

# Sports Facility Reports



*Sports Facility Reports, Volume 11, Appendix 4.1*

## Other Hockey Leagues

### American Hockey League (AHL) (AAA)

**Team:** Abbotsford Heat

**Affiliate:** Calgary Flames

**Principal Owner:** Calgary Flames

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Abbotsford Entertainment & Sports Centre

**Date Built:** 2009

**Cost:.** C\$64.7 million

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Heat enjoyed their first season in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada after moving from Illinois and changing their name from the Quad City Flames to the Abbotsford Heat. Despite being nearly 1,300 miles farther west than their nearest AHL divisional opponent, the Heat saw a 28% increase in ticket sales compared to their final season in Illinois. This rise in attendance is particularly impressive considering total league attendance fell around 1% last year.

**Team:** Adirondack Phantoms

**Affiliate:** Philadelphia Flyers

**Principal Owner:** Brooks Group

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Glens Falls Civic Center

**Date Built:** 1979

**Cost:.** \$7 million

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Phantoms' plans for a new \$80 million stadium in Allentown, Pennsylvania have been delayed due to the city's struggles to find financing in tough economic times. The delay was necessary for the completion of a bridge into the area which will allow more access to the new stadium. The new 10,000 seat arena will open in 2013 at the earliest.

## **Team: Albany Devils**

**Affiliate:** New Jersey Devils

**Principal Owner:** New Jersey Devils

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Times Union Center

**Date Built:** 1990

**Cost:.** \$68 million

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The former Lowell Devils franchise will move from Massachusetts to New York and become the Albany Devils starting with the 2010-11 season. The Devils will play their home games at the Times Union Center. The Times Union Center's former tenants, the Albany River Rats, were sold by their former owner, Walter Robb, and moved to North Carolina.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** In January 2007, the county signed a \$3.5 million, 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:** Senators Owner and Executive Vice President Tom Mitchell received the Thomas Ebright Award from the NHL in the summer of 2010. The award is presented in recognition of career achievements and contributions.

## **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](#)

**UPDATE:** Original Sound Tigers owner Roy Boe passed away in June of 2009. Boe had been awarded the team as an expansion franchise in 2000 and owned the team from 2001-04.

## Team: Charlotte Checkers

**Affiliate:** Carolina Hurricanes  
**Principal Owner:** Michael Kahn  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Time Warner Cable Arena  
**Date Built:** 2005  
**Facility Cost (millions):** \$260  
**Facility Financing:** 100% publicly funded.  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Charlotte Checkers franchise will begin Play in the 2010-11 AHL season. The team was formerly the Albany River Rats, but after the sale of the franchise to Michael Kahn and league-wide AHL divisional realignment, the Carolina Hurricanes decided to move their AHL affiliate into their virtual backyard. The Hurricanes hope this move will help to solidify their fan base. The Checkers will share Time Warner Cable Arena with the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** The Charlotte Bobcats exchanged the naming rights to the arena in exchange for the termination of a contract which prohibited satellite TV companies from showing Bobcats games. No information was released detailing if Time Warner had plans to pay for the naming rights at some point in the future.

## 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:** The Chicago Wolves were named the recipients of the team President's Award in 2010. The award is given to an AHL organization for excellence in all areas off the ice.

The Wolves saw an 8.8% increase in ticket sales compared to 2009 despite league attendance dropping overall. The Wolves strong attendance numbers year after year are most likely a direct result of the team's television deal with Comcast cable which airs all 80 regular season and any additional playoff games. The Wolves are the only team in the AHL to enjoy this type of television deal.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Allstate Insurance Company agreed to a ten year extension of their naming rights agreement in 2010. The deal will last until 2020 and is worth \$11 million.

## 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:** The DeVos family contributed \$15 million, the Van Andel family contributed \$11.5 million, \$8.5 million was paid for by other private interests, and state taxes were used to fund the remainder.

