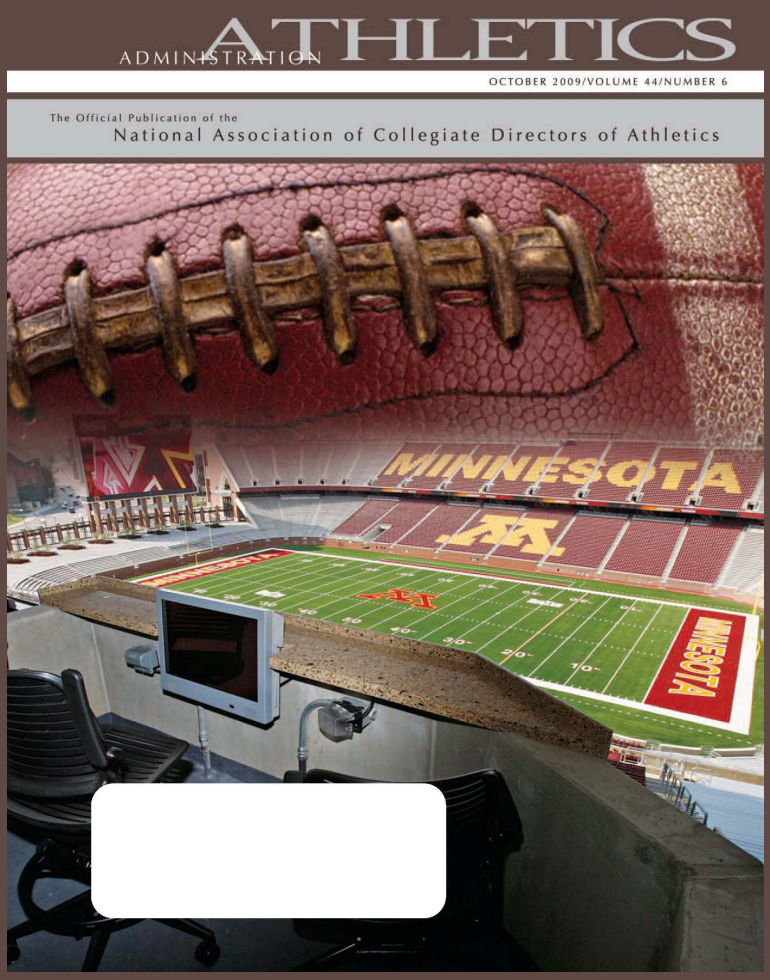
Beginning with this month's issue of *Athletics Administration,* NACDA will be posting a feature from each issue of the magazine on its Web site. For October, we have chosen to highlight our 17th annual "Facilities Showcase," where we feature some of the latest athletics facility constructions or renovations from all divisions of intercollegiate athletics. Included this year are 13 fantastic new facilities, headlined by the University of Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium. We hope you enjoy this addition to nacda.com!



Dickinson State University - Badlands Activity Center

Georgia Tech - UFCU Shirley Clements Mewborn Field

University of Texas El Paso - Foster Stevens Basketball Complex

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

TCF Bank Stadium

When Populous (formerly HOK Sport Venue Event) was awarded the contract to design the new TCF Bank Stadium at the University of Minnesota, it was historic on many levels. Not only was it just the sixth 50,000-seat, on-campus stadium to be built in the last 50 years, but it was also designed to become the first collegiate football stadium in the U.S. to achieve LEED® Certification.

TCF Bank Stadium's exterior design draws from the historical references of Memorial Stadium — the Golden Gophers' on-campus home from 1924 to 1981 — both in form and material. TCF Bank Stadium's brick façade perimeter wall with arched portals reflects the heritage of 'The Brick House' exterior. An encircling colonnade — the 'Minnesota Room,' as Populous designers coined it — provides a year-round walkway around the stadium. Inside the colonnade, 87 special panels represent each Minnesota county and every Minnesotan's contributions to the project. The colonnade itself is grand, yet intimate: soaring ceilings are set off by lighting inspired by the Lincoln Memorial. The majestic space features a curved ceiling and radial wall, so, from a straight-on appearance, it feels as though spectators are walking in an enclosed space, but grand arches along the outer wall afford beautiful views outside.

Courtesy of Minnesota athletics

Leaders of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community donated $12.5 million toward the cause, $10 million which went toward the construction of the stadium, and $2.5 million that went toward a scholarship endowment with preference given to American Indian students. For their generosity, the largest and most central plaza in the stadium was named the Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza, and is complete with native prairie landscaping, a dynamic water feature, a veterans' memorial and 11 soaring glass sky markers that stand 18 feet high and 6 feet wide, incorporating information and images about the 11 tribal nations located in Minnesota.

Rotating the seating bowl to an east/west axis allowed for the opening of the horseshoe-shaped bowl to face west, capturing incredible views of downtown Minneapolis and the university campus, physically connecting the building to campus. The open end zone creates a special gathering space, called the Minnesota Plaza, to celebrate the state every day of the year.

"We wanted to make this more of a building — a campus masterpiece — since this is the university's one chance to make this kind of a statement," said Populous designer Jeff Spear. "So we created a simple gesture as a backdrop for the stage inside."

