

Sports Venue Success Story

BRIDGESTONE ARENA (2019)

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Bridgestone Arena's updated center-hung video board, complete with signature "fang" displays.

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NASHVILLE TN, USA

HOCKEY TENANT | NASHVILLE PREDATORS (NHL)

The **Nashville Predators** have called **Bridgestone Arena** home since the team entered the National Hockey League (NHL) in 1998. While starting a new team in the home state of country music and Southeastern Conference College Football was considered by many to be a significant challenge, a savvy leadership group came together to build a true hockey fanbase. Building the Predators' brand on a combination of football, country music and hockey traditions, the team's ownership group has effectively put its spin on what it means to play hockey in the south

The 2019 offseason saw the completion of the Bridgestone Arena's third major renovation to the video displays and in-venue entertainment system since the building opened in 1996. In May 2019, the Predators and the city of Nashville extended the lease to use the Bridgestone Arena for another 30 years, with all parties committed to maintaining the features and amenities of a world-class facility.

THE CHALLENGE

With the Production Control Room at Bridgestone Arena reaching the end of its lifecycle in late 2017 and the discovery that the LED control system purchased for the 2016 NHL All-Star game had also reached end-of-life status, the Predators and their consultant contacted Ross to discuss capital improvements to their game-day production system. As a starting point, the Predators were looking to add real-time dynamic graphic content to their LED production, and the conversation quickly evolved.

In addition to updating their LED Display Control system, the Predators were looking to improve the efficiency of their existing workflow between the Display Control and Production Control Room systems. Ultimately, they were aiming for tighter integration between the production switcher and the overall show, moving from a simple 16x9 LED board show to a Unified Venue Solution.

Some of the key challenges and expectations the Predators management had to deal with included:

- **Designing around a phased installation**

The Production Control Room would be installed first for the 2018-19 season. Included in the initial upgrade would be all the required content management and controls for the LED system, which would be installed a year later for the 2019-2020 season.

- **Updating the technology**

The Predators would be moving from an older 1.5G workflow to a full 1080p HDR-ready workflow.

- **Looking beyond hardware obsolescence**

The Predators were looking for a technology partner and a platform that was software-driven rather than reliant on hardware generations.

- **Expanding data-driven content**

Historically, the Predators' show has been heavy on pre-rendered fan engagement videos. The plan was to start transitioning to more data-driven content and sources.

- **Real-time, pre-rendered content**

Like most teams, the Predators wanted to combine their familiar pre-rendered workflow with a real-time rendered solution.



Bridgestone Arena's updated video wall in the refreshed Production Control Room.

THE SOLUTION

In the spring of 2018, the Nashville Predators and their design consultant announced that both the Production Control Room and the LED Display Control System at Bridgestone Arena would feature Ross equipment at its production core. This would create a Unified Venue Solution through the shared infrastructure of both systems, allowing the Predators production to elevate their in-game day presentation to new heights of creativity and fan engagement.

An added benefit of the real-time rendering capabilities of the system has been the "Stars of the Game" graphic, which is now generated at the time of announcement rather than through a pre-rendered clip. This reduces hours of rendering time and frees up the creative team to work on other things.

The full Ross solution includes:



In addition to all the new hardware, the Predators hired the creative arm of Ross, **Rocket Surgery**, to assist with creating XPression templates and **DashBoard** custom control panels. Rocket Surgery worked with the Predators' internal design staff to implement their style guide and content into new templates and graphics. They also built multiple custom DashBoard panels to trigger and control the entire system. One DashBoard panel was created specifically for the producer station, allowing the operator to control the entire Ross suite of equipment and third-party elements such as the lighting system. This allows the producer to trigger immediate "BIG MOMENT" takeovers for goals and wins at the push of a single button.

THE IMPACT

The Predators' production team quickly became comfortable with the Unified Venue Solution workflow and have continued to dive into the unparalleled creative flexibility offered by the system. One of the most impressive aspects of the new production system is the creative use of the Ice Projection System, which is supported by real-time data and user input. Driven by an **XPression** system tied into the DashBoard control system, all elements projected onto the ice are linked directly to content on the LED displays as well as to the lighting and audio system in order to generate in-sync, show-stopping moments. The stanchion LED strips are also fed with XPression content and linked to the entire system.



Ice projection system and stanchions LED fed by XPression real-time render engine.

The creative team has fully embraced the reduced work required to render graphics, and their valuable time can now be harnessed towards continually improving video elements, such as the opening sequence before puck-drop. Rather than having one or two hype videos per season, the team can now generate two a week. With the increased capacity, the creative team regularly generates new content that aligns with storylines as they emerge throughout the season to wow fans and players alike.

Grant Tinerghien, Creative Content Manager

The best part about using the unified system between production control and LED is the customization of the system. You can take any scenario and make your whole production function in a cohesive and uniform way.

In the past few years of working with Ross, Rocket Surgery has been a dream to work with. They have taken our visions and made them a reality with their products. We can run a cleaner, more efficient show with their systems in place and they're always willing to stay interactive with us about how to make our show better.

The full Production Control provided with the Ross system gives us the ability to make our show much more interactive with our fans. We're able to immerse the fans in the experience and give them a special experience that they will remember for years to come.

ARTICLES, TESTIMONIALS & REELS

[SVG ARTICLE: THE PREDATORS TAKE A BIG BITE OF VIDEO](#)

[ROSS SPORTS & LIVE EVENTS- PREDATORS GAME DAY VIDEO](#)

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