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Grand Rapids Griffins were awarded the American Hockey League Team Business Services Award for the AHL's Western Conference in 2010. The award recognizes the team's game operations staff for the fan experience they provide for fans at Van Andel Arena. This is the second year in a row the team has been presented with this award.

**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 million toward the arena.

## Team: Hamilton Bulldogs

**Affiliate:** Montreal Canadiens

**Principal Owner :** Michael Andlauer

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Copps Coliseum

**Date Built:** 1985

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$42.7

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

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Bulldogs faced a potential situation in 2009 when they were nearly kicked out of their own stadium. Canadian businessman Jim Balsillie had been attempting to purchase the Phoenix Coyotes NHL franchise and move the team to Hamilton. This would have forced the Bulldogs to move. The sale of the Coyotes to Balsillie was never completed and the Coyotes will likely stay in Phoenix. In response, the Bulldogs signed a three-year extension in 2010 to stay in Copps Coliseum until 2013.

Meanwhile, Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger is attempting to sell the Copps Coliseum to Edmonton Oilers owner Daryl Katz in an attempt to make the city more attractive to an NHL franchise in the future.

**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:** XL Center

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

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$75 million

[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 purchased the naming rights to the Coliseum in December 2007, and has re-named the coliseum XL Center. The six year deal is 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 million for the arena, roads, parking lots, and infrastructures; \$65 million for the arena itself.

**Publicly Financed:** 40%

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

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE :** The Hershey Bears won their second straight Calder Cup in 2010. The Cup is awarded annually to the winner of the AHL playoffs. The Bears have parlayed their on-ice success into financial gain as Hershey led the AHL in attendance for the fourth straight season, and its total season attendance of 380,791 was a club record.

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

## Team: Houston Aeros

**Affiliate:** Minnesota Wild

**Principal Owner:** Minnesota Sports & Entertainment (Craig Leipold)

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Toyota Center

**Date Built:** 2003

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

**Facility Financing:** The city spent \$20 million on the land for the arena. The sports authority sold \$182 million in bonds to build the arena and secured \$125 million 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 million on enhancements.

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The company in charge of Toyota Center operations, Clutch City Sports & Entertainment sued three other companies in late 2009. Clutch City is claiming breach of contract and fraud because the companies failed to relight the Toyota sign on the roof of the arena which burnt out after a February 2009 fire. The sign on the roof is visible during helicopter and blimp flybys of the arena and is an essential part of the naming rights agreement with Toyota. Clutch City is seeking unspecified damages.

**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: 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](#)

**UPDATE:** The Lake Erie Monsters were awarded for their excellence in the area of community service by the AHL in 2010. The honor is given annually to a team in each conference that shows exceptional community service efforts.

Quicken Loans arena has teamed with the Food Network, allowing celebrity chef Michael Symon to serve his signature dishes inside the arena. Two Symon branded concession stands will be available during most events in the arena.

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

## 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:** The Monarchs will continue their annual tradition of playing a home game on New Year's Eve in 2010. After the conclusion of the game, the Monarchs traditionally display the largest indoor fireworks show in New Hampshire. In addition, the club announced it would have a School Day game on November 17. Students from around the state can take a field trip to the hockey game where they will fill out a workbook with math, English, and science activities.

**NAMING RIGHTS :** Verizon is paying \$11.4 million 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 million and the remaining \$93 million came from private entities.

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** Rumors of potential NHL franchise sales have impacted the Moose in 2010. TSN, Canada's sports network, reported that an expansion of the MTS Centre that will add an additional 4,000 seats was underway. The expansion was part of an effort to entice a potential new owner of the Phoenix Coyotes to move the franchise to Winnipeg. True North Sports & Entertainment - which owns both the Moose and the MTS Centre - denied the report. The NHL conceded in March of 2010 that it had engaged in preliminary discussions regarding a potential move of the Coyotes to Winnipeg if the team could not find a local owner.

