

## **HOME COURT ADVANTAGE REPORT**

March 2013

## **Executive Summary**



- While Sacramento and Seattle both have great legacies as NBA cities,
   <u>Sacramento has proven to be a superior NBA market</u> in several respects
- In terms of <u>ticket sales and fan support</u>, Sacramento consistently outperformed Seattle during the 23 year period both cities had NBA teams

 Sacramento has a solid base of <u>corporate support</u> committed to the team's current and future success

 Unlike Seattle, the NBA has 100% market share in Sacramento, making Sacramento one of the top media markets in the country for the NBA

### **Two Great NBA Cities**



### **Both Sacramento and Seattle have great legacies as NBA cities**

#### SACRAMENTO, CA



#### **SEATTLE, WA**



| NBA Team          | Kings  | Sonics  |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Years as NBA City | 1985 - present   | 1967 - 2008   |
| Arena History     | 1985 – 1988: ARCO Arena I<br>1988 – present: ARCO II/Sleep Train Arena | 1967-1978: Seattle Center Coliseum (SCC)<br>1978-1985: Kingdome<br>1985-1994: Seattle Center Coliseum<br>1994-1995: Tacoma Dome<br>1995-2008: Key Arena (Renovated SCC) |

## **Home Court Advantage #1: Fan Attendance**



#### FACT: Sacramento fans had better game attendance in 20 of 23 seasons

| Season    | Sacramento Total Attendance | Seattle Total Attendance | Advantage? |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1985-1986 | 423,653                     | 329,296                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1986-1987 | 423,653                     | 356,362                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1987-1988 | 423,653                     | 492,312                  | Seattle    |
| 1988-1989 | 677,197                     | 529,733                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1989-1990 | 697,574                     | 502,014                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1990-1991 | 697,574                     | 510,166                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1991-1992 | 697,574                     | 586,929                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1992-1993 | 709,997                     | 632,205                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1993-1994 | 709,997                     | 601,969                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1994-1995 | 709,997                     | 633,748                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1995-1996 | 709,997                     | 697,301                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1996-1997 | 709,997                     | 699,952                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 1997-1998 | 605,434                     | 699,952                  | Seattle    |
| 1998-1999 | 418,751                     | 426,800                  | Seattle    |
| 1999-2000 | 687,410                     | 615,730                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 2000-2001 | 709,997                     | 640,847                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 2001-2002 | 709,997                     | 633,516                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 2002-2003 | 709,997                     | 637,194                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 2003-2004 | 709,997                     | 625,474                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 2004-2005 | 709,997                     | 675,490                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 2005-2006 | 709,997                     | 664,157                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 2006-2007 | 709,997                     | 654,163                  | SACRAMENTO |
| 2007-2008 | 580,181                     | 547,556                  | SACRAMENTO |

- From 1985 2008, both Sacramento and Seattle had NBA teams
- During this period, more Sacramento fans came to games in 20 of 23 seasons
- Both cities had comparably-sized arenas (~17K seats) for most of this period

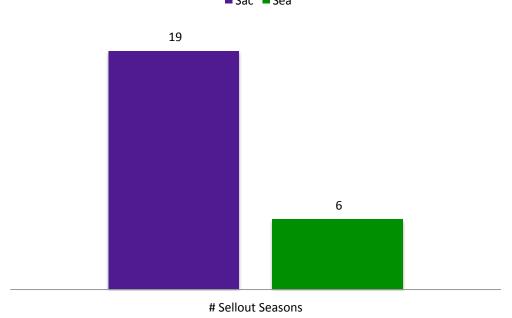
Sources: ESPN, Basketball Reference, Association for Professional Basketball Research.





