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From the moment I assumed the role of director of athletics at Fairfield University 5 1/2 years ago, countless passionate Stags alumni have consistently regaled me with very vivid, personal and emotional stories of their time spent watching basketball games in our original Alumni Hall. In short order, it became abundantly clear to me that attending or competing in games at that beloved, venerable venue was THE signature element of the Fairfield undergraduate experience for generations before us. Those stories, told with great pride, were inevitably coupled with the question, "When are we going to bring it back?" (Fairfield had played the vast majority of its men's basketball games in nearby Bridgeport at Webster Bank/Total Mortgage Arena for more than two decades). It was a call to action that could not be ignored.

Fast forward and what was conveyed as a wishful dream has now become our beautiful

reality. The Leo D. Mahoney Arena opened on November 18, 2022.

Mahoney Arena is an 8,500-square-foot, 3,500-seat multi-use space at the heart of the Fairfield University campus. It is the home of Fairfield basketball and volleyball in addition to serving as a venue for university events and concerts. The \$52 million project, which was 100 percent donor-funded, stands in the footprint of its predecessor, Alumni Hall. Mahoney Arena boasts a state-of-the-art broadcast and media center, luxury seating and lounge areas, and updated features that truly make it a showpiece of Fairfield's modern campus. The main entrance leads to a spacious, open concourse level looking toward concessions, The Red Sea Pub, and access to seating that surrounds the court below. Above the concourse is a club area named "The Diffley" featuring 172 cushioned chairback seats, a premium bar and a spacious lounge area. The lower level houses amenities to support student-athletes, including locker rooms, a film room, a team lounge, and a training room. Industry leader Daktronics designed, manufactured and installed 15 total LED displays, including a center hung scoreboard system and a 360-degree ribbon display.

Mahoney Arena is an exceptional campus asset allowing the university and Stags athletics to accomplish four strategic initiatives.

First, Mahoney is a convening point and

celebratory venue for a wide array of university and athletics events. It now serves as a catalyst in bringing the campus community together, reigniting our collective spirit and paying forward that priceless sense of connection and pride that will bind together current and future generations of students and alumni as well as our faculty and staff.

Second, it is a transformational competitive venue for the three programs that call it home. Mahoney Arena provides an incredible gameday atmosphere with an electric home court advantage, fostering a championship caliber experience for student-athletes and serving as a motivating factor for them every time they put on the Fairfield uniform.


Third, Mahoney is a state-of-the-art facility that is second to none amongst our peers. It positions Fairfield to recruit, retain and develop high caliber student-athletes as we continue our journey to be a premier Division I athletics program.


Lastly, Mahoney Arena now serves as an exciting home and point of engagement for our extended Stags family in the town of Fairfield and in our surrounding communities. The record-setting season ticket sales and attendance figures from this past season speak to the buzz that Mahoney created as "the place to be" on gameday to support the Stags as their "Hometown Team."



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