Team: Charlotte Checkers

Affiliates: New York Rangers (NHL), Carolina Hurricanes (NHL), and Hartford Wolf Pack (AHL)

Principal Owner: Michael Kahn

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Time Warner Cable Arena

Date Built: 2003

Facility Cost (millions): \$265

Percentage of Arena Publicly Financed: 100%

Facility Financing : Two bonds, backed by revenue from city tourist taxes. Bank of America, Duke Energy, and Wachovia underwrote \$100 M in exchange for approximately \$50 M from the sale of real estate downtown, where the venue is located. \$16.8 M came from exclusive food and

beverage rights, and a 3% seat tax at events in city arenas generated \$15 M. The balance came from the team.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In October 2007, the Checkers and the Carolina Hurricanes (NHL) entered into a secondary affiliation agreement surrounding goaltender Daniel Manzato for the 2007-08 season. It remains to be seen whether the agreement will continue forward in the 2008-09 season.

On the financial front, the Checkers expect to break even for the first time in years. After Kahn purchased the team for \$1.5-2 million, the team cut the team's operating deficit in half. The Checkers generated \$3 million in revenue during the 2006-07 season, posting a \$250,000 loss. Team executives expect revenue to reach \$3.25 million during the 2007-08 season after attendance has been steadily rising after moving to the Time Warner Cable Arena.

NAMING RIGHTS: In April 2008, Time Warner Cable announced it purchased the naming rights of the arena. Financial terms were not released.

Team: Cincinnati Cyclones

Affiliates: Montreal Canadiens (NHL), Nashville Predators (NHL), Hamilton Bulldogs (AHL), and Milwaukee Admirals (AHL)

Principal Owner: Nederlander Entertainment

[Team Website](#)

Arena: U.S. Bank Arena

Date Built: 1975

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In August 2007, the Cyclones announced they had signed a one-year affiliation agreement with the Predators and Admirals. Furthermore, there have been preliminary discussions of building a new arena on the border of downtown Cincinnati to replace U.S. Bank Arena; however, no concrete plans have been proposed.

NAMING RIGHTS: U.S. Bank is currently under a 10-year, \$3 M naming rights deal for the arena.

Team: Columbia Inferno

Affiliates: Toronto Marlies (AHL), Toronto Maple Leafs (NHL)

Principal Owner: Dr. Ezra Riber and Sam Imbeau

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Carolina Coliseum

Date Built: 1968

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Inferno hoped to be playing in a new arena at the start of its 2007-08 season, but financing delays prevented construction from beginning on time. The arena will be part of a \$30 M sports and entertainment complex, which will include a practice rink and an \$8 to \$10 M hotel. The plans were helped by the Lexington County Council's decision to pay \$2 M to acquire the land for the project.

The Inferno have been granted a voluntary suspension from the league for the 2008-09 season due to their inability to agree to a suitable lease in time for the season to start. The team continues to discuss with the city of Columbia.

Team: Dayton Bombers

Affiliates: Columbus Blue Jackets (AHL), Syracuse Crunch (AHL)

Principal Owner: Donco Entertainment, LLC; headed by Costa Papista and Don MacAdam

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Nutter Center

Date Built: 1990

Facility Costs (millions): \$34.5

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Bombers have not renewed their affiliation agreement with the Blue Jackets and the Crunch for the 2008-09 season. Furthermore, investors are looking at a privately financed arena in Dayton to house an AHL franchise. It is possible that, if approved, the Dayton Bombers could be moving up to the AHL.

NAMING RIGHTS: Wright State University owns the Nutter Center and has a \$2.8 million naming rights deal indefinitely.

Team: Elmira Jackals

Affiliates: Columbus Blue Jackets (NHL) and Syracuse Crunch (AHL)

Principal Owner: Dr. Mostafa Afr

[Team Website](#)

Arena: First Arena

Date Built: 2000

Facility Cost (millions): \$15.5

Facility Financing: Lauridon Sports Management, Inc., officials agreed to put \$7.25 million into the arena. State aid, a loan from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department, and revenue from the Chemung County hotel room tax would make up the remaining \$8.25 million.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In April 2007, ownership announced they had been granted admission to the ranks of the ECHL from the UHL and began play during the 2007-08 season.

