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Athletically Gifted

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05.09.2011 | Athletics

The generosity of Tom and Mike Cronin, president and executive vice president of Dayton Freight, respectively, will allow the University to move forward on renovations to the University's multi-purpose on-campus practice facility.

Adjacent to the Frericks Center, the former Physical Activities Center, which the division of athletics took over and renamed the Athletics Practice Facility after the building of RecPlex, will be renamed the Cronin Athletics Center.

The center will undergo a major renovation project later this year. It will involve new offices, meeting spaces, film rooms and technology suites for the men's basketball, women's basketball and volleyball programs as well as additional office space for the Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes. All 17 Flyer intercollegiate sports programs will use the facility.

"We're extremely happy to be able to publicly recognize the support of Mike and Tom Cronin of UD athletics with the naming of the Cronin Athletics Center," University Vice President and Director of Athletics Tim Wabler said. "They've been very supportive of this project from the beginning – when we gave our basketball teams a court on campus to utilize and when we renovated the Collins Gym. Across the board, our athletics program has never been more successful, and their support has positively impacted every one of our 17 intercollegiate sports."

This news comes on the heels of the baseball field at Time Warner Cable Stadium being named for former Flyer baseball player Larry Woerner and his wife, Rosemari.

The Woerners made significant gifts to athletic projects and scholarships to the University beginning in 2001. They made a significant leadership commitment to the baseball stadium project in 2003.

[video_woerner_field_dedication](#)

The Woerners also have made numerous contributions to the College of Arts & Sciences and to athletic and academic scholarships.

Larry Woerner co-founded MW-de Montigny Woerner Ltda., based in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and helped developed it into the largest benefits and human resources consulting firm in Latin America. In 1993, his company merged with New York City-based Mercer Inc. Woerner currently holds the title of chief human resources officer with Mercer. He also is a member of the College of Arts and Sciences' advisory council.

"When we first began working on a baseball stadium project, Larry Woerner was there from the beginning," Wabler said. "The corporate and personal support that followed was in response to Larry and Rosemari's generosity. Their continued significant support of the athletics division, as well as the College of Arts and Sciences, make it very appropriate for the University to recognize them in this manner."

In the last 10 years, the University has invested \$35 million in its athletics facilities, \$29 million coming from private donations and corporate support. The on-campus home for every Flyer varsity team has been either newly constructed or renovated in that time.

Financial support from the Cronins, Woerners and others have helped boost on-field success. In the last four years, Flyer teams have won 19 conference championships, 12 Flyer coaches have earned conference coach of the year honors, 16 Flyers have won individual Atlantic 10 championships in track, cross country or golf, and 26 student-athletics have won "best in conference" awards.

For interviews, contact Sport Information Director Doug Hauschild at 937-229-4380. For more information about naming opportunities within the Cronin Athletics Center, please contact Brian Tracy, director of development for athletics, at 937-229-3999.

