Top Sporting Venues of the 20th Century

1. Yankee Stadium
2. Augusta National
3. Michie Stadium
4. Cameron Indoor Stadium
5. Bislett Stadium
6. Wrigley Field
7. Roland Garros
8. Lambeau Field
9. Fenway Park
10. Saratoga Race Course

*By Sports Illustrated

Top 10 American Sporting Venues in ESPN History

1. Wrigley Field
2. Cameron Indoor Stadium
3. Lambeau Field
4. Chicago Stadium/United Center
5. SBC Park
6. Joe Louis Arena
7. Notre Dame Stadium
8. Fenway Park
9. Yankee Stadium
10. Boston Garden
Cameron Indoor Stadium has been a perfect home for the Duke University basketball program. Conceived on the back of a matchbook cover and renovated in the late 1980s at a cost of $2 million, Cameron has been the site of 689 Blue Devil victories.

It was on the cover of a book of matches that Eddie Cameron and Wallace Wade first sketched out the plan for Duke’s Indoor Stadium in 1935. The story may be a myth (the matchbook has never been found), but then the Indoor Stadium that emerged from those first scribblings lends itself to the propagation of myths.

For 66 years, spectators, players and coaches have understood the unique magic of the Indoor Stadium. The building was dedicated to longtime Duke athletic director and basketball coach Eddie Cameron, a legend in his own right, on Jan. 22, 1972. An unranked Duke team upset then third-ranked North Carolina, 76-74, after Robby West drove the length of the court to hit a pull-up jumper to win the game.

It’s the intimacy of the arena, the unique seating arrangement that puts the wildest fans right down on the floor with the players. It’s the legends that were made there, the feeling of history being made with every game. And it’s something more than either of these, something indescribable that comes from the building itself. No one who has experienced it will ever forget it.

The Stadium was ready to be opened by the first of the new year in 1940. The final cost: $400,000 (which Duke finished paying after the football team won the Sugar Bowl in 1945).

Duke’s new Indoor Stadium was officially opened on Jan. 6, 1940. Touring the building before the evening ceremony and subsequent game, local city officials were “speechless.” Said Chamber of Commerce President Col. Marion B. Fowler, “It is so colossal and so wonderful ... This building will not only be an asset to the university but to the entire community as well.” Chamber Secretary Frank Pierson concurred, “There are no superlatives for it.”

The building was dedicated before a crowd of 8,000, the largest ever in the history of southern basketball. President William P. Few and Dean William H. Wannamaker presented the Stadium to the University. The Blue Devils beat the visiting Princeton Tigers that night, 36-27.

Renovations to the arena began in 1987. The lobbies and concourse were remodeled during the summer of 1987. Then, in 1988, work began on the interior of the arena. A new electronic scoreboard, new sound system and decorative wood paneling gave Cameron an
“We have something very special here at Duke, and that’s the intimacy that has developed between the students and their team. I’m glad Duke administration always looks at it that the Duke students get the best seats.” — Mike Krzyzewski

“Cameron Indoor Stadium is the best place to play in the nation whether it is college or professional sports. I am blessed to have been a part of it.”
— Trajan Langdon

“Cameron is the best place to play in America” — Dick Vitale

“It is a building with a soul.”
— Mike Krzyzewski

► Completed in 1940, Cameron Indoor Stadium is one of the treasures of college basketball. The classic venue has played host to some of the greatest moments in the history of the game. Duke has won 83 percent of its games in the building, including a 70-3 mark over the last five seasons.
updated look, while maintaining the original elegance. The addition of 750 new student seats, increasing Cameron’s capacity to 9,314, gave the Cameron Crazies, the Duke students who have made a name for themselves as Duke’s exceptional “Sixth Man,” a little more room to practice the art of supporting their team creatively.

In the early 1990s, the time was right to give Cameron an addition with new locker rooms, coaches’ offices, an academic center and a new Sports Hall of Fame. Several years later, ground was broken for the new Schwartz-Butters Athletic Center after the end of the 1997-98 season. That complex now houses the men’s and women’s basketball programs, as well as Duke’s athletic academic center. The first part of that expansion and improvement project was the installation of a new floor in Cameron Indoor Stadium after the 1996-97 season. The latest advancements in floor technology were utilized to give the Blue Devils one of the finest playing surfaces in the entire country. Prior to the 1999-2000 season, a new press row was added. The latest renovations at Cameron are the addition of air conditioning, a new roof, new flooring on the concourse level and improvements to the locker rooms.