On game day, campus will be enlivened with returning alumni and spirited fans. Spectators will enter the stadium through giant 16-foot-high entry gates. The band will practice in its 6,500-square-foot rehearsal room within the stadium's confines before marching onto the field. Fans will stay connected with the game whether in their seat or from the open concourse with views out to the playing field, and students will form a wall of intimidation for the opposing team in their 10,000-seat section in the east end zone. Premium ticket holders will be situated amid the seating bowl to illustrate the intimate, community feel. A video board the size of a basketball court (the second largest in NCAA football) and sideline wraparound

Courtesy of Mount Union Sports Information Director, Lenny Reich

LED ribbon board will enhance the excitement on the field. Recruits, too, will be wowed by their experience at the new stadium, especially the spacious home locker room. At 12,375-square-feet, the football-shaped room is the largest football locker room in the country and has four specially-designed, glass-encased spaces for traveling exhibits such as Big 10 rivalry trophies.

"There were two primary driving influences in the design of TCF Bank Stadium: the fan experience and recruiting," said University of Minnesota Athletics Director Joel Maturi. "Reintroducing football to the University of Minnesota campus will be a special event and the impression and experience of those recruits who visit the Twin Cities on a fall Saturday will be unlike any other they've had for almost three decades. From the collegiate stadium façade to the truly unique football-shaped locker room, recruits will leave without a doubt that the University of Minnesota values the commitment of our student-athletes and is dedicated to a winning football tradition."

TCF Bank Stadium is on track to become the first collegiate football stadium in the country to achieve LEED® Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Setting sustainability as a project goal from the beginning of the project eased the process of incorporating a variety of green design elements into the project, such as:

- The design and integration of bioswales around the stadium site to treat storm water runoff
- Incorporating mechanical/electrical/plumbing systems which will provide the university with more than 15 percent energy savings versus code requirements
- Strategically planning the site to offer greater access to the stadium, given a wide variety of alternative transportation available

An exterior façade evoking the tradition of the game and the team, coupled with modern fan and player amenities inside, provides the University of Minnesota a home all their own with new revenue streams.

University of Minnesota athletics has partnered with panoramic photography firm Blakeway Worldwide Panoramas of Eden Prairie to thank its season ticket holders for supporting Gopher football and playing an instrumental role in helping make TCF Bank Stadium a reality. Less than a week after the facility's inaugural game between the Golden Gophers and Air Force on September 12, more than 12,000 season ticket account holders received a personal letter of thanks from the Gophers accompanied by a complimentary panoramic photograph of the opening game taken and produced by Blakeway.

MOUNT UNION COLLEGE

McPherson Academic and Athletic Complex

At Mount Union College, more than 25 percent of its 2,200 students participate in intercollegiate athletics, and more than 75 percent are involved in intramurals or other recreational activities. The college took great pride in responding to the growing demands for a superior health, wellness and recreation facility for its student body in a big way, to the tune of a $16.7 million renovation/addition of the Timken Physical Education building, McPherson Center for Health and Well-Being and Peterson Field House, dubbed the "Mack" (McPherson Academic and Athletic Complex: MAAC).

"What this project has done is given our academic, athletic and recreation programs dedicated spaces to work more efficiently and better together," commented Director of Athletics and Head Football Coach Larry Kehres. "From an athletics department prospective, it has given our coaches and programs more space and centralized all of our operations."

Immediately catching your eye upon entering the building is a two-story glass entrance leading into the lobby, which includes a control desk as well as entrance into the first-floor fitness center. A stairwell in the lobby leads directly up to the second half of the fitness center — a cardiovascular area complete with treadmills, stair steppers, elliptical machines and numerous flat-screen televisions. The revamped Hammond Natatorium, where the Purple Raider swimmers practice and compete in dual matches, features new tiling, a fresh coat of paint and the addition of windows to offer natural lighting.

The completely remodeled Peterson Field House features a 200-meter track, which allows the college to hold NCAA Indoor Track & Field meets; and four basketball courts, which double as tennis courts used

Courtesy of Mount Union Sports Information Director, Lenny Reich

Courtesy of Rosser International, Inc.

for NCAA competition. The field house, which also received solar panels on its south roof, will be used as a practice facility for varsity sports as well as for intramurals and the recreation for all students. An auxiliary gymnasium has also been included to serve the same purposes, and its east wall of windows provides a great view into the two-story fitness center. A gem of a wrestling room lies in the basement of the facility, as the Purple Raiders now boast one of the largest wrestling rooms in all of Division III, complete with a new locker room.

One of the many ways the Center will benefit the academic program is through the new training facility, which is equipped with several high-tech classrooms and office spaces. All of the college's sport science courses will be held in the newly remodeled, state-of-the-art McPherson Center.

"We were very strategic during the planning and design of this facility to balance the need for both academic and recreation space," stated Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College Dr. Patricia Draves. "The resulting facility is one that is focused on educating the entire student — mind and body."