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

## **Team: Milwaukee Admirals**

**Affiliate:** Nashville Predators

**Principal Owner:** Milwaukee Admirals, LLC (headed by Harris Turer)

[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:** The Bradley Center unveiled a revolutionary new system of selling tickets in December of 2009. The program allows users to go online and conduct a highly detailed search of the arena and particular seats. The user can zoom in and select individual options such as choosing an aisle or corner seat.

The Bradley Center will have a new scoreboard in place by the fall of 2010. The new \$3.2 million scoreboard will have nearly triple the square footage of the old scoreboard while upgrading the resolution of the screens more than ten times.

**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

**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 team also announced a five-year deal 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 spend around \$9 million to upgrade the arena.

## Team: Oklahoma City Barons

**Affiliate:** Edmonton Oilers

**Principal Owner:** Prodigal Hockey, LLC, president Bob Funk, Jr.

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Cox Convention Center

**Date Built:** 1972

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$71 renovation in 2005

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Oklahoma City Barons franchise will begin play in the fall of 2010. The team will serve as the primary affiliate to the Edmonton Oilers. The team will replace the Oklahoma City Blazers franchise that played its home games in Oklahoma City until 2009. The Barons were formerly known as the Edmonton Road Runners.

The Cox Convention Center will receive a \$4.5 million upgrade in anticipation of the arrival of the Barons. The initial agreement between the Barons and the arena will last for five years with a renewal term of three years.

## Team: Peoria Rivermen

**Affiliate:** St. Louis Blues



**Principal Owner:** Sports Capital Partners Worldwide

[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 million revitalization plan was finalized for the Carver Arena and Peoria Civic Center. SCP Worldwide, the owner of the St. Louis Blues, purchased the Rivermen for an undisclosed price. The front office was kept on staff and now report to Marty Brooks who is the Executive Vice President of the Blues.

## Team: Portland Pirates

**Affiliate:** Buffalo Sabres

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

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Cumberland County Civic Center

**Date Built:** 1977

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$5

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** In June 2008, the Pirates announced a new affiliation agreement with the Buffalo Sabres that will keep the teams affiliated 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. The Pirates signed a two year extension on their lease with the Civic Center in 2010.

The Cumberland County Civic Center was the host of the 2010 AHL All-Star game in January of 2010.

## 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:** The Dunkin' Donuts Center hosted first and second round games during the 2010 NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. Despite an up front cost of nearly \$150,000 for the stadium, it is expected to gain a \$250,000 profit from hosting the games.

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

## 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 million (\$41 million 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 was expected to be about \$6.5 million. In June 2010, the Sabres and the Americans announced they would end their twenty-nine year affiliation. Florida took over the affiliation of the team running through the 2010-11 season.

The Americans announced a promotional agreement with Seneca Gaming in January of 2010. The deal includes Seneca signs and advertisements in Blue Cross Arena as well as game night promotions.

Rochester abandoned its plans to play an outdoor game against the International League team Rochester Red Wings citing high costs. Construction of an outdoor rink would cost \$500,000 and the team decided that type of up-front cost did not make financial sense.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Blue Cross is paying \$2.975 million 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 million 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 million was generated through a county tax increase and an increase in hotel and rental

car taxes. The Spurs contributed \$28.5 million 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 financial troubles of the Phoenix Coyotes will likely affect their AHL affiliate in the near future. Ice Edge Holdings, the current front runner to purchase the Coyotes, has announced that although it has no plans to move the NHL franchise, it does plan to move the Rampage to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

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

## Team: Springfield Falcons

**Affiliate:** Columbus Blue Jackets

**Principal Owner:** Springfield Pro Hockey, LLC

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** MassMutual Center

**Date Built:** 1972

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

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** In March of 2010, the Columbus Blue Jackets announced that the Falcons would become their primary AHL affiliate. The team was previously the affiliate of the Edmonton Oilers. The agreement between the Blue Jackets and the Falcons is a one year deal with a one year renewal option.

After seeing a significant ticket sale increase of 13.5% for the 2008-2009 season, the Falcons ticket sales numbers dropped dramatically in 2010. The team saw a 19.8% decline in ticket sales - the worst in the league. The team had the second worst overall season attendance in the league.