#### FACT: Sacramento fans produced over three-times as many sellout seasons





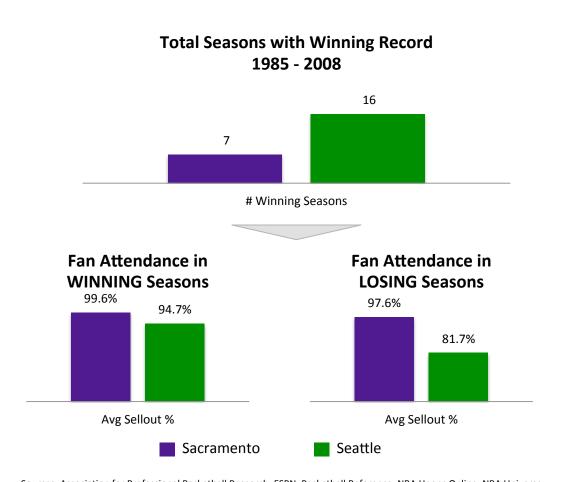
- From 1985 2008,
   Sacramento fans sold out
   19 of 23 seasons, #1 in
   NBA
- During this period,
   Sacramento secured two of the longest sellout streaks in NBA history
- Meanwhile, Seattle fans only sold out 6 seasons

Sources: ESPN, Basketball Reference.

## **Home Court Advantage #3: Fan Loyalty**



#### FACT: Sacramento fans have shown stronger support in both good times and bad



- From 1985 2008, the Kings had only seven winning seasons, while the Sonics had sixteen
- In winning seasons,
   Sacramento fans sold out
   99.6% of seats 5% more
   than Seattle fans
- In losing seasons,
   Sacramento fans still sold out 97.6% of seats - 16% more than Seattle fans

Sources: Association for Professional Basketball Research, ESPN, Basketball Reference, NBA Hoops Online, NBA Universe.

## **Home Court Advantage #4: 100% Market Share**



**FACT**: The NBA has **100% share** of Sacramento's major pro sports market

| Major Pro Sports | Sacramento | Seattle (Proposed) |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| NBA              | Kings      | Sonics             |
| NFL              |            | Seahawks           |
| MLB              |            | Mariners           |
| NHL              |            | ?                  |
| MLS              |            | Sounders           |
| Total Teams      | 1          | 4                  |

- The NBA enjoys 100% market share in Sacramento as the only major professional sports league in the region
- In contrast, the NBA would be the fourth major professional sports team competing in the Seattle market
- In addition, Seattle has major conference NCAA Division I athletics (University of Washington) and is reportedly seeking to add an NHL team.





**FACT**: Sacramento's corporate community has shown <u>unprecedented support</u> for the Kings present and future viability.

|   | Sacramento | Seattle | Advantage? |
|---|------------|---------|------------|
| Committed \$10M in new sponsorships when team at-risk of relocation?        | Yes        | No      | SACRAMENTO |
| Committed \$50M in sponsorships for team's first five seasons in new arena? | Yes        | No      | SACRAMENTO |
| # Companies with 500+ Employees (Adjusted for # pro sports teams)           | 115        | 54      | SACRAMENTO |
| # Companies with >\$50MM sales (Adjusted for # pro sports teams)            | 133        | 100     | SACRAMENTO |

Source: Claritas 2013, Hoovers 2013.