GEORGIA TECH

UFCU Shirley Clements Mewborn Field

The 2009 Georgia Tech women's softball team broke in a new home this spring, one that reflects the institute's recognized colors — but one that also incorporates green. The 1,500-plus seat softball complex, named after the principal donor, Shirley Clements Mewborn, a trailblazing Tech female student in the early 1950s who donated a significant amount of money toward the cause, includes overflow berm seating, and was designed to provide competitive advantages to the Yellow Jackets as well as promote and advance its sustainability initiatives.

Atlanta-based Rosser International, Inc. designed and engineered the Georgia Tech Women's Softball Complex with a goal of achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification. If awarded, it will be the first LEED certified softball field in the United States. LEED is a rating system developed in 1998 by the U.S. Green Building Council to provide a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. Georgia Tech currently has two LEED certified buildings on its campus.

Courtesy of Rosser International, Inc.

As a leading sports architectural firm, Rosser included state-of-the-art satellite, communications and broadcast capabilities throughout the facility. This was done so the school could take full advantage of the revenue-generating opportunities as it hosts NCAA Regional and Super Regional Tournaments at its new venue. Rosser also designed and managed the completion of the team's batting tunnel and practice facility, while incorporating a plan for future complex development.

"The project team has designed a new facility that will provide Georgia Tech athletics with an NCAA Championship facility for women's softball that will attract top recruits while also being conscious of the environment and the finite resources of our world," said Kristin Z. Wlazlo, AIA, NCARB, project manager at Rosser.

On a hilltop that was once a playing field at old O'Keefe High, later a Georgia Tech intramural and club sports field, and which most recently served as prime parking for Tech basketball games, stands a brand-new softball facility that, although just a fraction of the size, has the look and feel of a vintage Major League ballpark.

"I think this park epitomizes a family atmosphere, and a lot of what Georgia Tech is about," said Theresa Wenzel, Tech's associate athletics director/senior woman's administrator. "It has a certain sense of elegance and sophistication, if you can define a softball field like that."

The setting is nestled on the campus in the shadow of the O'Keefe building; the skyline of downtown Atlanta and the Bank of America towers high above and beyond center field; the shiny new glass towers of Midtown rise behind the Jackets' third-base home dugout.

Retention tanks outside of the stadium help the Softball Complex ground staff save and recycle water by storing it 15 feet underground.

"Anything that hits the bleachers, the sidewalks, the roof, the buildings and the field, gets channeled back into the cisterns," said Barton Malow Company's Project Manager Jason McFadden. "We can hold about 42,000 gallons of water underground and reuse all of the water to irrigate the field. The softball field is nothing without green grass."

For the record, the Yellow Jackets christened their new stadium on March 10, 2009 with a 2-1 victory over the University of Tennessee Martin.

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

Ashland University Athletic Complex & Fred Martinelli Field

The start of the 2009 football season ushered in a new era in the football program at Ashland University, as it now plays its home games in a new stadium located on campus that is one of the most functional stadiums in the college division.

Ashland University has been playing collegiate football since 1920, and for most of this time, its football facilities have been considered sub-par in comparison to most of its competitors. It conducted its athletics events at three different areas, creating a logistical nightmare for players and coaches, which led to inefficiencies in player development, game preparation and recruiting.

Courtesy of Ashland athletics

In 1998, a $55 million "Building on Strength" plan to construct facilities for business, science, education and recreation was initiated. With the completion of this project in 2007, the Board of Trustees authorized planning for outdoor athletics facilities including football, soccer and track.

Fund raising for the $23 million project was remarkable, with 93 percent ($21,441,000) of the goal being committed by January 2009, coming from administration, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and former players. From these groups, there were a number of "major donors." Consequently, the Board gave the go ahead to start construction.

Ashland President Dr. Fred Finks stated, "This has been a very successful campaign and has generated a lot of support. The football stadium has been a major driver in raising money for this project. No other campaign has generated this kind of money in advance of any project in the history of this institution. Perhaps this project is a good example that people give to projects they like and give to people they trust."

The planning committee took into consideration the prevailing practices, regardless of division, and that sports at the Division II level had become specialized with year round programs.

Approaching the matter with a vision to carry the athletics program well into the 21st century, the architect presented a concept that included two stadiums, one for football and another for soccer/track. At the football stadium, there is an artificial playing surface, concessions, restrooms and storage areas under the home stands. An end zone facility was built to provide areas for locker rooms, meeting rooms, etc. A separate 1,000-seat soccer/track stadium with an artificial surface was specifically designed for soccer and a surrounding eight-lane track. Facilities for javelin, discus and the like are located in an adjacent area.

Self-contained football facilities have been designed for use by players and coaches, fans and media for a Division II program well into the 21st century. For players and coaches, these facilities should maximize the utilization of time and player development to meet the needs of a year-round football program.

Courtesy of Dave Polcyn/News Journal

1. Football Stadium. The structure consists of steel beams with closed aluminum seating and a brick facade. There is seating for 6,500 fans, 5,000 on the home side and 1,500 on the visitor side. On the home side, there is reserved individual seating for 500 fans. The remainder of the seating is bench aluminum. Located under the stadium are concession stands, a merchandise area, two men's and two women's restrooms, two large storage areas for athletics equipment and the press box elevator. All of these areas can be used for events held at the adjacent soccer/track stadium. A double decked 4,000-square-foot press box includes five loges on the lower level with all of the necessary media, coaching and video areas located on the upper level.

