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## St. John's To Host Kansas For First Basketball Game At Brand New UBS Arena *Johnnies' BIG EAST-Big 12 Battle Contest against Jayhawks moved to Dec. 3*

- **Web Release**

**QUEENS, N.Y. (July 23, 2021)** – The St. John's men's basketball team will play the first-ever basketball game at the brand new UBS Arena when the Johnnies host Kansas as part of the 2021 BIG EAST-Big 12 Battle. Originally scheduled for Dec. 2, the contest has been moved to Friday, Dec. 3, at the state-of-the-art facility currently being constructed at Belmont Park. Game time and ticket information will be announced at a later date.

The future home of the New York Islanders will play host to one of the marquee games of the BIG EAST-Big 12 Battle. St. John's is 1-0 in the inter-conference series following a victory over West Virginia at Madison Square Garden in 2019. That year, BIG EAST teams went 8-2 against the Big 12. Last season, the conferences split six games while four others were canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.

This year's meeting will be the 14<sup>th</sup> all-time between the programs and the first since the 2000 Coaches vs. Cancer Classic at Madison Square Garden. St. John's is 5-8 all-time against the Jayhawks in a series that dates back to 1950.

Head Coach **Mike Anderson**, the 2021 BIG EAST Coach of the Year, returns a core of letterwinners who helped lead St. John's to a 16-11 overall record and fourth place finish in the BIG EAST last season. **Julian Champagnie** was named First Team All-BIG EAST and the conference's Most Improved Player after becoming just the fourth player in program history to lead the league in scoring. **Posh Alexander** earned both BIG EAST Freshman of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year honors while **Dylan Addae-Wusu** appeared in all 27 games and averaged 6.5 points per game during his rookie campaign. The trio will be joined by a highly regarded group of newcomers featuring six Division I transfers and three freshmen.

UBS Arena is a \$1.1 billion multi purpose venue under construction adjacent to the Belmont Park racetrack. The world class entertainment venue, with its timeless and classic design, will bridge its iconic past with today's advanced technology and amenities. In addition to being the new home to the famed New York Islanders Hockey Club, UBS Arena is designed with a sharp focus on music and will create special experiences for both artists and audiences. The state of the art arena, opening in the fall, will deliver an unmatched live entertainment experience with clear sightlines and premier acoustics to even more guests than ever before.

St. John's Basketball season tickets are on sale now and are available by calling 1-888-GO-STORM or by visiting [RedStormTix.com](https://RedStormTix.com). Fans can also email [redstormsports@stjohns.edu](mailto:redstormsports@stjohns.edu) to secure their spot for the 2021-22 campaign.

## **About UBS Arena**

UBS Arena is New York's newest premier entertainment and sports venue and future home of the New York Islanders. Located at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York, the state of the art facility will open for the 2021-22 National Hockey League season and host more than 150 major events annually. The arena and surrounding development are expected to create 10,000 construction jobs and 3,000 permanent jobs, generating approximately \$25 billion in economic activity over the term of the lease.

Developed in partnership with Oak View Group, the New York Islanders, and Jeff Wilpon, UBS Arena is poised to be one of the area's – and the nation's – most prestigious and appealing venues for musical acts, events and performers of all genres, and will create a unique entertainment experience for artists and audiences alike. The arena is being constructed with a fan-first approach that leverages sophisticated engineering acoustics to amplify the audio experience, high-resolution LED displays and will include the largest scoreboard in New York.

UBS Arena will offer the highest-end amenities and customer service, through VIP suites and clubs that merge boutique hospitality with live entertainment. Clubs and suites will have a timeless design inspired by classic, well known New York establishments and will offer premier views of the bowl. Complementing UBS Arena, the surrounding campus will consist of 340,000 square feet of luxury retail and will include a 4 star boutique hotel.

UBS Arena is being built to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for New Construction. In an effort to build a greener future and minimize environmental impact, UBS Arena intends on being 100% carbon neutral, utilizing renewable energy by 2024, which will make it the first arena to do so on the eastern seaboard.

**-- Red Storm --**