

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

McCarthy Athletic Center

2004-'14 ♦ A DECADE OF DOMINANCE



HOMECOURT ADVANTAGE

The McCarthy Athletic Center opened on Nov. 19, 2004 and has played host to 143 Gonzaga men's basketball games, of which only eight were losses.

Winning defines McCarthy, but there's so much more

Truth be told, Adam Morrison liked the old Kennel, now remaindered to volleyball just a few feet to the west. "Loved it," he said. "It was so loud, and you had the general admission part that kind of amped things up – and the Kennel Club wasn't university sponsored then, so you knew what they were up to beforehand." It was hot, it was humble, maybe a little rough-and-tumble. It was a gym, not all that much different from the one where basketball was born. Like Morrison's game, it was both old school and edgy – maybe even a little dangerous.

"Then when we moved into the building, you could see the program taking the next step," the one-time NCAA scoring champ said, "and that was exciting in a whole different way."

Now it's 10 years after – and going home has never meant quite so much to the Gonzaga Bulldogs.

In November 2004, Gonzaga University opened a building befitting its newfound basketball notoriety, and the Zags have never looked back. How much of that precisely is the doing of playing games in the McCarthy Athletic Center and not the snug old Kennel cannot be quantified, but it's impossible to imagine the momentum being quite

JOHN BLANCHETTE



so irresistible without it. In the 205 weeks of poll voting since their move next door, the Zags have been in the Top 25 for 144.

In their first decade of residence, the Bulldogs won 135 of 143 games in McCarthy, a percentage of 94.4 – second only during that span to Kansas' 94.9 in

Allen Fieldhouse. Four of those losses came against Top 25 teams; Saint Mary's and Santa Clara account for the only debits in a 74-2 mark against West Coast Conference opponents.

On the nights when the men are out of town, the women are only somewhat less dominant: 133-17 over the first 10 years.

Now, it was in an earlier visit to McCarthy and not the arena-record 52-point drubbing he endured this year that St. Joseph's coach Phil Martelli cast some necessary light on those numbers.

"You understand that the toughest part about playing here," he said, "are the guys in the other uniforms."

Meaning it's not the noise from the obligatory sellout crowd, the Kennel Club's bon mots, the championship banners or the legacy. It's the players, duh.

And yet you can hardly discount the comfort level.

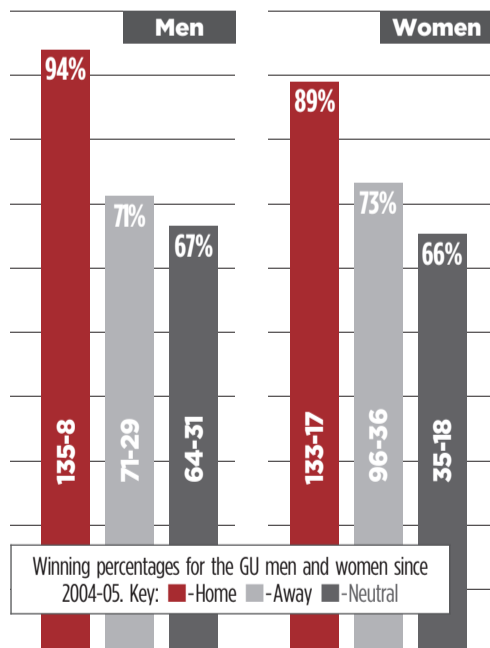
"This is easily the best place I've ever played in," said forward Byron

See **BLANCHETTE, T8**

POWER OF THE MAC

Both the Gonzaga men's and women's basketball teams have enjoyed tremendous success at the McCarthy Athletic Center since it opened in November 2004.

At right, see how the Zags men and women have fared at home, away and on neutral courts over the past decade.



MEN'S HOME COURT RECORDS

School	Venue	Record	Pct.
Kansas	Allen Fieldhouse	150-8	.949
Gonzaga	McCarthy Athletic Center	135-8	.944
Duke	Cameron Indoor Arena	154-11	.933
Ohio State	Value City Arena	163-17	.906
Michigan State	Breslin Events Center	145-17	.895
Memphis	FedEx Forum	177-21	.894
Wisconsin	Kohl Center	152-19	.889
North Carolina	Smith Center	146-19	.885
VCU	Siegel Center	132-18	.880
Kentucky	Rupp Arena	146-22	.869