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

## Team: Syracuse Crunch

**Affiliate:** Anaheim Ducks

**Principal Owner:** Howard Dolgon

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** War Memorial at Oncenter Complex

**Date Built:** 1951

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** With the Columbus Blue Jackets cutting ties with the Crunch and signing the Springfield Falcons as their primary AHL affiliate, Syracuse was left without a NHL affiliate. In March of 2010, the Anaheim Ducks announced that the Crunch will become their primary affiliate starting with the 2010-11 AHL season.

The Syracuse Crunch set the AHL mark for attendance at a single game in 2010. A February game played outdoors at the New York State Fairgrounds drew more than 21,000 fans - an all time AHL record.

## Team: Texas Stars

**Affiliate:** Dallas Stars

**Principal Owner:** Dallas Stars

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Cedar Park Center

**Date Built:** 2009

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$55 million

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The \$55 million Cedar Park Center officially opened in September of 2009, the Texas Stars are the primary tenant of the arena. The arena officially holds 6,800 fans but the total attendance at the Stars' 2010 AHL playoff games was over 7,000 each game. With this success, the arena hopes to host more semi-pro teams in the future.

The franchise reached the Calder Cup finals in its first year in Texas. The coverage on the NHL network and the resulting rise in popularity should bode well for the team's financial future.

## 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 million 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. When the \$33.65 million project is complete, the new arena will have four ice pads (three NHL size and one Olympic size).

Rona, Inc signed a deal to become the official home improvement retailer of the Maple Leafs and the Marlies. The deal includes advertisements in the Ricoh Coliseum including on-ice logos.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Ricoh Canada Inc. is paying \$10 million 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:** Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza

**Date Built:** 1999

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$44

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The naming rights deal struck between the Penguins and Mohegan Suns in late 2009 was for more than simply a name on the front of the building. As part of the 10 year agreement, Mohegan Suns has agreed to purchase at least \$60,000 worth of tickets each year and to hold concerts inside the arena despite having its own arena on the grounds of its Connecticut casino.

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins were the recipient of the 2010 Eastern Conference community service award. The honor is given annually to a team in each conference which shows exceptional community service efforts.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Mohegan Suns has agreed to pay \$2.3 million over ten years for naming rights to the stadium. The agreement expires in 2019.

## **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 City of Worcester announced it will be renovating the DCU Center over the next three years. Some of the updates announced include a new ice floor, updated bathrooms, a new electrical system, and a seamless glass system. The work will take place during the summer months so it does not disturb the AHL seasons and is scheduled to be completed by 2012.

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

## Central Hockey League (CHL) (AA)

### Team: Allen Americans

**Owner:** Steve Duchesne

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Allen Event Center

**Date Built:** 2009

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$70 million (includes two parking garages)

**Facility Financing:** The city provided \$47 million in bonds with the remaining \$23 million coming from the MGHerring Group. MGHerring will be reimbursed by the city with revenue from the facility

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The CHL Allen team was named the Americans after voting was completed by city residents. The team started play in September 2009, in the all new Allen Event Center and the Americans look to establish a rivalry in the CHL with the other five Texas teams.

### Team: Amarillo Gorillas

**Owner:** Randy Sanders

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Amarillo Civic Center

**Date Built:** 1964

**Facility Financing:** In 1999, a \$10 million 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 million 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](#)

**UPDATE:** The team was unable to secure the necessary financing required to play an entire CHL season and have decided to cease operations for the 2010-2011 season.

### 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 million 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: Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs**

**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:** The team lost its affiliation with the Buffalo Sabres and Florida Panthers.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** CenturyTel is paying \$5 million over ten years for a naming rights deal that expires at the end of 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 million over twenty years for a naming rights deal that expires in 2023.