2. Field. The artificial surface will be used for football practice and games. A new athletics department logo is in the middle, while Ashland is lettered on one end zone and Eagles on the other. This field will also be used for band practice and for intramural activities. Four poles provide adequate lighting to accommodate video or television for night events. A large scoreboard features a video board for commercial spots, replays and messages. There are also areas for advertisements and sponsorships. Upon completion, the field was rightfully named after longtime Ashland Head Football Coach Fred Martinelli, whose 217 wins and 10 conference titles over his 35-year career landed him a spot in the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame.

3. End Zone Building. The end zone building is a 41,000-square-foot, three-story facility that will service football, soccer and track. For football, there is a 4,300-square-foot locker room; a 4,100-square-foot weight room; visitors locker room; training room; equipment room; football coaches offices that include an area for position or team meetings; study area; coaches' dressing room; officials dressing room; Gridiron Club Room; and a VIP room with an attached balcony overlooking the field. Also included in this facility are offices and separate locker rooms for men's and women's soccer and track and a marching band room in the lower level.

This type of a facility, while common for Division I programs, is seldom found at Division II or Division III programs and is central to the year-round needs for each of these programs and will be used more than 300 days a year.

BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE/LINCROFT CAMPUS

Campus Recreation Center/Collins Arena

After nearly 10 years since its inception, the vision for the new athletics and recreation facilities on the Brookdale Community College main Lincroft Campus is becoming a reality. A record-breaking 14,207 students are taking class credits at Brookdale, and with this increased enrollment comes increased demand for recreation, fitness and athletics programs and has led the college to evolve to meet the growing and changing student body.

Located on the site of a 100 year-old horse farm, the picturesque

Courtesy of Sink Combs Dethlefs

Courtesy of Sink Combs Dethlefs

campus draws students from across New Jersey and the Northeast region. The character of the buildings clad in cedar siding, natural river hewn stone and interior spaces characterized by warm materials and open floor plans offer a wonderful environment for learning as well as recreating. Originally, Brookdale was known for being an "open" campus, with no walls between classrooms or private offices for staff. This egalitarian open concept has been expressed in the new plans for the Collins Arena and Campus Recreation Center.

The brand new 24,000-square-foot Recreation Center is a multi-purpose facility which includes a large fitness center with cardiovascular and strength training equipment, a group exercise studio, a multi-use event gymnasium for recreation, athletics practice, intramural, convocation and special event uses. The Recreation Center forms a campus link along the main campus spine, bridging the site between the Arena and recently constructed Student Life Center.

The arena at the Lincroft main campus will undergo extensive renovation to become one of the region's premier sports and entertainment centers. Originally, one of the early performance venues for Bruce Springsteen, the arena is currently home to the Division III Brookdale Jersey Blues basketball and volleyball teams. The arena also hosts events ranging from graduations, trade shows, concerts and family entertainment such as the Harlem Globetrotters. Renovations include upgrades to the seating, flooring, restrooms, concessions, locker rooms and the HVAC system as well as the installation of new elevators. When complete, the arena will be fully ADA compliant and will provide all the amenities that visitors expect from a state-of-the-art performance venue.

In addition to the spectator upgrades to the building, the lower event level was completely reorganized to add new locker rooms, a sports medicine center, coaches and event staff offices, new loading and storage areas, and a connection to the new Recreation Center for use in training and practice.

"When completed, this will be one of the premier complexes in the nation for community college athletics," said Frank Lawrence, Brookdale director of athletics. "It is the culmination of more than two years of collaboration between several departments on campus along with our architectural team at Sink Combs Dethlefs. The design will meet the needs of our students, staff and the community for many decades to come. All of our teams have been competitive on the national level for many years, this project puts our facilities on the same level and will enhance our ability to recruit outstanding student-athletes."

For 40 years, the Brookdale Lincroft campus has continued to grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of the students it serves. The timeless character of its buildings, the natural beauty of the wooded campus, and the commitment of campus faculty and leaders to exceptional programs are all embodied in the new buildings under construction, and once completed, will stand the test of time for future classes to come.

CALVIN COLLEGE

Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex

Five major facilities opened in January and February as part of the $50 million Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex (SFC) at Calvin College (Mich.). At the center of the project was the 4,500-seat Van Noord Arena, which is home to numerous Calvin teams and features several new amenities. Within the fieldhouse complex also exists the Huizenga Tennis and Track Center, the Venema Aquatic Center, the Hoogenboom Health and Recreation Center, and a renovation of the old Calvin Fieldhouse.

The growing demand for athletics, instructional and recreational needs of students was met through the Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex. All of the new facilities include not only state-of-the-art athletics venues, but also significant classroom and lab space as well as recreational opportunities for all of Calvin's 4,100 students.