Staff graphic: Ralph Walter and John Blanchette

McCarthy Athletic Center

2004-'14 ♦ A DECADE OF DOMINANCE



THE BEST AND BIGGEST

How do you pick the 10 best games at McCarthy Athletic Center? Depending on the criteria, any number of games would qualify. Here is our Top 10 list, with the stature of games carrying just as much weight as the drama:



1

DECEMBER 1, 2004

**Gonzaga 99,
Washington 87**

The first appearance of a ranked team (No. 14 UW) in McCarthy coupled with a crackling rivalry -- highlighted by Derek Raivio drilling five 3s, with eight assists and no turnovers against Husky pressure. "I don't think we are in their heads," says Ronny Turiaf, who had 23 points and 13 rebounds in a seventh straight win over UW. "Maybe you should ask them and they would tell you yes."

2

DECEMBER 5, 2007

**WSU 51,
Gonzaga 47**

First meeting of both schools being ranked (WSU 8, GU 17). Taylor Rochestie's 3-pointer with 28.6 seconds left is the clinching bucket in a tense, defensive masterpiece, in which the Zags shoot just 26 percent. It's WSU first win over a ranked non-conference opponent on the road.

3

MARCH 6, 2006

**Gonzaga 68,
Loyola Marymount 67**

The most harrowing game in the best season of McCarthy thrillers sees the Zags come back from 15 points down in final 14 minutes of the WCC Tournament championship. But they still have to survive LMU's Chris Ayer missing a layup at the buzzer. "He just kind of donked it, I guess," said Erroll Knight, who insisted he didn't block it.

4

DECEMBER 17, 2005

**Gonzaga 80,
Virginia 69**

An ACC school visits Spokane for the first time and Sean Singleton is spectacular -- 35 points, six rebounds, four assists and six steals for the Cavs. Adam Morrison, J.P. Batista and Derek Raivio (in his first action after sitting out with a back bruise) score 23 of Gonzaga's final 29 points to erase a 57-51 Virginia lead.



GREATEST MEMORIES FROM THE MAC



"Beating UW in 2004. That year we got housed by Illinois at Consec and we had a day to come back and prepare, and they had three NBA guys and we really had to find an identity. The atmosphere that game -- that was the first taste of what this place could be."

Adam Morrison



"When we had ESPN College GameDay in here and came back against Stanford to win -- that and the Husky games and Michigan State and games like those have had electric, big-time atmosphere that can match any big building."

Mark Few



"We've had some great, great players -- the first game in here we have three league MVPs in the lineup (Ronny Turiaf, Adam Morrison and Derek Raivio) and J.P. Batista who could have been most years. But before this building, we couldn't get other people to come in here. To see Tom Izzo walk into your building, that's pretty special."

Mike Roth, GU athletic director

McCarthy Athletic Center

2004-'14 ♦ A DECADE OF DOMINANCE



5
JANUARY 10, 2013
Gonzaga 83,
Saint Mary's 78

Kelly Olynyk (31 points) and the Zags couldn't have been better in building a 20-point lead, and the Gaels couldn't have been more determined in wiping it out, coming within a missed 3-pointer by Matthew Dellavedova of tying it with eight seconds left.

6
FEBRUARY 10, 2007
Gonzaga 60,
Saint Mary's 49

Josh Heytvelt's suspension rocks Spokane and threatens another WCC title run, but the Zags swarm Omar Samhan and Diamon Simpson inside and rally behind Matt Bouldin, Jeremy Pargo and Derek Raivio to extend their home court winning streak to 50.



7
JANUARY 27, 2011
Saint Mary's 73,
Gonzaga 71

The last of the "Gaels collection" on this list, Mickey McConnell makes a nifty 15-foot leaper over 7-foot Robert Sacre for the game-winner, the last of his 27 points, and the Zags have to share the WCC regular season title for the first time since 2002.

Continued on page T6

GREATEST MEMORIES FROM THE MAC



"I don't remember how good the games were, but the Saint Mary's games during the Omar Samhan years when the Kennel Club kids were dressed up in the big sumo suits brought a different kind of energy. Having a 'villain' always adds something."

Tom Hudson,
radio voice of the Zags



"It's a blowout game against Santa Clara and Mike Hart runs down two offensive rebounds in a row (the last leading to an Elias Harris basket) - and the place gives him a standing ovation. That kind of thing you just don't see very often."

