

Wildcats Dream

Northwestern University delivers a stunning vision for the future





The remake of the athletic footprint is designed to meet the needs of the university's broad athletic program - 19 sports, while supporting the top-tier academic environment at Northwestern.

Northwestern: A Drive for Excellence Both On the Field and Off

Northwestern University always has been a shining star for academics, including a brilliant coterie of student-athletes. The school consistently ranks at the top of the nation for student-athlete graduation rates, grade point averages and other academic metrics. After all, you have to be bright enough to get into Northwestern if you want to play sports there. And the University likes it that way.

But achievement in athletics doesn't preclude achievement in academics. And when athletic director Jim Phillips appeared before the University board eight years ago to ask for a master plan to upgrade the school's sports and recreation facilities, he won its support.

"President Morton Schapiro said, 'We're already among the best academically; why can't we be the best athletically as well?'" said Phillips.

In the span of 12 months, Northwestern will have completed four major projects that will catapult the school's facilities to the top of the Big Ten Conference.

In April, the school opened its state-of-the-art Ryan Fieldhouse. On Aug. 1, Northwestern dedicated the Walter Athletics Center. In November,

the overhauled Welsh-Ryan Arena will open in time for basketball season. And in the spring of 2019, construction crews will put the finishing touches on the Trienens Performance Center, a dedicated practice facility for basketball and volleyball, and a development hub for other programs.

It was a big hill to climb.

In 2010, Northwestern began to develop a comprehensive facilities master plan for the department, the first ever for Northwestern. Then the team hit the road.

"We visited over 75 facilities, professional and college, urban and rural settings, small and large universities, public and private, and everything in between," said Phillips. "We wanted to find out what was being done right, and just as importantly, what might be done wrong. I very directly credit the master plan with the success of our facilities. It was the prep work in building a strategy that allowed us to maximize our dollars and build a sense of community among our 504 student-athletes over 19 sports that's like no other. It goes back to being thoughtful about planning our priorities, then executing them in that order."

"We listened to our students, our

athletes, our coaches and staff, and the community," said Brian Baptiste, deputy director of athletics in charge of capital projects and operations. "We wanted to be as collaborative as possible. We committed to generating ideas to meet that feedback and to executing those ideas. And we have."

A plan to integrate sports and student life

Funding was the first step toward climbing the hill. Phillips and his team have raised more than \$400-plus million total needed through generous contributions from alumni and supporters before breaking ground on each of the projects. Although the building frenzy is slowing, donations continue to come in. Phillips said donations may pass the \$500-million mark before it's over. Some of the biggest supporters include Pat and Shirley Ryan, Mark and Kimbra Walter, Steve and Sue Wilson, Kimberley Querrey and Lou Simpson, Lanny and Sharon Martin, and Howard Trienens.

Phillips, whose vice presidential responsibilities also include leadership of Northwestern's recreation department, wanted to address straight

away the facilities used by the general student body and the community. First, Phillips and the University team constructed a new, multi-million dollar sailing center on the campus' south beach on Lake Michigan. Then, beginning in 2014, they revitalized the Henry Crown Sports Pavilion, adding 30,000 square feet of space and all-new equipment.

"It was very intentional," said Phillips. "We don't have a varsity sailing team but sailing is a key element for our lakeside community. We want our campus fully intertwined, students, student-athletes, community. We do not want any separation — no fences, no idea of 'you can't watch football practice.' That's why, instead of our athletes being a mile away, we brought them back into the heart of the campus, right on the beach. The sailing center and Henry Crown Sports Pavilion are for everyone, in the same way our varsity fields and courts also are for everyone. It's a wonderful way to integrate varsity sports with the student population. It's a different model but it works for us."

In 2015, Northwestern finished a top-to-bottom \$15 million rebuild of Rocky and Berenice Miller Park thanks

to the generosity of Richard and Roxy Pepper and other supporters. The overhaul of the school's iconic 75-year-old baseball stadium introduced a clubhouse, new playing surface, broadcast facilities, club seating and a new ticket office. Miller Park now offers amenities on par with a minor league ballpark.

Along the way, Phillips, Baptiste and their team renovated older fields, including spending \$15 million in 2015 to upgrade Lakeside Field with lights, a new scoreboard and restrooms to better accommodate the nationally ranked field hockey team. In 2016, they opened the newly renovated Lanny and Sharon Martin Stadium for women's and men's soccer and lacrosse. Chap and Ethel Hutcheson Field, also opened in 2016, is the new turf practice field for football, just steps from the water.