The new Venema Aquatic Center includes a 50-meter tank with a single bulkhead providing capability for multiple simultaneous activities; two three-meter springboards and two one-meter springboards; seating capacity to host large competitions; and additional lighting through a glass wall on the exterior of the building.

Calvin Women's Athletics Director Nancy Meyer noted that the new SFC facilities also take advantage of the many changes in technology that have been discovered since Calvin Fieldhouse was built:

"These really are state-of-the-art facilities," she said. "The new pool has been designed to be extremely fast and versatile. You might think that water is water, but the way that pools are designed and built now actually makes them much faster than they were when our original pool was built. Also, the diving well has an aeration system which makes the landing 'softer' for divers. The new arena and side gyms have a high-tech flooring system which is designed to absorb shock and add to one's vertical jump at the same time. It will lessen the stress on knees and ankles and hips. These kinds of features will be a plus for our varsity athletes, but also for recreational athletes, including students, faculty and staff.

Courtesy of Calvin athletics

The new Huizenga Tennis and Track Center measures approximately 62,000-square-feet and includes four competition tennis courts and a 200-meter indoor running track and multiple field venues for indoor track, including long jump pits and pole vault boxes. It is designed to be a multi-purpose center — the tennis courts can be

used for indoor baseball, softball, lacrosse and soccer and for basketball and volleyball practices.

With the renovation of the fieldhouse, the Hoogenboom Health and Recreation Center was expanded to service Calvin's students' needs. The health center has 6,000-square-feet and is complete with new exam rooms, lab offices, health support resources and health center employee offices.

Courtesy of Calvin athletics

Meanwhile, the old Calvin Fieldhouse, built in 1965, was converted into a multi-purpose athletics facility. All of the upper bleachers were removed from the old facility, creating space for much-needed classrooms, including a human performance lab — a critical part of the college's exercise science program. The fieldhouse also features a new dance studio and a renovated dance studio providing space for the expanding Dance Guild activities and the popular health, physical education, recreation, dance and sport (HPERDS) dance minor.

The new Van Noord Arena will host not just sports, but will be home to a wide array of events, everything from opening Convocation and closing Commencement to concerts, lectures, conferences, camps and other activities.

Van Noord Arena includes four full-sized basketball and volleyball courts, two fitness facilities, classrooms and staff offices, locker rooms, an athletics training room more than double the size of the former room, improved concession facilities and juice bar, a hospitality area, a spacious lobby area and a 45-foot tall by 80-foot wide climbing wall.

"This facility is a wonderful gift to our students and this community," said Glen Van Andel, a recreation professor emeritus who co-chaired the committee that planned the project. "It provides us with outstanding venues for our basketball teams and our volleyball team, but it is so much more than just a sports facility. It will allow us to take our academic and athletics programs to a new level. This facility has been dreamed about for many years."

The new SFC will enhance the academic experience for students studying exercise science, sports management, therapeutic recreation, dance and more in the HPERDS department; it will give the popular intramural program at Calvin room to grow; and it will provide superb fitness and recreational facilities to the Calvin community.

"The new buildings will be great for our varsity teams," said Meyer. "But in addition to being an athletics director I am a professor, so I know what these buildings will add to our academic programs. For any student taking a HPERDS course, whether that be in recreation, using the rock climbing wall, or in exercise science, using the new human performance lab, these facilities will be a big plus."

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA

Brenda Lawson Student-Athlete Success Center

In January, the University of Tennessee Chattanooga (UTC) christened its new $3.25 million, 20,000-square-foot Brenda Lawson Student-Athlete Success Center along with the Chattem Basketball Practice Facility and the 8,000-square-foot Wolford Family Strength and Conditioning Facility. Soon after, dribbling basketballs could be heard, football players could be seen lifting, and the buzz could be felt campus-wide.

The practice facility, which is used by the men's and women's basketball teams, features an exact replica of the new court in McKenzie Arena, right down to the logos on the court and the sideline, and six goals — one on each end and two on each side.

Another benefit of the facility, according to Head Men's Basketball Coach John Shulman, is the opportunity for UTC's players to practice on their own. Players are able to use their card keys to enter the facility at any time, something they can't do at McKenzie Arena, and can work on their games as much as they want for as long as they want. Now with the swipe of a card, student-athletes of any sport can access the spacious facility that includes a 40-yard, three-lane track and plenty of room to stretch 24 hours a day.

"If a kid wants to come in and shoot on a Saturday or Sunday morning in the spring, he can come in and do it," Shulman said.

Much like limited practice time, space issues are now a thing of the past. While the workouts have improved for football and basketball players, athletes from other sports are just thankful that they now have the opportunity to work out on campus.

"With a 2,500-square-foot weight room it's almost impossible to get everybody through," said Scott Brinks, UTC's strength and conditioning coordinator. "Some of the sports really got neglected because we didn't

Courtesy of Tennessee Chattanooga athletics

Courtesy of Tennessee Chattanooga athletics

provide for them because there wasn't enough time in the day. With this facility, it's so much better. From a scheduling aspect it's made it 100 percent easier."

"[The facility] compares favorably to any I've seen in the country at any level," said Chattanooga Athletics Director Rick Hart. "It's as nice as any I've seen, and it's going to benefit all of our student-athletes."