Jim Meehan,
Spokesman-Review's current Gonzaga reporter

CREDITS

Project editor: Joe Palmquist; **Reporting and writing:** John Blanchette; **Photography:** Dan Pelle, Kathy Plonka, Colin Mulvany, Jesse Tinsley, Tyler Tjomsland, Spokesman-Review archive, Associated Press; **Design:** Ralph Walter

Retirement Living with Affordable Elegance

BROADWAY COURT ESTATES
The perfect place to hang your hat.

INCLUDED IN RENT:

- Gourmet Dinner Meal
- Continental Breakfast
- 24 Hr Emergency Call System
- All Utilities
- Indoor Pool

- Transportation Service
- Housekeeping
- Free Wi-Fi Internet
- Onsite Exercise Facilities
- Life Enrichment Programs

RENTAL APARTMENT FEATURES:

- Related Property
- Full Kitchen w/ Appliances
- Apartment Security System
- Gas Heat/Air Conditioning
- Balconies & Patios

- Washers & Dryers
- Garages
- Greenhouse
- Raised Bed Gardens

2015 Best of Senior Living

13505 East Broadway, Spokane Valley
www.BroadwayCourtEstates.com
 Please call for your personal lunch tour
(509) 921-0249

Thank you for the opportunity to work on the
 McCarthy Athletic Center!
Congratulations on 10 years!

60 years specializing in commercial, industrial, and institutional CMU, brick and stone, serving Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Alaska

www.spilkermasonry.com
 (509) 489-7311

SPIKER MASONRY COMPANY
 Family Owned & Operated Since 1954

McCarthy Athletic Center



2004-'14 + A DECADE OF DOMINANCE

THROUGH THE YEARS

10/23/2004
Opens to the public with a dedication and scrimmage.

11/5/2004
New arena gets a game-night shakedown cruise, a 114-86 exhibition victory over Emporia State. **Sean Mallon** lights it up for 28 points in front of a crowd of 5,941.

11/19/2004
First official game in McCarthy sees **Ronny Turiaf** score 33 points and Zags shoot 65 percent in a 98-80 win over Portland State.

11/20/2004
The women get their first bow in the new building, whipping Utah Valley 87-41 in front of 1,644.

11/21/2004
A 78-62 win over Montana is the only regular-season men's game not listed as a 6,000-seat sellout. Official attendance: 5,917.

12/1/2004
First ranked opponent in McCarthy, No. 14 UW, falls 99-87.

1/16/2005
Bill Cosby, left, takes the stage as the first non-sports attraction.

1/29/05
ESPN cameras visit McCarthy for the first time for 91-79 win over Portland on the Deuce.

2/3/2005
Down 12 at halftime, Zags hold Saint Mary's to 24 percent shooting thereafter in 68-63 win.

2/19/2005
Adam Morrison fall-away jumper from the wing with .05 a second left beats USF 75-73. **John Cox's** desperation heave from the wing for USF was ruled to have come after the buzzer.

2/26/2005
Gonzaga's women make their debut as a Top 25 team with an 81-35 blitz of Portland to clinch their first 14-0 WCC season, with a league-record 5,825 on hand.



9/29/2005
Yellowcard, above, headlines the biggest rock concert on campus since Led Zeppelin and Vanilla Fudge played in 1968.

10/21/2005
You might be a redneck if you attended **Jeff Foxworthy's** concert.

12/18/2005
The Zags women fall for the first time in the new joint, 72-60 to Montana.

12/31/2005
St. Joseph's makes 15 3-pointers - still a McCarthy record - in a 102-94 loss.

1/16/06
Zags make first Big Monday appearance on ESPN, a 92-80 winner over LMU.

1/28/2006
Adam Morrison sets an arena record with 42 points against Portland.

2/6/2006
Sean Mallon's free throw with .03 left beats Saint Mary's 62-61.

2/1/2006
ESPN College GameDay visits Spokane and sees **Adam Morrison** rip Stanford for 34 points in an 80-76 win.

3/5/2006
J.P. Batista returns from knee sprain to lift Zags past San Diego 96-92 in overtime in the only WCC Tournament played in Spokane. Gonzaga edges Loyola Marymount for the title the following night.

12/9/2006
Two ranked teams meet for the first time, with No. 18 GU burying No. 13 Washington 97-77 behind **Derek Raivio's** 25 points.