Team: Florida Everblades

Affiliates: Carolina Hurricanes (NHL), Florida Panthers (NHL), Albany River Rats (AHL), and Plymouth Whalers (OHL)

Principal Owner: Craig Bush, Peter Karmanos Jr., and Thomas Thewes

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Germain Arena

Date Built: 1998

Facility Cost (millions): \$25

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The owners of Germain Arena have offered to sell the arena to Lee County for \$36 million, \$20 million of which would be funded by 20-year municipal bonds. The remaining \$16 million would be covered by a \$1.5 million annual lease payment the current owners of the Arena would make to the county. The deal has not been completed, but talks persist.

NAMING RIGHTS: Germain Motor Company is paying \$7 M over twenty years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2018.

Team: Fresno Falcons

Principal Owners: Christopher Cummings, Brian Glover, Arline Parfitt, and William Cummings, Sr.

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Selland Arena

Date Built: 1966

Facility Cost (in millions): \$10 (plus \$10 million expansion in 1984 and \$15 million renovation in 2006)

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: When the current ownership group purchased the Falcons from previous owner Charles Davenport in 2006, they stated they would move the Falcons back to Selland Arena when their lease with Save Mart Center ended after the 2007-08 season. In August 2007, the Falcons announced that they will return to Selland Arena for the 2008-09 season after signing a twenty year lease. The Falcons previously played at Selland Arena from 1968 through 2002.

Team: Gwinnett Gladiators

Affiliates: Atlanta Thrashers (NHL), Chicago Wolves (AHL)

Principal Owner: Gwinnett County Hockey, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Gwinnett Center

Date Built: 2003

Facility Cost (millions): \$65

Facility Financing: Funded by Gwinnett County.

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Idaho Steelheads

Affiliates: Iowa Stars (AHL), Dallas (NHL)

Principal Owner: Idaho Sports Properties/Block 22; headed by John Cunningham

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Qwest Arena

Date Built: 1997

Facility Cost (millions): \$50

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: Qwest Communications signed a naming rights deal with Idaho Sports Properties/Block 22 in October 2005 for \$4 million for 15 years.

Team: Johnstown Chiefs

Affiliates: Springfield Falcons (AHL), Tampa Bay Lightning (NHL)

Principal Owner: Neil Smith and Ned Nakles

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Cambria County War Memorial Arena

Date Built: 1950

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The famous hockey movie Slap Shot was filmed in Johnstown and the Cambria County War Memorial Arena. In the movie, the team was known as the Charlestown Chiefs and the now Johnstown Chiefs readily jumped on the idea to tie their team name into the movie. The Chiefs are the only ECHL team that plays in its original town and with its original name.

Team: Las Vegas Wranglers

Affiliate: Omaha Ak-Sar-Ben Knights (AHL), Calgary Flames (NHL)

Principal Owner: Chandar Sports; headed by Charles Davenport

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Orleans Arena

Date Built: 1996

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Long Beach Ice Dogs

Principal Owner: Power Play Entertainment, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Long Beach Arena

Date Built: 1962

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Long Beach Ice Dogs have suspended operations for the 2007-2008 season, as owners admit they are unable to financially make it through the season. When Ontario enters the ECHL, it will control territorial rights to Long Beach, meaning the franchise will probably move.

Team: Mississippi Sea Wolves

Principal Owner: Wolf Pack, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Mississippi Coast Coliseum

Date Built: 1977

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Hurricane Katrina caused over \$30 M worth of damage to the Mississippi Coast Coliseum. Due to the extent of the damage, the Sea Wolves missed the past two seasons; however, the arena was rebuilt for \$6 million and the team returned for the 2007-2008 season.

Team: Ontario Reign

Affiliates: Houston Areos (AHL), Minnesota Wild (NHL)

Principal Owner: RBC Sports

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Citizens Business Bank Arena

Date Built: 2008

Facility Cost (millions): \$130

Facility Financing:

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: In February 2008, the Board of Governors approved a transfer of the membership from Beaumont, Texas to Ontario, California for the start of the 2008-09 season. The Texas Wildcatters will cease operations and will begin play under new management as the Ontario Reign in the new Citizens Business Bank Arena.

Team: Pensacola Ice Pilots

Affiliates: Chicago Blackhawks (NHL) and Rockford Icehogs (AHL)

Principal Owner: Henley Sports, Inc. (led by Mario Forgiione) and Greg Schuh

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Pensacola Civic Center

Date Built: 1985, with the ice added in 1996

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: After announcing that the Ice Pilots would be leaving Pensacola in March 2007, the team returned to Pensacola Civic Center after listening to the demands of the fans. The plan was to remain there for the 2007-08 season, and search for a new facility for the 2008-09 season when their current lease ran out. However, in February 2008, officials agreed to a new lease that would keep the Ice Pilots playing at the Civic Center through the 2010-11 season, with an option for an additional two years. Terms of the lease were not disclosed.