### **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:** The team rewarded longtime General Manager and Coach Terry Ruskowski with a lifetime contract. The 2009-2010 CHL All Star game was hosted by the Laredo Bucks under an unusual format. The format consisted of the top players from four teams in South Texas (Laredo Bucks, Corpus Christi IceRays, & Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees) vs. the remainder of the CHL All Stars.

## 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: Missouri Mavericks

**Principal Owner:** Independence Professional Hockey, LLC (Matt Adams, Mark Adams, Mike Carper, Brad Lund)

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Independence Events Center

**Date Built:** Expected November 2009 opening

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$60 million

[Facility Website](#)

## Team: New Mexico Scorpions

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

Website unavailable due to suspension of operations for 2009-2010 season

**Arena:** Santa Ana Star Center

**Date Built:** 2006

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$47

[Facility Website](#)

**NAMING RIGHTS:** The team suspended operations for the 2009-2010 season as the owner attempted to sell the team. If the team returns for the 2010-2011 season, it will have to be in a new arena because the New Mexico Mustangs of the NAHL have announced they will play their home games in the Santa Ana Star Center starting in 2010.

## Team: Odessa Jackalopes

**Affiliate:** New York Islanders (NHL) & Bridgeport Sound Tigers (AHL)

**Principal Owner:** Miles Prentice and Bob Richmond

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Ector County Coliseum

**Date Built:** 1954 (renovated in 1991)



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

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** In late 2007, the Jackalopes and Ector County 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 system in April 2008.

## 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](#)

## Team: Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees

**Principal Owner:** Joe Sakulenzki

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** State Farm Arena

**Date Built:** 2003

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$23

[Facility Website](#)

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Dodge is paying \$2 million 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](#)

**UPDATE:** The team suspended operations for the 2009-2010 season, but remain in good standing with the CHL as the team looks to resume play for the 2010-2011 season. However, the team's website has been removed and there is speculation that the team will never return.

## 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 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 Fort 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:** In the spring of 2009, the BOK Center and the Oilers agreed to an undisclosed long-term lease 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  
[New Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Thunder will move to the new Intrust Bank Arena for the 2010-2011 season. The arena is budgeted to cost \$185 million and is financed by a 1% increase in the county sales tax. The increase, which expired in December 2007, was approved by a 52% majority vote. The arena opened in January 2010.

**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.

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Appendix 4.2

## 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](#)

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

### Team: Bakersfield Condors

**Affiliates:** Anaheim Ducks (NHL), Syracuse Crunch (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 June of 2010 Condors owner John Fleisig sold the Las Vegas Wranglers, leaving the Condors as his only ECHL franchise.

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

### 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:** The Cyclones won a dramatic Kelly Cup this year - the second in franchise history. The team was forced to overcome a 3-0 series deficit in the second round before advancing and finally winning the cup. This on-ice success has paid off, as the Cyclones saw a whopping 25% increase in ticket sales in 2010, the best in the ECHL.

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

### **Team: Elmira Jackals**

**Affiliates:** Ottawa Senators (NHL) and Binghamton Senators (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 will make up the remaining \$8.25 million.

[Facility Website](#)

### **Team: Florida Everblades**

**Affiliates:** Carolina Hurricanes (NHL), Florida Panthers (NHL), Charlotte Checkers (AHL), and Rochester Americans (AHL)

**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 that the current owners of the Arena would pay to the county. The deal has not been completed, but talks persist.

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

### **Team: Greenville Road Warriors**

**Affiliates:** Minnesota Wild (NHL), Houston Aeros (AHL)

**Principal Owner:** Neil Smith

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** BI-LO Center

**Date Built:** 1998

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$ 63

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Road Warriors were known as the Johnstown Chiefs until 2010. In 2010 the franchise moved to South Carolina, began playing in the BI-LO Center, and changed their name.

### **Team: Gwinnett Gladiators**

**Affiliates:** Atlanta Thrashers (NHL), Columbus Blue Jackets (NHL), Chicago Wolves (AHL), Springfield Falcons (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:** Dallas Stars (NHL), Texas Stars (AHL)

**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: Kalamazoo Wings**

**Affiliate:** San Jose Sharks (NHL), Worcester Sharks (AHL)

**Principal Owner:** Mr. William Johnston

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Wings Stadium

**Date Built:** 1974

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** Wings Stadium in Kalamazoo hosted the 2010 USA National Curling Championships in March.