#### FACT: Sacramento's adjusted TV market is the second-best in the NBA

| NBA Team               | Market                          | TV<br>Population<br>(000s) | # Major<br>Teams* | Adjusted TV<br>Homes<br>(000s) | Rank |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Orlando Magic          | Orlando-Daytona Beach-Melbourne | 3,532                      | 1                 | 3,532                          | 1    |
| Sacramento Kings       | Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto     | 3,402                      | 1                 | 3,402                          | 2    |
| San Antonio Spurs      | San Antonio                     | 2,131                      | 1                 | 2,131                          | 3    |
| Los Angeles Clippers   | Los Angeles                     | 16,765                     | 8                 | 2,096                          | 4    |
| Los Angeles Lakers     | Los Angeles                     | 16,765                     | 8                 | 2,096                          | 4    |
| Brooklyn Nets          | New York                        | 19,799                     | 10                | 1,980                          | 6    |
| New York Knicks        | New York                        | 19,799                     | 10                | 1,980                          | 6    |
| Atlanta Hawks          | Atlanta                         | 5,823                      | 3                 | 1,941                          | 8    |
| Toronto Raptors        | Toronto-Hamilton                | 7,337                      | 4                 | 1,834                          | 9    |
| Charlotte Bobcats      | Charlotte                       | 3,411                      | 2                 | 1,706                          | 10   |
| Oklahoma City Thunder  | Oklahoma City                   | 1,696                      | 1                 | 1,696                          | 11   |
| Memphis Grizzlies      | Memphis                         | 1,648                      | 1                 | 1,648                          | 12   |
| Chicago Bulls          | Chicago                         | 9,363                      | 6                 | 1,561                          | 13   |
| Houston Rockets        | Houston                         | 6,053                      | 4                 | 1,513                          | 14   |
| Portland Trail Blazers | Portland, OR                    | 3,022                      | 2                 | 1,511                          | 15   |
| Philadelphia 76ers     | Philadelphia                    | 7,543                      | 5                 | 1,509                          | 16   |
| Cleveland Cavaliers    | Cleveland-Akron (Canton)        | 4,134                      | 3                 | 1,378                          | 17   |
| Dallas Mavericks       | Dallas-Ft. Worth                | 6,865                      | 5                 | 1,373                          | 18   |
| Boston Celtics         | Boston (Manchester)             | 6,717                      | 5                 | 1,343                          | 19   |
| Indiana Pacers         | Indianapolis                    | 2,675                      | 2                 | 1,338                          | 20   |
| Utah Jazz              | Salt Lake City                  | 2,523                      | 2                 | 1,262                          | 21   |
| Detroit Pistons        | Detroit                         | 4,901                      | 4                 | 1,225                          | 22   |
| Washington Wizards     | Washington, DC (Hagrstwn)       | 5,853                      | 5                 | 1,171                          | 23   |
| Minnesota Timberwolves | Minneapolis-St. Paul            | 4,598                      | 4                 | 1,150                          | 24   |
| Seattle (Proposed)     | Seattle-Tacoma                  | 4,565                      | 4                 | 1,141                          | 25   |
| Milwaukee Bucks        | Milwaukee                       | 2,233                      | 2                 | 1,117                          | 26   |
| Phoenix Suns           | Phoenix (Prescott)              | 4,438                      | 4                 | 1,110                          | 27   |
| Golden State Warriors  | San Francisco-Oak-San Jose      | 6,717                      | 7                 | 960                            | 28   |
| Miami Heat             | Miami-Ft. Lauderdale            | 3,658                      | 4                 | 915                            | 29   |
| Denver Nuggets         | Denver                          | 3,856                      | 5                 | 771                            | 30   |
| New Orleans Hornets    | New Orleans                     | 1,538                      | 2                 | 769                            | 31   |

- Sacramento ranks #2
   among NBA TV markets
   when adjusted for
   competition from other
   major sports leagues
- In contrast, Seattle would be ranked #25

Source: TV Basics

<sup>\* -</sup> Major teams defined as the top five major professional sports: NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, MLS.