Team: Phoenix Roadrunners

Affiliates: San Jose Sharks (NHL) and Worcester Sharks (AHL)

Principal Owner: Suns Legacy Partners

[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 given to construct the arena and \$7 M used to buy the land. The NBA's 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 October 2007, the Roadrunners and the Sharks agreed to a two-year affiliation agreement.

NAMING RIGHTS: The America West Arena was renamed the US Airways Center in January 2006, following the merger of the two companies. America West was paying \$26 M over 30 years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2019.

Team: Reading Royals

Affiliates: Los Angeles Kings (NHL) and Manchester Monarchs (AHL)

Principal Owner: SMG & AEG

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Sovereign Center

Date Built: 2001

Facility Cost (millions): \$25

Facility Financing: \$12.5 M came from a state grant, \$12.5 M was matched by Burkes County, partially through a 5% hotel room tax.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Royals and Kings/Monarchs agreed to extend their affiliation agreement for the 2007-08 season in August 2007. The teams have been affiliated since the 2001 season.

NAMING RIGHTS: Sovereign Bank has a \$3 M naming rights deal.

Team: South Carolina Stingrays

Affiliates: Washington Capitals (NHL) and Hershey Bears (AHL)

Principal Owner: Jerry Zucker, Edwin Pearlstine, and the Greenwald Family

[Team Website](#)

Arena: North Charleston Coliseum

Date Built: 1993

Facility Cost (millions): \$20

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Team officials agreed to an extension of their lease with the North Charleston Coliseum through 2015 at \$6,000 per game. The new agreement gives the Stingrays 50% of the revenue generated from concessions at all Stingrays games, up from 25% in the previous lease. Lastly, playoff games will cost the same as regular season games. During the previous lease, playoff games were roughly \$1,000 more per game.

Team: Stockton Thunder

Affiliates: Edmonton Oilers (NHL)

Principal Owner: Stockton Hockey Franchise Group, Inc

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Stockton Arena

Date Built: 2005

Facility Cost (millions): \$64

Facility Financing: Publicly financed by the City of Stockton.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: To lure the Thunder into playing at the Stockton Arena, city officials agreed to give 30 percent of catering revenue from games to the team. This created a problem, though, since the city earns only 20 percent in catering revenue. This caused the city a total loss of \$32,583 last year.

NAMING RIGHTS: Guaranty Bank, which had previously offered to pay \$2.75 million over 7 years to name the arena, pulled its offer in November 2007. The proposal called for a seven year deal in which the bank would pay \$392,857 a year. The arena's net income from the arrangement would be \$25,000 to \$50,000 in the first year and \$220,000 in each of the next six years. The remainder appeared to go toward costs. Guaranty Bank pulled their offer after the proposal had become public knowledge before negotiations had progressed. The arena remains named after the city and officials are continuing to look for a buyer.

Team: Toledo Walleye (previously Toledo Storm until 2008)

Affiliates: Grand Rapids Griffins (AHL), Detroit Red Wings (NHL)

Principal Owner: Toledo Mud Hens AAA Baseball

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Lucas County Downtown Arena

Date Built: Expected 2009

Facility Cost: \$80 to \$105 million

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Toledo Arena Sports, Inc., owners of the Toledo Mud Hens AAA baseball team, purchased the Toledo Storm in April 2007 with plans of suspending operations until the new stadium being built is opened in 2009. The Toledo Sports Arena was demolished to make way for the Lucas County Downtown Arena, the city's new \$85 million multi-purpose arena. The property the new arena will be built on is part of the Marina District, a proposed shopping, residential, and boating project on the Maumee River's East bank and is expected to be complete by the time the 2009 season begins. Finally, in February 2008, team officials announced that the team would be renamed the Toledo Walleye.

Team: Trenton Devils

Affiliates: New Jersey Devils (NHL), Lowell Devils (AHL)

Principal Owner: New Jersey Devils

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Sovereign Bank Arena

Date Built: 1999

Facility Cost (millions): \$53

Facility Financing: \$31.1 M in bonds issued by Mercer County paid for the arena; the remainder came from the city and the state.

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: Sovereign Bank is paying \$2.67 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2009.

Team: Utah Grizzlies

Affiliates: New York Islanders (NHL) and Bridgeport Sound Tigers (AHL)

Principal Owner: Grizzlier Hockey Corporation Inc.; headed by David Elmore and Donna Tuttle

[Team Website](#)

Arena: The E-Center (West Valley Event Center)

Date Built: 1997

Facility Cost (millions): \$58

Facility Financing: \$7 M from the Salt Lake City Olympic Committee and \$46 M from the City of West Valley secured with bonds.

