

# Hampton Coliseum

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**Hampton Coliseum** is a multi-purpose arena located in Hampton, Virginia. Construction on the arena began on May 24, 1968, and the venue opened in 1970 as the first large multi-purpose arena in the Hampton Roads region and the state of Virginia, opening a year prior to the Norfolk Scope in Norfolk, Virginia.

With a final estimated cost between \$8.5 million to \$9 million, the arena was designed by Odell Associates and constructed by McDevitt and Starett, both of Charlotte, North Carolina.<sup>[1]</sup> The venue capacity is configurable from 9,800 to 13,800 seats.

## Hostings

Hampton Coliseum was one of several former homes of the American Basketball Association Virginia Squires professional basketball franchise. The Coliseum was also home to the Virginia Wings in the American Hockey League and Hampton Gulls in the Southern Hockey League and the Hampton Aces of the North Eastern Hockey League and Eastern Hockey League.

The Coliseum hosted the Division I men's college basketball ECAC South Region Tournament, organized by the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), in 1980 and 1981.<sup>[2][3][4][5]</sup> The 1985 Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball Tournament and the 1987, 1988, and 1989 Colonial Athletic Association Men's Basketball Tournaments also were held in the Coliseum. The Old Dominion Monarchs basketball team played occasional games in the Coliseum from 1970 to 1995, usually one game a year, although twice the team played several games in the Coliseum, in the 1979-

80 and 1984-85 seasons.<sup>[6]</sup> The Hampton Coliseum is the home of the Virginia Duals annual wrestling tournament, hosting invitational college and high school matches.

After originally being the site of many famed Grateful Dead performances, the venue became popular with live music acts, especially jam bands. The Grateful Dead performed their now-famous 1989 shows at the venue. The shows were later commercially released as Formerly the Warlocks because the band was billed under the name The Warlocks. The venue also remains popular with the rock band Phish, whose multi-night stand in 1998 was released as *Hampton Comes Alive* as well as choosing Hampton Coliseum as the site of their 2009 reunion shows.

## Hampton Coliseum



<b>Former names</b>	Hampton Roads Coliseum
<b>Location</b>	1000 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, Virginia, 23666
<b>Owner</b>	City of Hampton
<b>Operator</b>	City of Hampton
<b>Capacity</b>	13,800 (concerts) 9,777 (basketball)

<b>Construction</b>	
<b>Broke ground</b>	May 24, 1968
<b>Built</b>	1968–1970
<b>Opened</b>	1970
<b>Construction cost</b>	\$8.5 to \$9.0 million USD
<b>General contractor</b>	McDevitt and Street Co.

<b>Tenants</b>	
Virginia Squires (ABA)	(1970–76)
Virginia Wings (AHL)	(1971–75)
Hampton Gulls (SHL, AHL)	(1974–78)
Hampton Aces (NAHL)	(1978–81)
Old Dominion Monarchs basketball	(part-time, 1970–1995)

Most recently the heavy hitting headlining acts Pretty Lights and Bassnectar have come together to form the 2 night annual event known as BassLights. This event has taken over the Coliseum on the weekend after Christmas and before New Year's Eve from 2012-2014. The pair brought along with them major supporting acts such as Big Gigantic, Gramatik, GRiZ,& A-Trak in 2012. 2013 featured yet again Big Gigantic along with Pretty Lights Music godfather Michal Menert, Datsik (musician), & Keys N Krates. 2013 also brought along the Analog Future Band who performed both nights alongside Pretty Lights adding a fresh new take on his music performing it with live instrumentation. 2014 kept the tradition of major opening acts going strong with the return of Beats Antique who had been a PrettyNectar Alumni from when they played in 2011 in Alpharetta, GA, Exmag, Chromeo (dj set), & Elliot Lipp. This event sold out in record time in 2014 selling out all tickets in the first weekend they went on sale.

## References

1. "History". Hampton Coliseum.org.
2. Varsity Pride: ECAC Men's Basketball Tournaments ([http://jonfmorse.com/wiki/index.php?title=ECAC\\_Men%27s\\_Basketball\\_Tournaments](http://jonfmorse.com/wiki/index.php?title=ECAC_Men%27s_Basketball_Tournaments))
3. Varsity Pride: 1980 ECAC Men's Basketball Tournaments ([http://jonfmorse.com/wiki/index.php?title=1980\\_ECAC\\_Men%27s\\_Basketball\\_Tournaments](http://jonfmorse.com/wiki/index.php?title=1980_ECAC_Men%27s_Basketball_Tournaments))
4. Varsity Pride: 1981 ECAC Men's Basketball Tournaments ([http://jonfmorse.com/wiki/index.php?title=1981\\_ECAC\\_Men%27s\\_Basketball\\_Tournaments](http://jonfmorse.com/wiki/index.php?title=1981_ECAC_Men%27s_Basketball_Tournaments))
5. sports-reference.com 1980-81 Independent Season Summary (<http://www.sports-reference.com/cbb/conferences/independent/1981.html>)
6. ODU Men's Basketball 2004-05 Media Guide, p. 82. ([http://www.odusports.com/fls/31100/old\\_site/pdf/m-baskbl/0405-media-guide.pdf?DB\\_OEM\\_ID=31100](http://www.odusports.com/fls/31100/old_site/pdf/m-baskbl/0405-media-guide.pdf?DB_OEM_ID=31100))]

## External links

- official website (<http://www.hampton.gov/coliseum/>)

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Categories: College basketball venues in the United States | Buildings and structures in Hampton, Virginia | Indoor arenas in the United States | Sports venues in Hampton Roads | Basketball venues in Virginia | American Basketball Association venues | Old Dominion Monarchs and Lady Monarchs basketball

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