Top row, from left: Sean Mallon goes for 28 in exhibition win in 2004; Ronny Turiaf's 33 carries Zags in first official game at MAC; the Gonzaga women's first win as a Top 25 team came in February 2005; Santa Clara ends GU's win streak at 50 games in 2007.

At right: Kayla Standish helps the Gonzaga women to their 100th victory in 2012.

Bottom row, from left: Patty Mills lights up GU before an injury sidelines him in 2009; In 2010, Heather Bowman becomes GU's all-time scoring leader; Courtney Vandersloot makes history against UCLA in 2011; Robert Sacre helps the GU men earn their 100th MAC victory in 2012; and Kelly Graves coached his final MAC game in 2014.



2/12/2007
Santa Clara ends Gonzaga's 50-game home winning streak dating back to the old Kennel, 84-75.

3/1/2008
Jeremy Pargo scores all 18 of his points in the second half of an 88-76 win over Saint Mary's.

12/30/2008
Coach **Pat Summitt** and Spokane's **Angie Bjorklund** of Tennessee help GU's women sell out the building for the first time with a 77-58 Vols win.

1/29/2009
Saint Mary's **Patty Mills** lights up GU with six 3s before breaking his wrist in a fall, and Zags surge in second half to win 69-62.

3/3/2009
A 90-40 win over USC Upstate on Senior Night is the building's largest margin of victory.



4/24/2009
Death Cab for Cutie, above, plays the McCarthy.

12/2/2009
Zags recover from 12-point halftime deficit to beat WSU 74-69 with **Matt Bouldin** canning seven 3s.

12/5/2009
Wake Forest takes advantage of **Elias Harris'** ejection for a forearm blow to edge the Zags 77-75.

1/21/2010
Pepperdine's **Keion Bell** torches GU for 37 points, an Arena record for a visiting player.

1/30/2010
Heather Bowman becomes GU's all-time women's scoring leader, with the woman she passed, **Tammy Tibbles**, watching the Zags beat USF 93-53.

11/12/2010
Gonzaga scores 117 points against Southern, a McCarthy record.

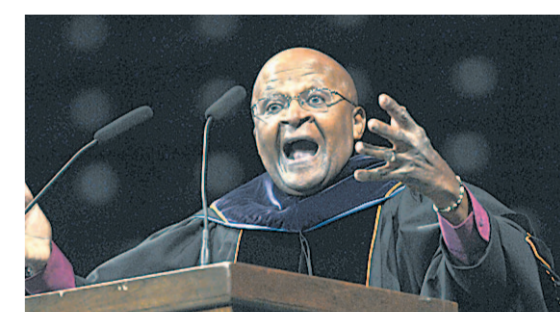
1/16/2010
Steven Gray's 35 points can't stop San Diego State from pulling out a 79-76 win. Coupled with a later loss to Saint Mary's, it's the only time GU has lost twice in the same season in the McCarthy.

3/21/2011
Courtney Vandersloot becomes the first women's player in NCAA history to top 2,000 points and 1,000 assists with a layup in an 89-75 win over UCLA that sends the Zags to the Sweet 16.

11/14/2011
Freshman **Kevin Pangos** scores 33 points on nine 3s in his first start and an ESPN audience sees GU beat WSU 89-81.

1/21/2012
Robert Sacre's 18 points and 11 rebounds spur the Zags to their 100th McCarthy win, 77-60 over San Diego.

2/12/2012
The GU women's 100th victory comes at the expense of Portland, 77-56, with **Kayla Standish** netting 18 in front of 5,136.



5/13/2012
Nobel Prize winner **Desmond Tutu**, above, speaks at graduation.

12/28/2012
Kevin Pangos' 31 points and seven 3s beat Baylor, 94-87.

11/11/2013
Zags make 14 3-pointers in a 93-61 romp over Colorado State.

2/15/2014
The first 10 years at McCarthy ends for the men with a 86-67 sprint past Loyola Marymount behind **Sam Dower's** 25 points.

3/1/2014
Without anyone knowing, it's **Kelly Graves'** McCarthy farewell as women's coach in an 81-77 win over Pacific. He accepts the job at Oregon five weeks later.

GREATEST MEMORIES FROM THE MAC



"I think it was my redshirt year here and we were playing BYU, and Kev (Pangos) threw that oop to Elias (Harris) and the place went nuts."

Kyle Dranginis, Gonzaga guard



"My freshman year, not many people knew or expected me to shoot outside two feet, and I took a mid-range shot and made it - I was 1-for-1 for the year. And everyone in the place got so excited. I thought it was funny. But they show their support for you here in so many ways."