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: West Valley City has been unsuccessful in securing a naming rights deal for the E-Center since it was built in 1997.

Team: Victoria Salmon Kings

Affiliates: Vancouver Canucks (NHL) and Manitoba Moose (AHL)
Principal Owner: RG Properties
[Team Website](#)

Arena: Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre
Date Built: 2005
Facility Cost (millions): \$30
Facility Financing: The city borrowed \$30 M to finance the arena.
[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: Save-On-Foods is paying \$1.25 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2015.

Team: Wheeling Nailers

Affiliates: Pittsburgh Penguins (NHL), Philadelphia Flyers (NHL), Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (AHL), and Philadelphia Phantoms (AHL)
Principal Owner: Nailers Hockey, LLC
[Team Website](#)

Arena: WesBanco Arena
Date Built: 1981
Facility Cost (millions): A \$3.2 M renovation was completed in 2005.
[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Team officials agreed to an affiliation agreement with the Flyers and their AHL affiliate, the Phantoms in July 2007.

NAMING RIGHTS: WesBanco is paying \$2.3 M over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2013.

Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL) (AA)

Team: Columbus Cottonmouths

Principal Owner: Shelby and Wanda Amos

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Columbus Civic Center

Date Built: 1996

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Heavy construction will begin around the Columbus Civic Center in the city's flood abatement project. With the increasing amount of storms around the area, the city will spend a total of \$39.47 million on the project, which includes improving drainage, widening 6th Avenue, and building a permanent ramp on the far west side of the Civic Center to allow pedestrian access.

Team: Fayetteville FireAntz

Principle Owner: Howard Bullard and Kevin MacNaught

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Crown Coliseum

Date Built: 1997

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Huntsville Havoc

Principal Owner: Huntsville Sports Ventures, LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Von Braun Center

Date Built: 1975

[Facility Website](#)

NAMING RIGHTS: The facility is named in honor of Wernher von Braun, a former German rocket scientist, who after World War II, laid the foundation for the United States space program, which was thought by the locals to put Huntsville on the map.

Team: Jacksonville Barracudas

Principal Owner: Barracudas Hockey Club Inc., headed by Stephen Croskrey

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Jacksonville Ice

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Ownership requested a one-year suspension of operations for the 2008-09 season. The Board of Governors approved the team's request in May 2008, and a dispersal draft was held for the team's players. Reasons cited were based on a lack of a lease agreement with the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. The Barracudas had moved to the Jacksonville Ice, a public recreation rink, for the 2007-08 season. However, the arena only holds 1,200 spectators and running a professional franchise in a public recreation rink is no longer feasible to the team. Jacksonville city officials proposed lease renewal at the Veterans Memorial Arena; however, the cost became too cumbersome for the Barracudas.

Team: Knoxville Ice Bears

Principal Owner: A local ownership group headed by John Langley and Rita Harris

[Team Website](#)

Arena: James White Civic Coliseum

Date Built: 1961

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Richmond Renegades

Affiliate: Wheeling Nailers (ECHL)

Principal Owner: Richmond Renegades, LLC; headed by Allan Harvie

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Richmond Coliseum

Date Built: 1971

Facility Cost (millions): \$24 M, with a \$2.8 M expansion in 1993

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Richmond Renegades began play during the 2006-07 season. The team is named after the ECHL team, owned by Allan Harvie, which folded in 2003. The Renegades are the first and right now only team to form an affiliation in the SPHL. Upon starting a franchise, officials agreed to a long term lease that will keep the Renegades at the Coliseum for five years. Terms were not released; however, it is a three-year deal with two one-year options.

Team: Twin City Cyclones

Principal Owner: Bob Kerzner

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum Complex (Cyclones play in the Joel Coliseum Annex)

Date Built: 1987

Facility Cost (millions): \$14.1

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Originally the Pee Dee Cyclones, the team moved from Florence, S.C. and to Winston-Salem, N.C. for the 2007-2008 season. The team was unable to reach a new lease agreement with the Florence City Civic Center, which prompted their move. The Cyclones and the Arena entered into a lease in which the Cyclones will pay about \$2,500 per game, plus \$500 in ticket fees.