Ryan Fieldhouse, Wilson Field and Walter Athletics Center: Dramatic designs and innovative engineering

"The Ryan Fieldhouse was an incredible engineering act of piecing together a puzzle that has resulted in a jaw-dropping experience for anyone inside the building," said Bryan Schabel, design principal for

Perkins+Will, the Chicago-based architectural firm brought on board as part of the fieldhouse design team, alongside HOK.

The \$270 million, 500,000-square-foot fieldhouse and the adjacent Walter Athletics Center are located in a space with tight parameters, bounded by buildings and fields on two sides and Lake Michigan and the beach on the other two. Ryan Fieldhouse also needed to accommodate the lakefront pedestrian path, which follows the shoreline for 25 miles from the south

side of Chicago through Evanston.

Necessity forced the team to get creative. The result is walls of glass overlooking the lake with views of the Chicago skyline from a building cantilevered over the pedestrian pathway, with the main hub of action lifted onto the second floor. Access required to meet fire codes gave the design team the opportunity to design two stunning entry staircases, creating separate entrances for student-athletes and students, turning a singular structure into essentially two — the

Ryan Fieldhouse and the Walter Athletics Center.

"Our design goals were to make the most of the spectacular site overlooking Lake Michigan and create an exciting presence near the northern entry to the Evanston campus," said Schabel. "From the second floor, you experience the building almost as if it were a ship on Lake Michigan."

The all-glass, north-facing facade provides unobstructed views of the lake and fills Ryan Fieldhouse with natural light. The fieldhouse dome, specifically designed to accommodate the unique kicking, punting and functional needs of the athletic programs, is supported by a dramatic series of long-span steel arches that relate to the 10-yard grid of the football field.

USG Corp., the company that invented the 100-year-old Sheetrock® brand, brought in its innovative products to push the performance of the building, including its Securock® brand glass-mat sheathing. The sheathing provided a weather-resistant barrier during construction. The sheathing was then skim-coated to create a final exterior finish.

"It's exciting for us to be involved in such iconic projects with our neighbor school, Northwestern," said John Lindsay, vice president of corporate



Throughout the fieldhouse and locker areas, the new facilities stress the tradition and standards of the Northwestern University experience.

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SEE VISION, PAGE 4A

From One Chicago Team to Another

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the future of hospitality for Wildcats student-athletes, fans and the community.

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VISION, FROM PAGE 3A

accounts for Chicago-based USG. Additionally, USG is using its Securock® and other Sheetrock® products in the renovation of the Welsh-Ryan Arena.

"We focused on enhancing student-athletes' health and wellness, and connecting them more closely to the academic campus. The design for Ryan Fieldhouse and the Walter Athletics Center supports Northwestern's goal to recruit and develop the best student-athletes," said Schabel.

The centerpiece, if only one can be singled out, is Wilson Field, an artificial turf, indoor field that can accommodate football, lacrosse, soccer and other varsity practices and competitions, as well as campus programs such as the University's famed annual Dance Marathon.

Ryan Fieldhouse provides year-round practice and training space for all Northwestern student-athletes. The facility is headquarters for Northwestern football and seven of the University's Olympic sports teams, and also offers daily support for all 19 varsity teams. The football program has a dedicated weight room, locker room and meeting spaces, as well as staff office space.

The football program's weight room is now more than double the size of the single weight room formerly shared

by every student-athlete. An Olympic sports performance center, in close proximity to the other team locker rooms, services those programs.

Servicing the health and wellness needs of Wildcats student-athletes

The Kimberly K. Querry and Louis A. Simpson Wing of the athletic center houses the Nona Jo's Dining Center and nutrition amenities, as well as academic support and professional development services.

Levy Restaurants came on board in June to bring the best in nutrition to student-athletes.

"How do we meet the students where they are?" said Molly Kurth, vice president of NCAA operations for Levy. "Our goal is to determine when and where an athlete needs nutrition and how to deliver it. We have to also balance nutrition needs for each athlete. A sport that requires upper body strength, for example, may require different nutrition than one focused on speed or endurance. Men may have different needs than women. A freshman just getting acclimated to school may be different from a senior at peak performance."

Levy hired a dietitian, Danielle Mach, to work directly with the athletic department's nutrition staff and to zero



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Nutrition-focused dining ensure that Wildcats student-athletes have quick and easy access to individualized diet options tailored to their training regimens.

in on enhancing the personal priorities of each athlete. Levy also established fueling stations throughout the facilities to give busy athletes a chance to eat.