Przemek Karnowski, Gonzaga center

McCarthy Athletic Center

2004-'14 ♦ A DECADE OF DOMINANCE



9



10



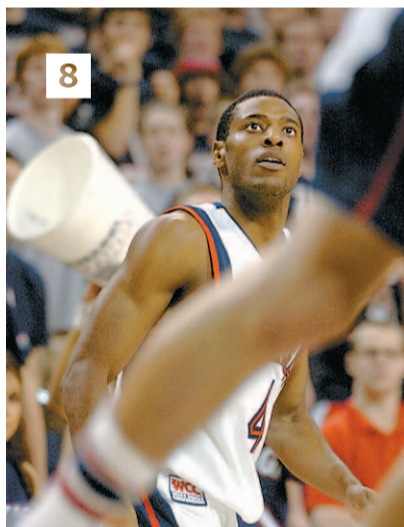
8

8

FEBRUARY 27, 2006

Gonzaga 75, San Francisco 72

Adam Morrison goes for 34 points, but it's his pass to Pierre Marie Altidor-Cespedes for a 3-pointer with two seconds left that allows the Zags to cap a 14-0 WCC season. Erroll Knight's block of a potential go-ahead layup by Armondo Surratt sets the stage for Morrison's "one and only assist." Asked if he was surprised to be on the receiving end, a nonplussed P-Mac said, "Why?"



8

9

NOVEMBER 14, 2011

Gonzaga 89, Washington St. 81

Freshman Kevin Pangos, in his first start, throws an amazing coming-out party on ESPN's 24-hour marathon, drilling nine 3-pointers for 33 points – and the Zags need every one of them to hold off a Cougar comeback from 20 points down in the second half.

10

MARCH 5, 2006

Gonzaga 96, San Diego 92 (OT)

J.P. Batista becomes GU's Willis Reed, coming back from a first-half knee sprain when the Zags blow a 10-point halftime lead in his absence. He scores 21 points and grabs 13 rebounds in between breaks on an exercise bike, but the Bulldogs still have to overcome a buzzer-beating layup by Cory Belzer that sends the game into overtime.



8

GREATEST MEMORIES FROM THE MAC



"After the 2006 USF game Pierre-Marie Altidor-Cespedes won with a 3-pointer, I asked him if he was surprised that Adam Morrison passed up the shot and threw him the ball. He looked at me and said, 'Why?' Why? C'mon, P-MAC, figure it out!"

Steve Bergum,
former Spokesman-Review reporter



"The night Kevin (Pangos) hit nine 3s against Washington State really sticks out. The crowd was almost in disbelief as he kept making them, thinking, 'Who is this kid?'"

Tommy Lloyd,
GU assistant coach



"Senior Nights are my favorite, because that's when you really see the relationships. When J.P. Batista's brother came from Brazil and surprised him and you saw all that emotion come out, I think everybody lost it a little bit."

Greg Heister,
TV play-by-play

McCarthy Athletic Center

2004-'14 ♦ A DECADE OF DOMINANCE



WOMEN'S FANS CATCH FEVER

A look back at three of the most memorable women's games at the MAC



1

MARCH 19, 2011

Gonzaga 92,
Iowa 86

Courtney Vandersloot had 34 points and Kayla Standish 30 in this racehorse victory in the first NCAA Tournament played in the McCarthy, starting a run that would take the Zags to the Elite Eight. The visitors made 13 3-pointers to keep a crowd of 5,632 on the edge of their seats.



2

JANUARY 11, 2007

Gonzaga 78,
Santa Clara 73 (OT)

Stephanie Hawk scored 29 of her 33 points after halftime, and passed the 1,000-point mark, while the Zags guards shut down Chandice Cronk. The national leader in 3-pointers made didn't score from the field, but Jen Gottschalk's 33 points made it tough on GU inside.

3

NOVEMBER 21, 2010

Stanford 84,
Gonzaga 78

The highest-ranked team (No. 3) to visit McCarthy had to withstand a Zags rally from 10 points down, but Jeannette Pohlen's 3-pointers took the starch out of the second sellout crowd in women's history. Courtney Vandersloot's line - 24 points, 10 assists, one turnover - prompted Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer to call her "the real deal."



GREATEST MEMORIES FROM THE MAC



"Seeing Pat Summitt in McCarthy, something I never thought I'd see. As a person invested in women's basketball, I totally understand how big that was."

