

Navigating McKale Center

From its beginning, McKale Center was a venue worth waiting for.

It took three years to gather the funds to build it and two years of construction to make McKale Center a reality. Delays pushed the arena's total cost from \$2 million to more than \$8 million. When it opened to the first men's basketball crowd 44 seasons ago, however, McKale became a hit. Today, it packs in more fans than any other Pac-12 Conference venue — and a ticket is a hard prospect when the Wildcats take the floor.



The arena's namesake

The University of Arizona Alumni Association voted in 1967 to name the proposed arena after Dr. J.F. "Pop" McKale. (The popular former Arizona coach and teacher died earlier that year.) He served as the university's athletic director from 1914 to 1957, and as a coach for football, baseball, track and basketball.



JANUARY 1971

Construction begins at the site of McKale Center. Here, it was nothing more than a deep hole in the ground.

— Special Collections, University of Arizona Libraries, University of Arizona Photograph Collection, McKale Memorial Center



FEB. 1, 1973

Due to construction delays, the Wildcats play their first game at McKale Center with just one month remaining in the season. Arizona defeats Wyoming 87-69.

— Special Collections, University of Arizona Libraries, University of Arizona Photograph Collection, McKale Memorial Center



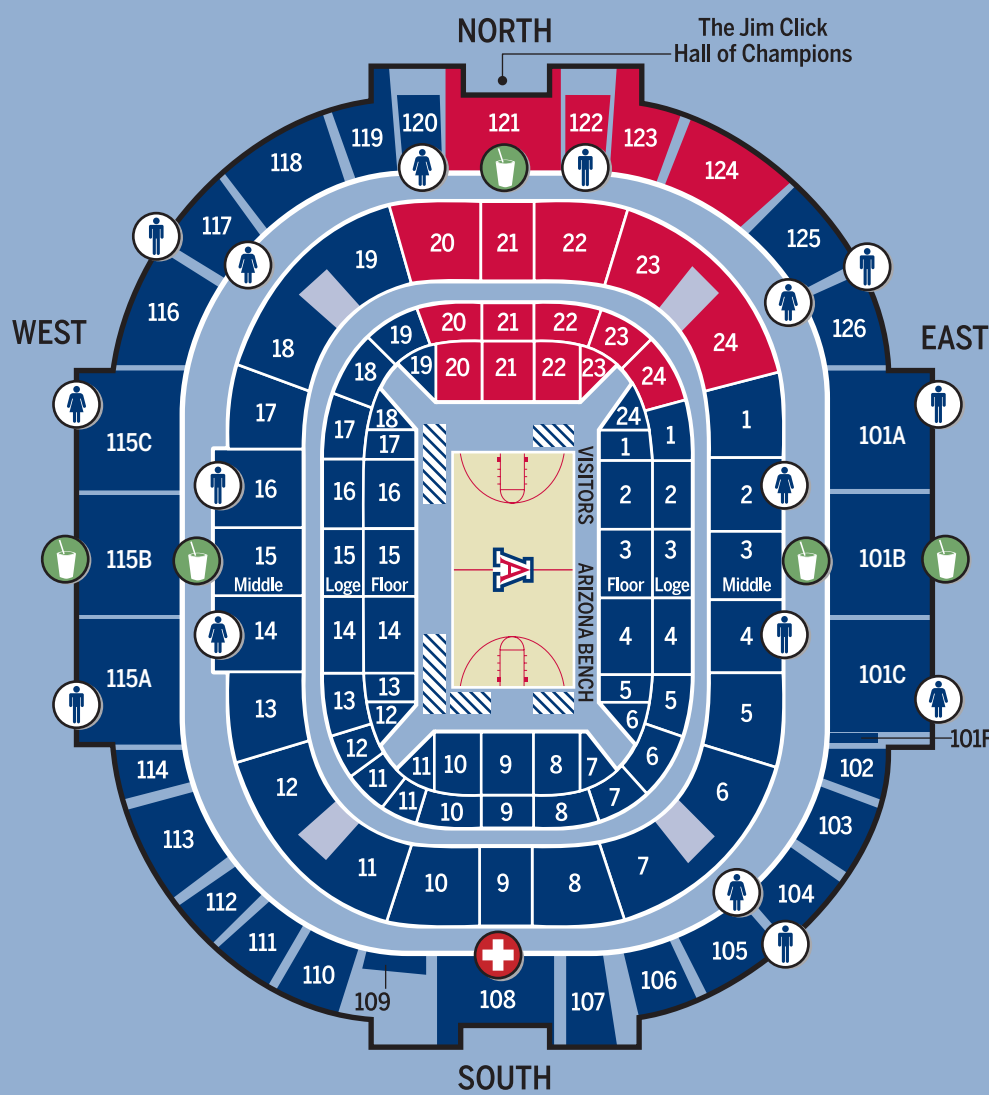
Did you know?