"Student-athletes have a lot of demands on their time — class, studying, practice — and every sport and every athlete has a different schedule," said Kurth. "Instead of saying, you have a one-time opportunity to have a meal and you figure out how to make that work, we want to be available for them as they crisscross through their day."

The facility also houses a 188-seat

auditorium, as well as a cutting-edge sports medicine, athletic training and rehabilitation center.

An invisible, yet state-of-the-art component of the new facility is the air itself. Baptiste and the athletic training staff spotted an unusual opportunity for improvement in their pursuit of world-class amenities — fewer airborne health issues. They brought in AtmosAir™ air purifying technology throughout the fieldhouse and athletics center.

"Our technology continually scrubs the air, taking out bacteria, viruses and



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The tight parameters of the fieldhouse location required the design team to get creative with architecture and engineering, resulting in a light-filled environment that maximizes views of Lake Michigan.



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mold spores to give a better breathing experience,” said Steve Levine, president and CEO of AtmosAir Solutions. “Our technology also attacks surfaces, which harbor contaminants such as staph and MRSA, both a big concern in athletic facilities. It also attacks germs like norovirus and e. coli. And with our technology, a heavily used weight room, for example, will still smell like a crisp mountain day. Northwestern is focused on what its athletes put in their bodies, whether that’s food or water, and just as importantly, what they breathe.”

Northwestern is also installing AtmosAir™ technology in Welsh-Ryan Arena and the Trienens Performance Center.

Student-athletes now have a day-to-day home on campus at Ryan Fieldhouse and Walter Athletics Center, giving them a place to eat, study, relax and practice.

“The Walter Athletics Center is a one-stop shop for academic, social and athletic development,” said Baptiste. “The life of a student-athlete is complex. We’ve now given them a place to center their lives, while also being a central part of campus life.”

Welsh-Ryan Arena: Updating Northwestern tradition

Opened in 1952, and last renovated in 1983, Welsh-Ryan Arena, the competitive home of men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball and wrestling, was an intimate, historic venue that lacked modern amenities.

Instead of tearing down the campus’ most used and versatile venue, the design team elected to leave some of the familiar structure of the old building and spend \$110 million to completely renovate the facility in its existing location.

When the building opens Nov. 2 with an exhibition game, it will have transformed seating for 8,100, primar-



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Last renovated in 1983, Welsh-Ryan Arena, home of Northwestern basketball, volleyball and wrestling, was due for a makeover. To preserve the facility’s historic place on the Northwestern Campus, the renovation kept the architectural signature intact while adding state-of-the-art amenities for Wildcats athletes and fans.

ily on old wooden bleachers, to 7,000 chair-back seats. Five new elevators replace the old single elevator. The new restrooms will triple the number in the pre-renovated days. And the new arena will have double the number of food and beverage points of sale. Wider, more accessible concourses will relieve congestion. The building lobby will grow by 50 percent, and a facility that previously had four televisions will now have more than 85 screens throughout its concourses.

“It was important to the University to maintain the shape in order to retain its history, look and feel,” said Greg Werner, senior vice president of Mortenson Construction, which tackled the arena project. “We took basically a gymnasium, and turned it into the leading arena in the Big Ten. And even though it’s a similar size outside, we reconfigured it so that the interior

feels much roomier, with a new mezzanine, new concourses and extra room for circulation and concessions.”

Levy is working with several Evanston restaurants to bring local flavors to additional concessions. Kurth said the partnerships will be unveiled closer to November.

One of the biggest arena transformations was to its premium hospitality area.

“The N-Club was originally the training table for all the student-athletes,” said Nate Appleman, global director of HOK’s Sports + Recreation + Entertainment practice. “It was very undersized. It also was the only hospitality space in the arena. It was having to pull double duty, even though it wasn’t designed to handle it.”

HOK and Mortenson physically lifted the newly renamed Wilson Club,

so that the space is now directly accessible to the Randy Walker Terrace at football’s Ryan Field. The Wilson Club will still serve as training table for six sports. It has expanded significantly in size and can now better serve as premium hospitality space for arena events, such as basketball, as well as for football home games.

Of all the sports facilities, Welsh-Ryan Arena’s renovation may have been the most challenging.

“We had to take a ‘ship-in-a-bottle’ approach,” said Appleman.

Werner agreed. “The arena sits within a neighborhood. Right across the street are people’s homes,” he said. “Start times, delivery times — we had to be very proactive with neighbors. The close proximity also created tight physical constraints, which

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Northwestern's sports facilities master plan called for upgrading existing fields and adding new ones, including, clockwise from top left, Lakeside Field, home of the Wildcats' nationally ranked field hockey team; baseball's Miller Park; soccer and lacrosse's Martin Stadium; and Hutcherson Field, the new turf practice field for football.