## **Home Court Advantage #7: Radio Market**



#### FACT: Sacramento's adjusted radio market is the best in the NBA

| NBA Team               | Market                         | Radio<br>Population<br>(000s) | # Major<br>Teams* | Adj. Radio<br>Homes<br>(000s) | Rank |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------|
| Sacramento Kings       | Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto    | 1,888                         | 1                 | 1,888                         | 1    |
| San Antonio Spurs      | San Antonio                    | 1,857                         | 1                 | 1,859                         | 2    |
| Orlando Magic          | Orlando-Dytna Beach-Melbourne  | 1,622                         | 1                 | 1,622                         | 3    |
| Brooklyn Nets          | New York                       | 15,867                        | 10                | 1,587                         | 4    |
| New York Knicks        | New York                       | 15,867                        | 10                | 1,587                         | 4    |
| Atlanta Hawks          | Atlanta                        | 4,385                         | 3                 | 1,462                         | 6    |
| Los Angeles Clippers   | Los Angeles                    | 11,044                        | 8                 | 1,381                         | 7    |
| Los Angeles Lakers     | Los Angeles                    | 11,044                        | 8                 | 1,381                         | 7    |
| Chicago Bulls          | Chicago                        | 7,878                         | 6                 | 1,313                         | 9    |
| Houston Rockets        | Houston                        | 5,126                         | 4                 | 1,282                         | 10   |
| Toronto Raptors        | Toronto-Hamilton               | 5,023                         | 4                 | 1,256                         | 11   |
| Oklahoma City Thunder  | Oklahoma City                  | 1,174                         | 1                 | 1,174                         | 12   |
| Memphis Grizzlies      | Memphis                        | 1,112                         | 1                 | 1,112                         | 13   |
| Dallas Mavericks       | Dallas-Ft. Worth               | 5,432                         | 5                 | 1,086                         | 14   |
| Portland Trail Blazers | Portland, OR                   | 2,152                         | 2                 | 1,076                         | 15   |
| Charlotte Bobcats      | Charlotte                      | 2,072                         | 2                 | 1,036                         | 16   |
| Miami Heat             | Miami-Ft. Lauderdale           | 3,781                         | 4                 | 945                           | 17   |
| Detroit Pistons        | Detroit                        | 3,760                         | 4                 | 940                           | 18   |
| Washington Wizards     | Washington, DC (Hagerstown)    | 4,635                         | 5                 | 927                           | 19   |
| Philadelphia 76ers     | Philadelphia                   | 4,518                         | 5                 | 904                           | 20   |
| Golden State Warriors  | San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose | 6,265                         | 7                 | 895                           | 21   |
| Seattle (Proposed)     | Seattle-Tacoma                 | 3,538                         | 4                 | 885                           | 22   |
| Utah Jazz              | Salt Lake City                 | 1.745                         | 2                 | 873                           | 23   |
| Boston Celtics         | Boston (Manchester)            | 4,082                         | 5                 | 816                           | 24   |
| Phoenix Suns           | Phoenix (Prescott)             | 3,256                         | 4                 | 814                           | 25   |
| Milwaukee Bucks        | Milwaukee                      | 1,481                         | 2                 | 741                           | 26   |
| Indiana Pacers         | Indianapolis                   | 1,444                         | 2                 | 722                           | 27   |
| Minnesota Timberwolves | Minneapolis-St. Paul           | 2,794                         | 4                 | 698                           | 28   |
| New Orleans Hornets    | New Orleans                    | 1,213                         | 2                 | 607                           | 29   |
| Cleveland Cavaliers    | Cleveland-Akron (Canton)       | 1,760                         | 3                 | 587                           | 30   |
| Denver Nuggets         | Denver                         | 2,430                         | 5                 | 486                           | 31   |

- Sacramento ranks #1
   among NBA radio markets
   when adjusted for
   competition from other
   major sports leagues
- In contrast, Seattle would be ranked #22

<sup>\* -</sup> Major teams defined as the top five major professional sports: NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, MLS. Source: Arbitron

## **Closing Thought: In Their Own Words**



# The Seattle Times

January 15, 2013

"You might think that Seattle is a basketball-crazy town. But you'd be wrong. The reality is that after the Sonics left, interest in professional basketball here went into a free fall. Despite this past week's press frenzy, the market <u>data show that our</u> metro area has one of the nation's lowest levels of interest in the NBA.

It's important to realize that <u>even back in 2005, our market only ranked 27th</u> for the percent of the population with the highest level of interest in the NBA. We were still <u>10 percent below the national average</u> that year.

"With worse fan support than Spokane, can Seattle get its NBA mojo back?"

Gene Balk, Seattle Times