International Hockey League (IHL) (AA)

UPDATE: In June 2007, the UHL announced that it would now be known as the International Hockey League (IHL), consisting of six teams. Rockford left the UHL to become the Chicago Blackhawks' affiliate in the AHL, the Elmira Jackals left for the ECHL, the Quad-City Mallards ceased operations when the Calgary Flames of the NHL announced they were moving their AHL affiliate to Quad-City, and the Chicago Hounds ceased operations due to the inability to negotiate a lease.

League headquarters are located in Rochester, Michigan. On June 27, 2007, a dispersal draft was held among the six IHL teams, selecting players from the four 2006-07 UHL franchises that are no longer part of the newly formed IHL. Paul Pickard was selected to serve as the President, CEO, and President of Stadium Management of the IHL.

A deal with B2 Networks was reached to broadcast all IHL games via broadband for the next three seasons. Terms were not disclosed.

Team: Bloomington Prairie Thunder

Principal Owner: Tony Lisman

[Team Website](#)

Arena: US Cellular Coliseum

Date Built: 2006

Facility Cost (millions): \$37

Facility Financing: Funded by the City of Bloomington.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The city lost \$2.5 million in its first year of operating the U.S. Cellular Coliseum, including \$307,786 in the first month alone. The mayor raised taxes but also said that revenue gains need to be made from greater attendance records and more events.

Furthermore, in May 2007, Tony Lisman assumed full ownership of the Thunder from partners John Butler and Mike Nelson. The three had co-owned the Thunder for its inaugural IHL season. The change will have no effect on the management of the U.S. Cellular Coliseum by Central Illinois Arena Management, which is owned by Butler and Nelson. The Coliseum has a ten-year management contract with CIAM which calls for Butler and Nelson to provide football and hockey teams to play for a minimum of 50 home games at the Coliseum. Lisman also is the owner of the Muskegon Fury, another member of the IHL.

NAMING RIGHTS: U.S. Cellular purchased naming rights of the Coliseum in 2005. The agreement calls for \$1.75 million over 10 years.

Team: Chicago Hounds

Principal Owner: Craig Drektrah

UPDATE: Drektrah attempted to resume play for the IHL for the 2008-09 season, but he was unable to secure a venue in the Chicago area. They had played in the Sears Centre in the last season of the UHL. However, the Sears Centre wanted the Hounds to take mostly weekday games, leaving weekends for other tenants. Furthermore, the Centre wanted to triple the cost of the lease.

Team: Flint Generals

Principal Owner: Bob Perani

Affiliate: Detroit Red Wings (NHL)

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Perani's Arena and Event Center

Date Built: 1969

Facility Cost: \$10

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The Perani Group bought the Generals in June 2007 from Khaled M. Shukairy; the terms of the sale were not released. Furthermore, the Perani Group is in negotiations with Shukairy, who kept the Arena after selling the team to the Perani Group, to purchase the Perani Arena. Shukairy purchased the Arena from the city of Flint in 2002 for \$2.2 million.

Team: Fort Wayne Komets

Principal Owner: Franke family

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

Date Built: 1952

Facility Cost: The Coliseum cost \$2,647,390 in 1952. The first major renovation in 1989 cost

\$26 million, and the second major renovation cost \$35 million in 2002.

[Facility Website](#)

Team: Kalamazoo Wings

Principal Owner: Greenleaf Holdings LLC

[Team Website](#)

Arena: Wings Stadium

Date Built: 1974

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Greenleaf Holdings LLC bought the Kalamazoo Wings and Wings Stadium from the now late R. T. Parfet before the 2006-2007 season.

Team: Muskegon Fury

Principal Owner: Tony Lisman

[Team Website](#)

Arena: L.C. Walker Arena

Date Built: 1960

Facility Cost (millions): \$2

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

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: The L.C. Walker family gave the city permission to sell naming rights to the arena in 2005. Since then, the arena has tried to attract local corporate sponsors, but has been unsuccessful because it does not support a major professional sports team and it is not a new facility.

Team: Port Huron Icehawks

Owner: Larry W. Kinney
Affiliate: Detroit Red Wings
[Team Website](#)

Arena: McMorran Arena

Date Built: 1962

Facility Cost (millions): \$3.5

Facility Financing: The McMorran Foundation donated the original \$1.2 M to build the sports and entertainment center. Over time, the McMorran and Murphy families, who made up the foundation, donated the remainder of the cost.

[Facility Website](#)

UPDATE: Originally the Port Huron Flags, the team changed its ownership, its league, and its name in 2007. The owners are still negotiating a deal with McMorran Arena, but they are confident they will reach one, which would include a cut of the concession and parking money for the team.

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