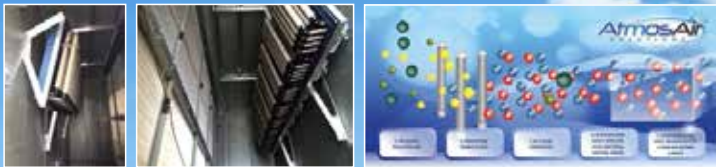


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VISION, FROM PAGE 5A

meant we had to resort to creative ways to get things done."

Under normal circumstances, Mortenson would use a crane to lift the mechanical onto the roof. But for the arena, crews couldn't fit a crane anywhere. Instead, Mortenson coordinated with all the neighbors and, on a single Saturday, used helicopters to lift 40 pieces of mechanical equipment to the roof.

And, through all of the construction, the school year marched on.

"Since we've started the renovations, we've gone through two commencements and two football seasons," said Werner. "We've made sure that in every case, not only have we made the spaces safe and accessible for patrons, we've created the look and feel every graduate, every football fan deserves. It's been a terrific partnership with HOK and Northwestern."

Trienens Performance Center: Dedicated to peak athletic training

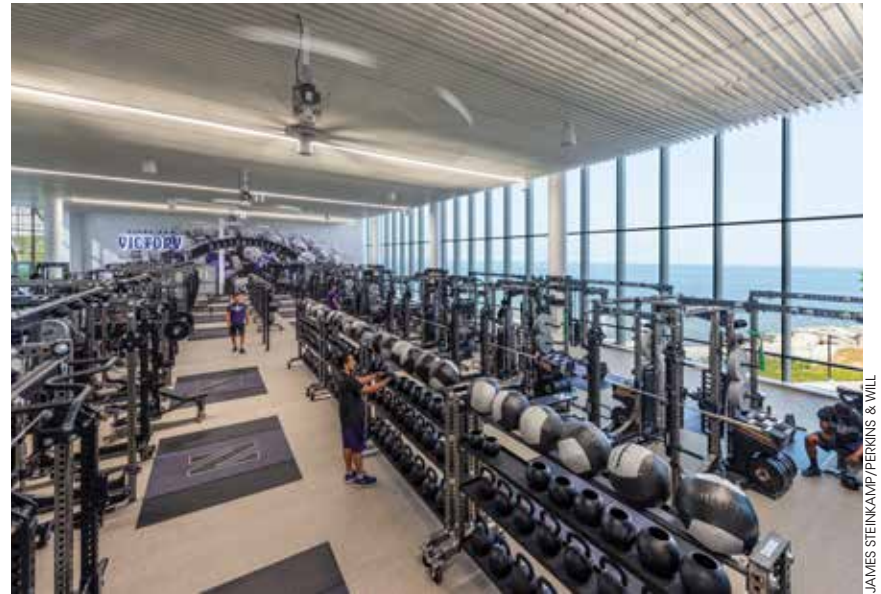
One of the final jewels to be placed in Northwestern's sports crown will be the \$24 million Trienens Performance Center, scheduled for completion in Spring 2019.

Adjacent to Welsh-Ryan Arena, Trienens will serve as a multi-court practice home for basketball, volleyball and other sports programs. The space will include top-of-the-line athletic training and rehabilitation areas; a sports performance center; team meeting rooms; and an expanded performance nutrition hub for wrestling, baseball and softball, in addition to men's and women's basketball and volleyball. Additionally, the north portion of the facility will include a renovated training area with

40 yards of turf, and a 14,400-square-foot indoor hitting and pitching facility for baseball and softball.

"This has been a critically important effort for Northwestern," said Phillips. "One of the missing pieces for our athletics program was our infrastructure. And we've accomplished all of this through a team effort. A team effort that involved a single purpose and a single vision. And we've been able to do it in a sequence that made sense for our amazing University."

He added, "At the end of the day, it's about the student-athletes. My favorite part of this is seeing the eyes of the student-athletes when they first experience these new facilities. And every day after that, I see their faces continue to glow."



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When completed, Northwestern's facilities transformation will create an environment that accommodates every aspect of the student-athlete experience, while furthering the University's goals of both academic and athletic excellence.

TRANSFORMING NORTHWESTERN ATHLETICS

Congratulations from the proud design team behind Ryan Fieldhouse & Walter Athletics Center*, Trienens Performance Center and Welsh-Ryan Arena



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