Dave Trimmer,
former Spokesman-Review reporter



"Courtney Vandersloot becoming the first player to reach 2,000 points and 1,000 assists in the NCAA Tournament game against UCLA. Amazing milestone and to do it in front of 6,000 people on her home court and on that stage just kind of drove home how special she was."

Steve Myklebust,
GU women's radio play-by-play

McCarthy Athletic Center

2004-'14 ♦ A DECADE OF DOMINANCE



BLANCHETTE

Continued from T1

Wesley, the Zags' graduate transfer from USC.

"The crowd is phenomenal. Every game – regardless of who the opponent is – they come, and they come ready. It's a real home-court advantage and that's something I'm not used to, and I can only imagine how tough it is for opposing teams to come in here and have to deal with that crowd all night."

Those testimonials have been a constant through the two or three recruiting generations that have cycled through McCarthy during its existence, and the historical details of its rising are well known.

Like how former GU president the Rev. Robert Spitzer thought he was paying a call on alums Phil and Tom McCarthy to pitch major support for the athletic endowment when coach Mark Few pressed for a new arena. How Spitzer had to go back to the McCarthys for another \$2.3 million to get the project go-ahead. How it was alums and neighborhood guys who bid and built the place, and how the project coordinator for Garco Construction was a former Kennel Club president. How they drove designers crazy trying to replicate the toes-on-the-court feeling for spectators that made the Kennel, the Kennel. How they settled on 6,000 seats because tacking on another 2,000 would grow the \$25 million price tag closer to \$40 million, and how GU decided to be the rare university to live within its athletic means. And, yes, how they quickly peddled all of those seats in advance rather than keeping a few treasures available for game-night sale.

Those last two issues still raise the occasional squawk that surely Gonzaga could have done something else.

"Yeah," joked Greg Heister, who handles television play-by-play for the Zags' locally produced broadcasts. "Build it earlier so Dan Dickau and Blake Stepp could have played there. We laugh at Dickau all the time that it's kind of 'the House That Dan Built.'"

On women's game nights, it's the House that Courtney Filled – but having a one-of-a-kind talent like Courtney Vandersloot wasn't all that produced a second Zags basketball phenomenon. In fact, give the building an assist on this.

With his building sold out for men's games, athletic director Mike Roth sicced his marketing people "almost solely on women's basketball." A different audience responded to both the team's success and its attachment to the players.

And while it's a Top 20 program in attendance, the average audience of 5,600 "isn't spread around a 12-18,000-seat building," Roth noted, "and that makes the atmosphere one of the best in the country. The size of McCarthy works great for women's basketball."

Amazingly enough, it also works great even as the arms race that pushed college football into abominable excess begins to do the same to hoops.

You're not a big-time basketball power now without a practice

TOTAL POINTS

(Through 2013-14)

Player	Pts	Yrs
Elias Harris	795	4
Kevin Pangos	701	4
Matt Bouldin	680	4
Adam Morrison	633	2
Steven Gray	580	4
Robert Sacre	564	4+
Derek Raivio	563	3
Sam Dower Jr.	560	4
J.P. Batista	462	2
Gary Bell Jr.	431	3



Harris



Morrison

SCORING AVERAGE

(Through 2013-14)

Player	Avg	Yrs
Adam Morrison	22.6	2
Ronny Turiaf	19.7	1
J.P. Batista	17.8	2
Kevin Pangos	14.9	3
Derek Raivio	14.4	3
Elias Harris	13.5	4
Matt Bouldin	13.3	4
Josh Heytvelt	12.7	4
Austin Daye	12.3	2
Steven Gray	11.6	4



Vandersloot



Bowman

MEN'S SCORING PERFORMANCES

(Through 2013-14)

Player	Pts	Date	Opponent
Adam Morrison	42	Jan. 28, 2006	Portland
Steven Gray	35	Nov. 16, 2010	San Diego State
Adam Morrison	35	Feb. 11, 2006	Stanford
Adam Morrison	34	Nov. 30, 2005	Portland State
Kevin Pangos	33	Jan. 14, 2011	Washington State
Matt Bouldin	32	Jan. 21, 2010	Pepperdine
J.P. Batista	32	Dec. 31, 2005	St. Joseph's
Kelly Olynky	31	Jan. 10, 2013	Saint Mary's
Kevin Pangos	31	Dec. 28, 2012	Baylor
Adam Morrison	31	Jan. 14, 2006	Pepperdine