Excerpted from “Home Court - Fifty Years of Cameron Indoor Stadium” by Hazel Landwehr.

### Cameron Attendance Records

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The $15.2 million Center for Athletic Excellence (CAE) will be a first-class athletics complex designed to inspire, enhance and celebrate Duke University’s extraordinary student-athletes in all 26 intercollegiate sports. The CAE will contain three vital components — the department’s academic support center, a premier campus banquet space and a basketball training facility for both the Duke men’s and women’s basketball programs
The home of Duke basketball is the Schwartz/Butters Athletic Center. The building, which is adjacent to Cameron Indoor Stadium, was dedicated on April 15, 2000. It is named after Alan D. Schwartz, a former Duke baseball player and the current executive vice president of Bear Stearns and Companies, Inc., and Tom Butters, Duke’s long-time athletics director.

The six-story building overlooks Blue Devil Plaza, an open grassy area that connects several of Duke’s athletic facilities, including Cameron Indoor Stadium, Card Gym, the Wilson Student Recreation Center and the Sheffield Indoor Tennis Center. During basketball season, Blue Devil Plaza transforms into Krzyzewskiville, the tent village of hundreds of Duke students waiting to get into games at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The Schwartz/Butters Athletic Center is the anchor of the vast athletics complex, housing the Duke Sports Hall of Fame in addition to new offices, locker rooms and player lounges for both the men’s and women’s basketball programs. The 5,890 square-foot men’s basketball locker room comes equipped with a Jacuzzi and sauna. There are weight/aerobic (1,475 square feet) and training facilities (1,075 square feet) with state-of-the-art equipment for the basketball team.

Additionally, the student-athlete academic center, under the direction of Brad Berndt, assistant athletics director for academic services, is housed on the third floor of the building. The academic floor was financed by a gift from Jack H. Campbell.

The Schwartz/Butters Athletic Center, part of a $75 million athletic facilities renovation project at Duke, provides the Blue Devils with one of the finest facilities in all of college basketball. It is tangible evidence of the university’s commitment to providing its student-athletes with top-notch facilities.

Currently, the University is moving forward on the construction of The Center for Athletic Excellence, a complex designed to inspire, enhance and celebrate Duke’s extraordinary student-athletes in all 26 intercollegiate sports. The Center for Excellence will contain three vital components — the Jack Campbell Academic Support Center, the University Events Center that will be a premier campus banquet space able to accommodate 300 people and a basketball training facility for the men’s and women’s basketball teams. Included in the training facility will be a world class weight and conditioning room, a team and individual video viewing complex, and new academic resources space.

All three areas of the 56,000 square-foot center are different in their use, but all three provide Duke student-athletes and the entire University community with a superior mental and physical training and preparation facility.
The mission of the Duke Basketball Strength and Conditioning Program is to merge the team’s principles of hard work and effort with the development of functional strength, agility, footwork, flexibility, core strength and conditioning. The program aims to facilitate growth of its players’ basketball talent and fulfillment of their athletic potential via complete physical maximization.

Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach William Stephens is in his ninth season with the Duke Athletics program. Stephens oversees the Strength and Conditioning programs for both men’s and women’s basketball.

The 41-year-old is a native of Elizabethtown, N.C., and a 1987 graduate of N.C. Central University with a degree in Criminal Justice. He is an accomplished weightlifter, as he was a three-time state powerlifting champion from 1991-93. He also held the state record in the deadlift (661 lbs.) and was a gold medal winner at the World Championships for Law Enforcement in 1994. A member of the National Strength and Conditioning Association, Stephens has been a certified strength and conditioning specialist since 1996.

He has one son, P.J. (8).
Led by nationally renowned physicians and certified athletic trainers, Duke’s sports medicine program is widely considered the very best in the nation. In essence, the mission of the sports medicine program at Duke is to combine the latest innovations and technology in injury recognition, prevention, treatment and performance enhancement with an outstanding collection of doctors, certified athletic trainers and other support personnel to give the Blue Devil student-athlete a quality experience while at Duke.