The facility was privately funded by four separate donors. Lawson — whose gifts now total $10 million to the University of Tennessee system — received the entire center's namesake, while Zan Guerry, Bucky Wolford and Bryan Patten also contributed.

"The athletes love it," Brincks said. "When you walk in there it does have a little bit of a wow effect. When you're working out and you have a good atmosphere and good place to work out in you get better results."

"It tells everybody we're committed here to excellence and having a quality athletics program," Hart said. "You don't build things like that and people don't give to things like that if they don't believe in what you're doing. That's just as important, if not more so, than anything else."

Head Football Coach Russ Huesman thinks the facility is one aspect that will improve the football program.

"To have a facility like that makes our job as coaches easier," he said. "[The players] want to be there, they want to go in there, they want to work out in that place. There are no excuses whatsoever for our kids not to get bigger, stronger, faster and obviously the strength and conditioning aspect of it is just a huge part of college football."

Huesman said that the facility has been unbelievable when it comes to recruiting.

"We had some kids in, that are juniors, and we took them through the facility and everybody that walks though there is just amazed by it," he said.

MESA STATE COLLEGE

Saunders Fieldhouse/Brownson Arena

In the late 1960's, Mesa State College built what was then the premier field house and recreation center between Denver and Salt Lake City. At that time, Mesa State had about 2,000 students.

Today, there are almost 7,000 students and the aged facility was no longer the jewel it once had been.

"As Mesa State continues to grow in enrollment, so grows the need for expanding and renovating our facilities," said Mesa State President Tim Foster. "We are in a competitive world and students expect state-of-the-art technology and equipment. This project will dramatically enhance our recruiting and retention efforts."

In 2007, following the completion of a new athletics master plan, Sink Combs Dethlefs began design of the Saunders Fieldhouse and Health Sciences Center renovation and addition on the campus of Mesa State College. The project included the renovation of the existing on-campus Saunders Fieldhouse as well as large additions to enhance the college's programs.

The structure was conceived as a complete wellness, fitness and athletics facility as well as a new home for the college's Health Sciences Department. About 125,000-square-feet were renovated and about 200,000-square-feet of new construction are being completed.

For athletics, it will provide new offices, a new wrestling practice space, new team locker rooms, and a large strength and conditioning area. It also adjoins a new soccer stadium and practice fields provided by the design team. The Brownson Arena is also being upgraded.

The renovated Saunders Fieldhouse and Health Sciences Center will also host all student indoor recreation activities. It will have new locker rooms, a large fitness and weight facility, an extended elevated jogging track, multipurpose rooms, new offices and an indoor 50-meter pool with seating for 750.

The renovated and expanded facilities will provide 14 new classrooms, including a 150-seat multi-tiered auditorium, labs, offices and meeting spaces for the health sciences programs and the department of kinesiology, which will also have a large sports medicine suite.

Courtesy of Mesa State athletics

The Monfort Family Human Performance Laboratory in Saunders will provide a myriad of services for community members, athletes, students and faculty. It will enable Mesa State to affect the health and athletics performance of the region. This integrative multi-use human performance lab will fill a need in the community by providing advanced physiological and biomechanical performance and wellness testing, a service not currently available in Mesa County. It will expand student-learning opportunities and may serve as host to research projects.

Courtesy of Mesa State athletics

Courtesy of Brian Kanof

The Saunders Fieldhouse and Health Sciences Center is the north anchor of an enhanced campus master plan. The design was created to provide a new image as a gateway to the campus and to link into other important on-campus buildings.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS EL PASO

Foster Stevens Basketball Complex

The University of Texas El Paso's (UTEP) state-of-the art Foster Stevens Basketball Complex, in the works for nearly three years, officially opened on April 22, 2009. UTEP announced plans to build the $14.3 million, 43,000-square-foot complex on June 15, 2006 and its groundbreaking occurred on Aug. 15, 2007.

The facility features two practice courts, a strength and conditioning center, sports medicine center, academic/film rooms, coaches' offices, locker rooms, equipment room and lounges for the UTEP men's and women's basketball programs.

It was designed and constructed to reflect the Bhutanese architecture featured throughout the entire UTEP campus. The entrance to the facility is a shrine to the 1966 Texas Western College national championship team, complete with a large mural depicting highlights from the season and other memorabilia on display.

Courtesy of Brian Kanof

Even before the finishing touches were put on the facility, the Miners' programs were seeing the positive impact it was going to have on all areas of the program, recruiting in particular.

"We had some kids in this spring on visits, we brought them through and it blew them away," said Keitha Adams, UTEP head women's basketball coach. "We've shown a first-class facility to our recruits and our players are absolutely going to reap the benefits of it."

UTEP Head Men's Basketball Coach Tony Barbee echoed the obvious advantages in recruiting, but he also noted the logistical advantages it gives his team, relating how he was thrown out of the Don Haskins Center (former home of the Miners' men's and women's basketball programs) for a week and a half two years ago when a concert came to town.