The McKale Center roof is adorned with a band of copper sheets, which cost \$107,000 to install in 1973 (as seen in this photo to the left). This feature is a nod to the state's major mining product. Over the years, however, the band's once shiny exterior has taken on a darker demeanor, making its copper glow almost unrecognizable.

Photo courtesy of Special Collections, University of Arizona Libraries, University of Arizona Photograph Collection, McKale Memorial Center

How to get tickets

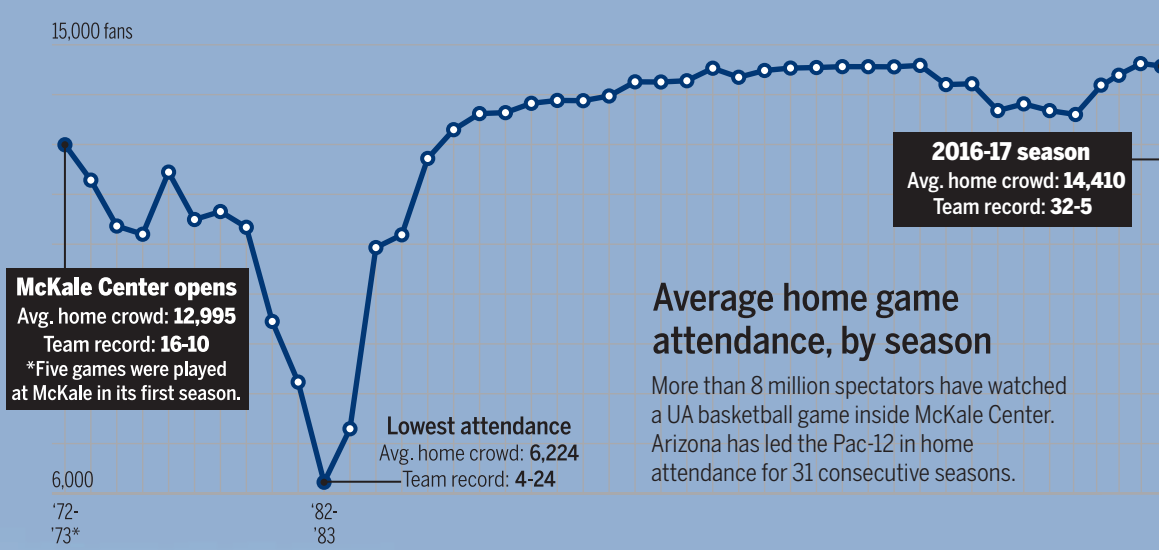
Arizona men's basketball season tickets are available. Single-game tickets for nonconference home games can be purchased online at www.arizonawildcats.com, from the McKale Ticket Office or by calling 621-2287. Unreserved student-section tickets in Sections 20-24 may be put on sale during game weeks. Women's basketball single-game tickets range in price from \$5 (for children and seniors) to \$10.



Where to find: Restrooms, Concessions, First aid, Student cheering section, Scholarship row

By the numbers

- 2,300 Members in ZonaZoo, the student cheering section.
- 13,658 Seating capacity for men's basketball games in 1973
- 14,655 Current seating capacity
- 15,176 Biggest home game crowd (March 4, 1978, against Arizona State. The Wildcats won 88-75.)



Average home game attendance, by season

More than 8 million spectators have watched a UA basketball game inside McKale Center. Arizona has led the Pac-12 in home attendance for 31 consecutive seasons.



JAN. 20, 1984

An emotional moment of silence precedes the game against ASU. Just four days after his father — Malcolm Kerr, president of American University in Beirut — is assassinated, Steve Kerr scores 12 points in a 71-49 win over the Sun Devils.

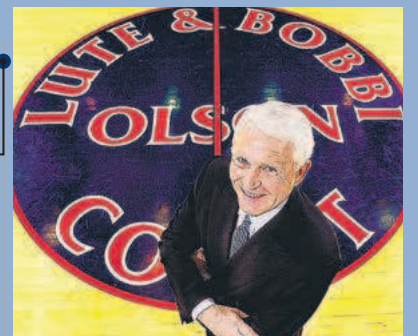
— Arizona Daily Star photo



FEB. 18, 1989

A free throw with 7:10 remaining in a game against UCLA gives Arizona forward Sean Elliott the title of Pac-10 career scoring leader — pushing him past UCLA's Lew Alcindor, who would later change his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Elliott led the team in scoring for four consecutive seasons.

— Arizona Daily Star photo



JAN. 7, 2001

At a memorial for Lute Olson's late wife, Bobbi, the floor in McKale is renamed "Lute & Bobbi Olson Court." The floor was previously recognized as "Lute Olson Court" on Feb. 26, 2000, in honor of the Wildcats' head coach. Olson is one of three coaches in NCAA history to post 29 or more 20-win seasons — 20 of those consecutively.

— Arizona Daily Star photo