### **Team: Las Vegas Wranglers**

**Affiliate:** Phoenix Coyotes (NHL), San Antonio Rampage (AHL)  
**Principal Owner:** Wranglers Hockey, LLC  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Orleans Arena  
**Date Built:** 1996  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** Former Wranglers owner (and current Bakersfield Condors owner) Jonathan Flesig sold interest in the team to Wranglers Hockey, LLC in May of 2010 on the condition the company would keep the team in Las Vegas.

## Team: Ontario Reign

**Affiliates:** Los Angeles Kings (NHL), Manchester Monarchs (AHL)  
**Principal Owner:** Anschutz Entertainment Group  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Citizens Business Bank Arena  
**Date Built:** 2008  
**Facility Cost (millions):** \$130  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Reign had the highest attendance in the EHL, a year after the team finished second in that category. Ontario averaged 6,400 fans per game - an impressive 10% gain from the 2008-09 season.

## Team: Reading Royals

**Affiliates:** Toronto Maple Leafs (NHL), Boston Bruins (NHL), and Toronto Marlies (AHL), Providence Bruins (AHL)  
**Principal Owner:** SMG & AEG  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Sovereign Center  
**Date Built:** 2001  
**Facility Cost (millions):** \$25  
**Facility Financing:** \$12.5 million came from a state grant, \$12.5 million was matched by Burkes County, partially through a 5% hotel room tax.  
[Facility Website](#)

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Sovereign Bank has a \$3 million 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.

## **Team: Stockton Thunder**

**Affiliates:** Edmonton Oilers (NHL), San Jose Sharks (NHL), and Worcester Sharks (AHL), Oklahoma City Barons (AHL)  
**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](#)

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Guaranty Bank, which had previously offered to pay \$2.75 million over seven 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 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:** Detroit Red Wings (NHL), Chicago Blackhawks (NHL), and Grand Rapids Griffins (AHL), Rockford IceHogs (AHL)  
**Principal Owner:** Toledo Arena Sports Inc.  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Huntington Center  
**Date Built:** 2009  
**Facility Cost:** \$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 and suspended operations until the new stadium was completed in 2009. The old Toledo Sports Arena was demolished to make way for the Huntington Center.

## **Team: Trenton Devils**

**Affiliates:** New Jersey Devils (NHL), Albany Devils (AHL)



**Principal Owner:** New Jersey Devils

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Sun National Bank Center

**Date Built:** 1999

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$53

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

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Trenton Devils had the second worst attendance in the league during the 2009-10 season. The only team to have a lower attendance in 2009-10 was the Johnstown Chiefs - a franchise that has left Johnstown for Greenville, South Carolina. The Devils averaged only 2,500 fans for each game, well below the 8,500 seat capacity of the Sun National Bank Center.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Length and financial details of the naming rights agreement between the Devils and Sun National Bank were not released when the deal was reached in November of 2009.

## Team: Utah Grizzlies

**Affiliates:** New York Islanders (NHL), Calgary Flames (NHL), and Bridgeport Sound Tigers (AHL), Abbotsford Heat (AHL)

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

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Maverik Center

**Date Built:** 1997

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$58

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

[Facility Website](#)

**NAMING RIGHTS:** Grocery chain Maverik agreed to a naming rights deal with the Grizzlies in 2010. Details of the agreement were not released.

