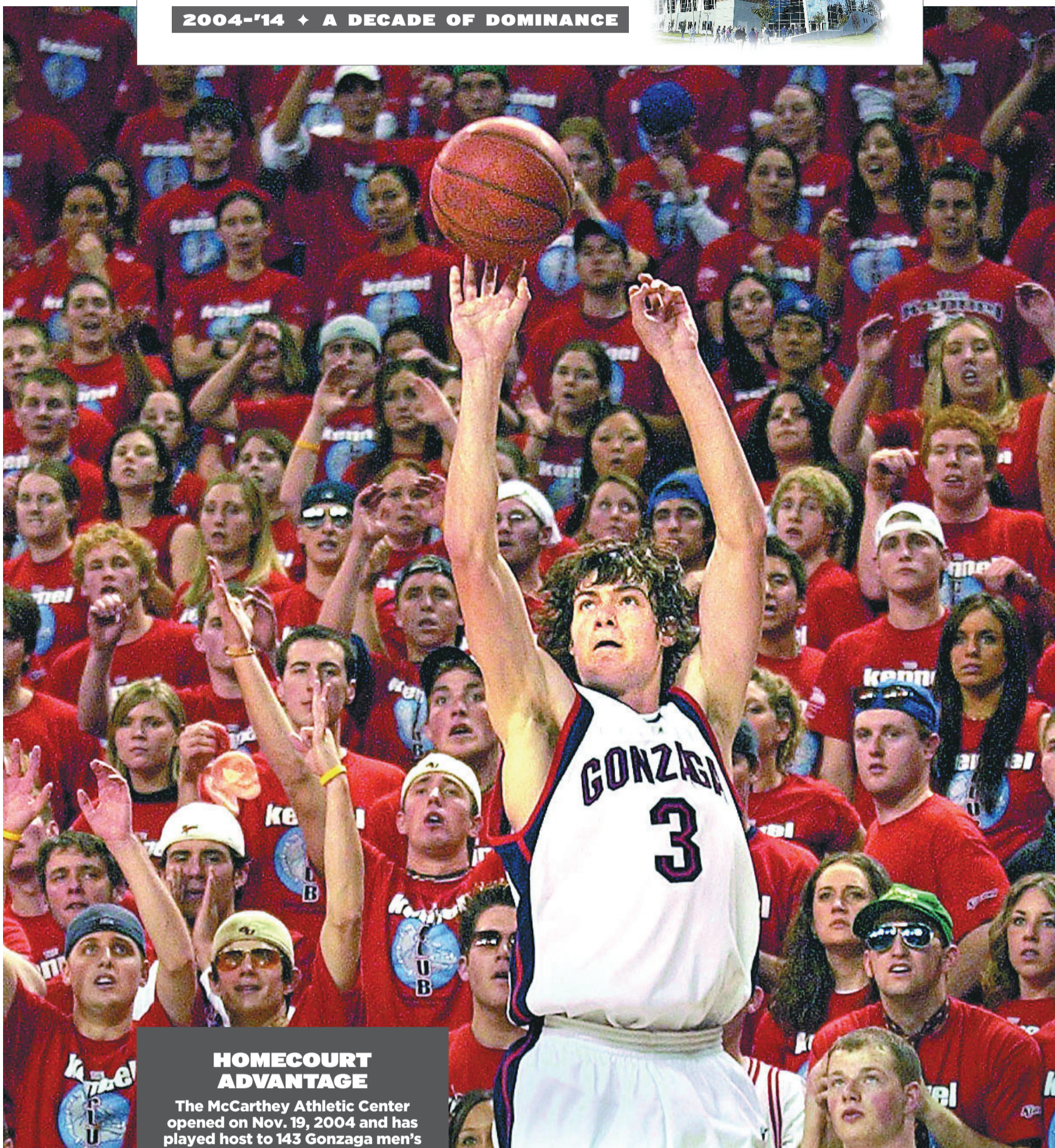


# NO PLACE LIKE HOME

## 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

**T**ruth be told, Adam Morrison liked the old Kennel, now remained 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 know 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.

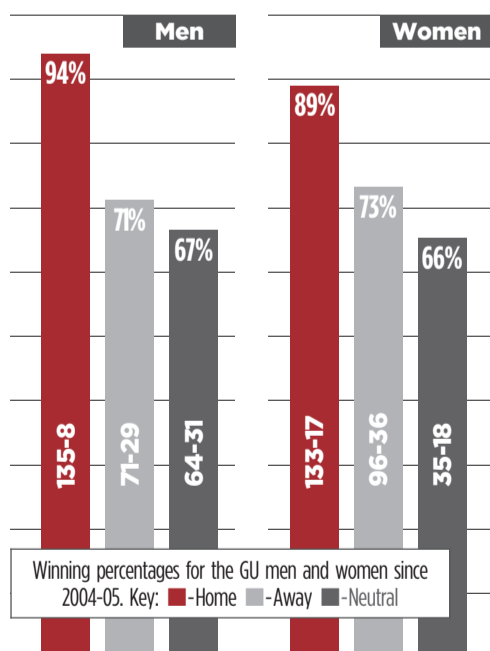
"This is easily the best place I've ever played in," said forward Byron

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