

# HOME OF THE DOLPHINS



**HISTORIC SWISHER GYMNASIUM**

Years ..... 1953-present  
 Games ..... 291  
 Record ..... 201-90  
 Winning Percentage ..... (.691)

Constructed in 1953, Historic Swisher Gymnasium is home to the Jacksonville University men's and women's basketball and volleyball programs. In those 66 seasons, the venue has been site of numerous memorable moments and home to legendary figures such as Naismith Basketball Hall of Famer Artis Gilmore, Roger Strickland, James Ray, Otis Smith and Dee Brown.

Since opening, Swisher has undergone multiple restorations and renovations and was even vacated by the men's basketball program for a time.

In 2016 the venue introduced two 18-foot videoboards, mounted on the walls at either end of the court as well as a 40-foot video scorer's table that sits at center court on the sideline. In 2018, with extensive damage having been done unto the building by Hurricane Irma, a brand-new roof and floor were installed. With that came a new paint job of the basketball court that included the Athletic Department's new branding. The locker rooms housed in the building were completely re-done with new layouts, bathrooms, furniture and graphics during this time as well.

The venue currently seats 1,452 people for sporting events with one side being fixed seating and the other side retractable, creating space for multi-purpose events. In addition to sporting events, several concerts have been held at Swisher Gymnasium including appearances by Billy Joel in 1975 and K.C. and the Sunshine Band in 1979. Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson addressed students there in 1963.

Swisher Gymnasium briefly served as a practice facility for the men's team while they played at Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena from 2004-15, but became the official home of the Dolphins once again at the end of the 2014-15 season. The Dolphins strung together 13 wins in a row after returning to the Gym, and finished 12-3 in the 2015-16 season. In the 2016-17 season the Dolphins finished 7-7, hosting a postseason national tournament for the first time in its history.

During its heyday, Swisher hosted the Dolphins on a regular basis until 1969, when the crowds would be pouring out of the stands and the games were moved to the more spacious Coliseum.

In 1959, JU began playing at the Jacksonville Coliseum, eventually moving downtown permanently in 1969, starting a relationship that would last until the Coliseum was torn down in 2001.

The Coliseum was home to all five of JU's NCAA Tournament teams and was traditionally packed during each of those seasons, especially the 1969-70 season that saw the Dolphins reach the national title game.

During its tenure at the Coliseum, JU hosted programs such as Florida, Florida State, North Carolina, Wake Forest, Villanova, Pitt, Ohio State and Maryland.

The Coliseum also served as the site of the annual Gator Bowl Tournament -- which ran from the early 1960's until 1991 -- as well as the 1999 and 2000 ASUN Tournaments.

In 1999, the Dolphins moved back on campus and started a seven-year run that saw JU win 56 games, including a 12-4 home mark during the 2000-01 season.

With its completion in 2004, JU began playing games in the state-of-the-art Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. In 2004 and 2005, the Dolphins played a single game against Florida and Florida State, respectively, before returning downtown full-time for the 2006-07 season.

In its first season as the official home court of the Dolphins, JU ran up an impressive 9-1 record at JVM, averaging more than 2,000 fans per game.

The Arena and Jacksonville University have served as hosts of the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament in 2006, 2010, 2015 and 2019.



**JACKSONVILLE COLISEUM**

Years ..... 1959-2000  
 Games ..... 457  
 Record ..... 278-179  
 Winning Percentage ..... (.608)



**JACKSONVILLE VETERANS MEMORIAL ARENA**

Years ..... 2004-2015  
 Games ..... 91  
 Record ..... 64-27  
 Winning Percentage ..... (.703)