Duke student-athletes have access to some of the top doctors with vast experience in athletics at the college and professional levels, all of whom are affiliated with the Duke Sports Medicine Center. Dr. Claude T. Moorman III, former head team physician for the NFL’s Baltimore Ravens, serves as the center’s director and head team physician. A 1987 graduate from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, he returned to Duke after serving as the Director of Sports Medicine at the University of Maryland Medical Center from 1996-2001. Moorman, a Duke football letterman from 1980-82, heads the Sports Medicine Center staff, which also includes:

• Dean Taylor, MD - Professor of Surgery, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Director of Shoulder Fellowship. A 1981 graduate of West Point, Taylor joined the Duke staff in 2006 after serving as a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Minnesota. Taylor, who graduated from Duke Medical School in 1985, became a member of the staff at Minnesota and served as a team physician for the NFL’s Minnesota Vikings, NHL’s Minnesota Wild and University of Minnesota athletic program after retiring as a Colonel from the U.S. Army following 24 years of service. He spent 11 years as the head team physician for athletes at West Point.

• Jeff Bytomski, DO, CAQSM - Medical Team Physician. Bytomski completed a fellowship at the Duke University Sports Medicine Center in 2002. During the fellowship, he worked with the women’s soccer and women’s basketball team. He was also the medical team physician for North Carolina Central University and Carolina Cobras (Arena Football). Now in his third year at Duke, Bytomski is a 1993 graduate of San Diego State University. He completed his medical training at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1998 and family medicine residency at the Phoenix Baptist Hospital.

• Frank H. Bassett III, MD - Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Duke team physician emeritus. Bassett was the head team physician at Duke for 35 years and assists in fund-raising for the department of athletics.

The Duke athletic training staff is headed by Dave Engelhardt, now in his 26th year at Duke, and Jose Fonseca, who is the head basketball trainer.

Fonseca begins his third year at Duke after spending two years at Nebraska as the men’s basketball athletic trainer. While at Nebraska, he also assisted with the Cornhuskers’ nationally ranked football program. Prior to Nebraska, he was the athletic trainer for men’s basketball and baseball at East Tennessee State University from 1999-2002. Originally from San Salvador, El Salvador, Fonseca earned a B.S. degree in exercise and sports science with an emphasis in athletic training at The Pennsylvania State University in 1997. He returned to Penn State to earn his master’s degree in kinesiology in 1999.

Kerry Mullenix serves as the director of athletic rehabilitation in the Duke training room. He has a bachelor’s degree with an emphasis in athletic training from Nebraska in 1993 and a master’s degree in physical therapy from the Nebraska Medical Center in 1997. Prior to arriving at Duke in 1998, the Woodbine, Iowa, native worked at Jennie Edmundson Sports Medicine in Iowa and at Healthworks Rehabilitation Center. Other certified athletic trainers on staff who assist in the care of Duke student-athletes include Jen McCollum, Joe Ferraro, Summer McKeehan, Elizabeth Zanolli, Jennie Serenelli, Andrew Norden and Hap Zarzour.

Other facets of the sports medicine program include the very best training meals, monitored by sports nutritionist Franca Alphin, access to sports psychologists, and the ability to utilize the resources of the Duke Sports Medicine Center. Those resources include The Duke Sports Medicine Clinic, Michael Krzyzewski Human Performance Lab (K-Lab) and the Duke Sports Performance Program. Each program brings an important element to the care of Duke student-athletes.
Duke’s athletic program ranks among the finest in the entire nation. Duke ranked eighth in the 2006 final Directors’ Cup standings, a measure of a school’s all-around athletic success. It was Duke’s second consecutive top 10 finish in the all-sports rankings.


Duke was very successful nationally in 2005-06 as 12 teams competed in NCAA Tournament action with three advancing to the Final Four. Five Duke squads earned ACC championships, bringing its total to 38 over the past eight years. Individually, Duke boasted 26 All-America selections and two National Players of the Year. Basketball player J.J. Redick was named the winner of the James E. Sullivan Award as the top amateur athlete in the United States. The Blue Devils also dominated the league awards, notching 50 All-ACC selections, four Players of the Year and four Coaches of the Year.

Off the playing fields and courts, Duke continued to excel academically. In the 2006 ACC Academic Honor Roll awarded to student-athletes for a GPA of 3.0 or higher, Duke led all schools for the 18th consecutive year with 362 honorees.