"When the Cheetah Girls came to town and we got moved out for a week and a half, I knew we needed a place to call our own," said Barbee. "It's beautiful and it brings so much to both our program and the community. I'm just blown away."

Two lead gifts of $3 million each were pledged by Paul L. Foster and Jeff and Sharon Stevens towards the completion of the facility. Paul Foster is the President and CEO of Western Refining Inc., and Jeff Stevens is Executive Vice President of the company.

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Indoor Golf Practice Facility

Just in time to beat the dreary and cold late winter weather, the Kennesaw State University (KSU) golf program unveiled its new indoor practice facility this spring. Located on Big Shanty Road adjacent to KSU's main campus, the new facility offers the Owls a year-round venue to practice at in addition to their many local partner golf courses.

"The indoor facility is one of the best I have seen at any university," said Kennesaw State Head Women's Golf Coach Rhyll Brinsmead on the completed project. "With the addition of the indoor facility and the use of the area golf courses, our players now have access to some of the best facilities in the region."

The facility contains a large, contoured putting green, five hitting bays with swing analysis technology, and a club repair facility. It was designed to be a space that the players can use to work on any area of their games, equipped with the latest technology in training equipment and video swing and putting analysis. The putting green enables the players to

work on all types of putts and the three chipping stations set the players up for any type of shot, such as up, down or side hill.

"The useablity of the facility is phenomenal and it has had an immediate impact on our players' games," added Brinsmead. "To have access to this indoor facility 24/7, rain or shine, is exactly what our programs needed to take the next step toward achieving our goals. It is a key to successful recruiting and enhances the already great resources and facilities Kennesaw State has to offer."

"This is a state-of-the-art facility for our golf programs," said Dr. Dave Waples, KSU director of athletics. "In addition to the indoor space, the facility is also equipped with the latest technology. The indoor facility shows our commitment to improving and upgrading all of our facilities

Courtesy of Kennesaw State athletics

and providing our student-athletes with everything they need to compete at a Division I level."

Also, its close vicinity to the new Student-Athlete Success Center also provides an excellent opportunity for the student-athletes to get in extra practice time without interfering with their academic careers.

DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Badlands Activities Center

The Dickinson community has learned how to pool community resources to develop projects with multiple benefits. The Badlands Activities Center, on the campus of Dickinson State University, may be the best example of this creative partnering. As a replacement for the university's Whitney Stadium, the Badlands Activities Center will continue to host football and track & field events, but will offer much more for the community. Through strategic use of the stadium's spaces, the center will be able to host a multitude of additional events including banquets, conferences, trade shows, consumer shows, arts and craft fairs, receptions, and other special events.


Courtesy of Sink Combs Dethlefs

"Imagine the future of Dickinson with such a facility, one that will see daily indoor and/or outdoor usage throughout the year," said Diana Knutson, President, Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The number of new opportunities provided by this state-of-the-art facility and its exhibition space are limited only by our creativity. As a result, this increased activity will also stimulate expansion within our hospitality industry."

With this spirit of cooperation, Dickinson State, the city, school district and a strong contingent of private donors have funded this $16 million project. The design reflects the needs of a multitude of user groups.

The large enclosed concourse space will offer protection from the elements during stadium events and a large exhibit/multi-purpose floor for year-round use. The indoor club spaces will double as meeting rooms for conferences, banquet rooms for special events, or additional exhibit space. Food service, restrooms and storage spaces have all been designed and located to maximize the multi-use vision for the whole facility.

The Badlands Activities Center will feature an on-site locker room facility located under the stadium. The facility will include a training/medical room and locker rooms for the three home teams: Dickinson State University, Dickinson High School and Trinity High School. It will be the first time in Dickinson's history that basic amenities will be available on site. The Badlands Activities Center will provide the safety and facilities that parents expect for their children and that today's coaches and student-athletes need.

The playing field and track are being rebuilt as part of the project, featuring surfaces that can successfully withstand the frequency of events and the cold winter climate in Dickinson.

On the second floor of The Badlands Activities Center will be the new


Courtesy of Kennesaw State athletics


Courtesy of Sink Combs Dethlefs

home to the media, coaches and video crews. The latest technology will ensure top coaching for student-success.

The nine original suites sold quickly, so six more suites were added to the upper level as well.

Through the development of exterior and interior renderings depicting the flexibility of use and new club/suite seating options, Sink Combs Dethlefs has assisted the university in its very successful fundraising and marketing efforts.

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

Cooney Family Field House

Samford University's Cooney Family Field House was built by Gary C. Wyatt General Contractor and made possible with a lead gift from Gary Cooney, a Birmingham business executive, Samford graduate and member of its 1971 National Championship football team. Cooney said he wanted to honor his parents, the late John and Patricia Cooney, and other family members with the naming.

"Our family has a long history with Samford, and my hope is that these gifts will encourage others to support this great university," Cooney said. "We have great confidence in the leadership of Dr. Westmoreland and our good friend, Coach Pat Sullivan, and we want to help have a positive influence on young student-athletes."