WOMEN'S SCORING PERFORMANCES

(Through 2013-14)

Name	Pts	Date	Opponent
Courtney Vandersloot	34	March 19, 2011	Iowa
Heather Bowman	33	Jan. 2, 2009	St. Joseph's
Stephanie Hawk	33	Jan. 11, 2007	Santa Clara
Heather Bowman	31	Feb. 28, 2009	San Diego
Kayla Standish	30	March 19, 2011	Iowa
Kayla Standish	30	March 21, 2011	UCLA
Courtney Vandersloot	29	March 21, 2011	UCLA
Heather Bowman	29	Dec. 12, 2008	S.Dakota State
Heather Bowman	28	Jan. 29, 2009	LMU
Katelyn Redmon	28	Feb. 25, 2012	BYU

palace to go with the glitzy warehouse they open up on game night. Except at Gonzaga, they're one and the same – well-appointed, but lacking pretense, with 24-hour access to any player who wants to come in and work on his shot.

If any aspect of the beloved old mom-and-pop store that used to be Zags basketball has survived, this is it – the gym key John Stockton passed down.

Tommy Lloyd is one of the GU assistants who has to recruit to it, and doesn't consider it a handicap in the least.

"What I'm explaining to kids is environment and atmosphere – and we have that," he said.

"Ultimately, it's much more fun to play in than an NBA arena that's less than half full with a crowd sitting on its hands. Not many arenas are electric night in and night out. Here, it's every night.

"And I prefer to have our guys coming in here for practice or shooting at night on the rims they're shooting at in a game, rather than a side gym."

And here's another recruiting bonus: a better schedule.

Consider that in 1999, when this mad run of success officially began, Gonzaga's out-of-conference home schedule looked like this: St. Martin's, Chicago State, Idaho.

That was it. In the last few years, the Zags have entertained Michigan State and Illinois of the Big Ten, Virginia and Wake Forest of the ACC and the Big 12's Oklahoma State and Baylor. Notre Dame's been here, and Stanford for GameDay. Next year, Arizona and UCLA visit. The women have seen Pat Summitt and Tara VanDerwever bring in Tennessee and Stanford.

"They were never going to come into the old building," Roth said. "And while we don't lose a lot here, we're not a loss that hurts you. It's not going to knock you out of the polls or the tournament."

Not that some visitors don't second guess themselves.

"I remember Tom Izzo walking out and going, 'Wow,' " Zags radio voice Tom Hudson said. "Now, c'mon, what hasn't Tom Izzo seen. I also remember him saying, 'I'm crazy bringing my team into this.' But he did."

Meanwhile, there are still assistants on other teams who come out of the tunnel before tipoff and try to sneak some cellphone video of the whole scene.

That scene has produced wild moments. Morrison standing atop the broadcast table after Loyola

Marymount's Chris Ayer dinked a layup that would have beaten the Zags in the 2006 WCC championship game. Kevin Pangos introducing himself to the nation with nine 3-pointers against Washington State.

Poignant moments, too – as when J.P. Batista's brother, who hadn't seen the Brazilian giant in four years, surprised him on Senior Night, or a week later when Batista channeled Willis Reed and limped out of the training room after halftime to score 21 points on San Diego and carry the Zags out of the WCC semis.

After 10 years in McCarthy, the question isn't, "What's not to like about the place?" It's, "What do you like best?"

"The best thing?" said Lloyd. "Oh, man – winning."

If any aspect of the beloved old mom-and-pop store that used to be Zags basketball has survived, this is it – the gym key John Stockton passed down.



The McCarthy Story:

The design of McCarthy Athletic Center features steep seating risers used to create a unique "full to the rafters" atmosphere. The sensation that fans are literally "on top of the court" provides a distinct advantage for the Bulldogs, who have achieved an impressive winning record at McCarthy over the past 10 years!

ALSC ARCHITECTS

We bring our clients' stories to life.

www.alscarchitects.com

WCP SOLUTIONS

Packaging Supplies
Packaging Equipment
Chemical Supplies
Janitorial Equipment
Food Service Supplies

PROVIDING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR NEEDS

• Local Inventories • Next Day Deliveries • Online Ordering

For More Information, Contact Your Local Account Manager or Customer Service at **1-509-747-3133** or visit us at www.wcpsolutions.com