## Team: Victoria Salmon Kings

**Affiliates:** Vancouver Canucks (NHL) and Manitoba Moose (AHL)

**Principal Owner:** Graham Lee

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre

**Date Built:** 2005

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$30

**Facility Financing:** The city borrowed \$30 million to finance the arena.

[Facility Website](#)

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

## **Team: Wheeling Nailers**

**Affiliates:** Pittsburgh Penguins (NHL), and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (AHL)

**Principal Owner:** Jim and Rob Brooks

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** WesBanco Arena

**Date Built:** 1977

**Facility Cost (millions):** The original cost was \$7 million. A \$3.2 million renovation was completed in 2005.

[Facility Website](#)

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

## Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL) (AA)

### Team: Augusta River Hawks

**Principal Owner:** Bob and Diane Kerzner  
[Future Team Website](#)

**Arena:** James Brown Arena  
**Date Built:** 1974  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The Augusta River Hawks will begin play starting with the 2010-11 season. The team's name was decided by a fan vote.

### Team: Columbus Cottonmouths

**Principal Owner:** Jacob 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 in 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

**Principal Owner:** Howard Bullard and Kevin MacNaught  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Cumberland County 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](#)

**UPDATE:** It was announced in October 2008, that the arena would undergo a massive \$15 million renovation and will be renamed the Propst Arena after the family that donated \$5 million to the city for the renovation. In February 2010 another renovation broke ground on what will eventually be known as the Mark C. Smith Concert Hall.

**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: 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: Louisiana IceGators**

**Principal Owner:** Danny Smith  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Blackham Coliseum  
**Date Built:** 1950  
**Facility Cost (millions):** \$60 M

**UPDATE:** The team was an expansion team for the 2009-2010 season. The franchise got off to a rough start as its coach resigned 3 games into the franchise's existence and the general manager was suspended after an in-game tirade by him left most of the IceGators' equipment on the ice.

### **Team: Mississippi Surge**

**Principal Owner:** Coast Hockey LLC (Richard Dedaux, Mike Diaz, Bo Lindsay, Jason Ondrizek, Chuck Thuss, and Steffon Walby)  
[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Mississippi Coast Coliseum  
**Date Built:** 1977  
[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The team was an expansion team for the 2009-2010 season. The team faced controversy in its first year as many fans complained that the team logo was too reminiscent of Hurricane Katrina - which had devastated the Mississippi coast only a few years before.

## **Team: Pensacola Ice Flyers**

**Principal Owner:** Tim Kerr

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Pensacola Civic Center

**Date Built:** 1985

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The team was an expansion team for the 2009-2010 season. The team's name was chosen in reference to the legendary Blue Angels fighter pilots who are based at the nearby Naval Air Station Pensacola.

## International Hockey League (IHL) (AA)

### Team: Bloomington Prairie Thunder

**Principal Owner:** Tom Leighton

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** US Cellular Coliseum

**Date Built:** 2006

**Facility Cost (millions):** \$37

**Facility Financing:** Funded by the City of Bloomington.

[Facility Website](#)

**NAMING RIGHTS:** U.S. Cellular purchased naming rights of the Coliseum in 2005. As part of the agreement, U.S. Cellular will pay \$1.75 million over 10 years.

### Team: Dayton Gems

**Principal Owner:** GDHP, LLC lead by Rob Garfield

**Affiliate:** Chi-Town Shooters (AAHL)

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Hara Arena

**Date Built:** 1964

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The IHL terminated the ownership of the Gems in January of 2010. The league pursued new ownership for the team and eventually sold the team to GDHP, LLC which is lead by Rob Garfield.

### Team: Evansville IceMen

**Principal Owner:** Ron Geary

[Team Website](#)

**Arena:** Swonder Ice Arena

**Date Built:** 2002

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The former Muskegon Fury moved to Evansville, Indiana and became the IceMen after the conclusion of the 2009-10 IHL season. The franchise replaces the former Evansville IceMen which ceased operations.

### 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: Quad City Mallards**

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

**Arena:** i Wireless Center

**Date Built:** 1993

[Facility Website](#)

**UPDATE:** The team's predecessor played in the UHL from 1995-2007, but the Mallards were considered an expansion team in the IHL beginning in 2009-2010.

**NAMING RIGHTS:** The team announced a 10-year agreement with the wireless service beginning in 2005. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

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