"Gary Cooney's commitment to his alma mater and our athletics program is very evident with his leadership gift for this project," said Samford President Andrew Westmoreland. "It especially is fitting that we can make this announcement on homecoming weekend when we celebrate alumni and when we are recognizing the championship team on which Gary played."

The 39,000-square-foot building was built at the south end of F. Page Seibert Stadium and was completed in time for the 2009 football season. The building includes two levels of offices, locker rooms, meeting space, equipment storage and training facilities for football. A hospitality suite and observation deck overlook Seibert Stadium. An unfinished third level will be used for future university expansion needs.

"Friends and alumni like Gary Cooney and his family are creating a positive impact for Samford and our athletics program," said Samford Athletics Director Bob Roller. "This facility would not be possible without their generosity.

"It provides our football program with state-of-the-art facilities at an important time for Samford athletics. With the university's move to the Southern Conference, it is critical for us to compete at all levels — on the field, in the classroom and facilities — with our new conference counterparts."

The $7.5 million project was funded with private financial support, Roller noted.

The Cooney Family Field House replaces facilities in Seibert Hall that date to that building's construction in the late 1950s. Visiting teams will continue to use refurbished locker rooms and other facilities in Seibert Hall.

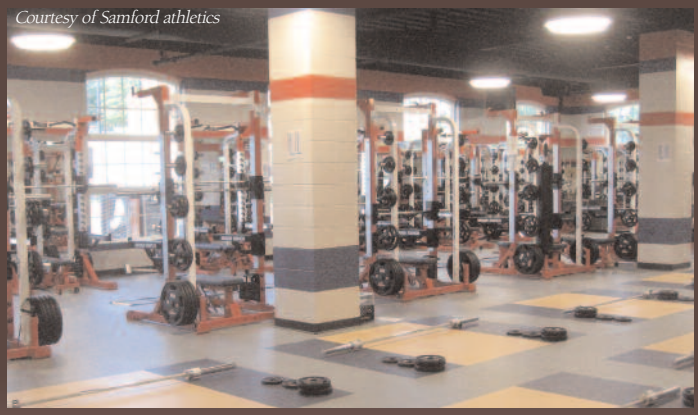
"The support for this facility demonstrates a growing interest and support of Samford athletics across the region," said Randy Pittman, Samford vice president for university relations. "And, the addition of Pat Sullivan as our head football coach has helped to attract many new friends and donors to the university for the first time."

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena

Creighton University officially dedicated the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena during a ceremony on August 28.

Designed by Sink Combs Dethlefs and built by Hawkins Construction, the 78,134-square-foot facility is the new home for Creighton women's volleyball and basketball programs, with a court arena seating 2,950. The facility also includes coaches' offices, locker rooms, ticket offices, athletics training, meeting rooms and a media workroom. The arena is also expected to be used for other campus and community events, including campus assemblies, coaching camps/clinics, concerts and speakers.


Courtesy of Samford athletics


Courtesy of Samford athletics

Courtesy of Sink Combs Dethlefs

"This one of a kind women's athletics facility is one of the best in the nation and will make our dreams of an even stronger athletics program, championed by intensely loyal fans, more of a reality," said Bruce Rasmussen, Creighton's director of athletics. "This long-desired on-campus home also provides a gathering place for other campus activities and community events."

The building's design matches the campus's prevalent collegiate gothic style. Located adjacent to the soccer stadium, The Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center complements it with team facilities and coaches' offices for the men's and women's soccer teams. The D.J. Sokol Arena was specifically designed to recall the great traditions of collegiate athletics — strong rivalries played out on a grand but intimate stage with fans loudly cheering on their respective teams.

The building has also been designed with the campus's future in mind. As the university relocates current athletics venues from the heart of the campus, additional sports, including baseball and softball, will be headquartered in the building. An adjacent student fitness center and indoor fieldhouse is being designed for the site to the east of the Ryan Center. Practice baseball and competition softball fields are planned to the north of the Ryan Center. The extension of the Webster Street Mall will anchor the full athletics complex and tie it back to the main campus.

The sustainability efforts designed into the facility can not go unnoted. The arena wood floor, constructed of Forest Industry Council (FSC) Certified Wood, was obtained from forest managers who adopt environmentally and socially responsible practices. Projection screens used within the D. J. Sokol Arena meet the "GreenGuard" certification program. The use of occupancy sensor lighting controls through the office space of the Ryan Athletic Center provides superior energy efficiency. Along the same lines, energy efficient light emitting diode (LED) and fluorescent lighting was used for all lighting, excluding arena and decorative lighting. Finally, when the outdoor temperature is comfortable, the use of unconditioned air is an effective and economical way to cool the building; this is known as "free cooling" economizers.

The facility was made possible by generous donations from Dr. Wayne and Eileen Ryan, who believe strongly in the Jesuit commitment to educate the whole person — mind, body and spirit. The D.J. Sokol Arena honors the memory of David L. Sokol Jr. "D.J." who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 16. As he fought the disease for two years, he demonstrated wisdom, maturity, empathy and enthusiasm, and served as a tremendous source of inspiration to all who met him. Generations of athletes privileged to play here will continue to be inspired by his example.

Courtesy of Sink Combs Dethlefs