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# The future of Dallas sports at the American Airlines Center



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The American Airlines Center is currently home to both the Dallas Stars and the Dallas Mavericks. Photo: Lance King/Getty Images

The American Airlines Center may not host [NBA or NHL games](#) for too much longer.

**Why it matters:** The Dallas arena is not yet 25 years old, but both of the professional sports teams that play there are considering moving to a new home.

**The big picture:** Team owners across the country are pushing to [develop entertainment districts](#) that attract fans for more than just games.

- But some communities are rejecting tax-supported arena projects. Missouri voters last year rejected a tax that would've funded a downtown [Kansas City ballpark](#) and updates to the football stadium.

**State of play:** The Dallas Mavericks' lease with the AAC ends in 2031, and the team has been talking about wanting a new arena for several years.

- Even before selling his majority stake, Mark Cuban talked about wanting a new Mavs arena to be part of an [entertainment district](#) with gambling.

- Welts said the team hopes to identify a location for a new arena early next year. It's not clear to what extent the team would look for taxpayer support.

**The intrigue:** The Stars have also been looking at new arena sites, even outside Dallas.

- Plano could be a frontrunner. Stars CEO Brad Alberts told [Front Office Sports](#) this month that the team is exploring options for a new arena or staying in Dallas after its lease at the AAC expires in 2031.
- "We are going through due diligence to make sure that if we are going to leave, we have the right spot," Alberts said.

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**Zoom out:** Dallas leaders have said for years that they [want to keep](#) professional sports teams within the city limits and attract new ones to the city.

- The Wings are moving their WNBA games from Arlington to Dallas. And pro women's soccer team Dallas Trinity FC plays at the Cotton Bowl.

**What they're saying:** "I absolutely love both the Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Stars," City Manager Kimberly Tolbert [told WFAA](#) in August. "I need both of them to stay in Dallas."

