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Campus Report May 22, 2008

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Over the summer, construction crews are preparing for the final phase of the 20-month renovation of the building formerly known as the Physical Activities Center.

The building, now known as the athletics practice facility, will receive new brick-finish façades on three sides to complement the red-brick Frericks Center next door; the remaining side will be painted to match. New windows are being installed on the northwest side of the building, and the storefront glass panels on the west and south sides — deemed irreparable — will be replaced.

Previous phases since January 2007 have included:

- Filling in the pool to make way for the installation of the basketball court from UD Arena;
- Resurfacing the Collins Gymnasium with a multi-purpose floor for track, volleyball, baseball, tennis, softball, football and general conditioning;
- Installation of a 150-meter track with an Olympic surface; stations for pole vault, triple jump, long jump and high jump;
- Installation of hardware and equipment to convert the Collins Gymnasium floor into two tennis courts;
- Installation of a new hardwood floor for volleyball in the Frericks Center.

Teams have been using the renovated facility for the past year, said Dave Harper, associate athletic director.

"It's already resulted in strong competitive success after one year of use," he said (read about it in the Dayton Daily News) ([url: mailto://Dayton Daily News](mailto://Dayton Daily News)) . "It's in use seven days a week by teams and individuals."

Besides providing additional practice options on the main campus for more teams, particularly in inclement weather, the facility is a great recruiting tool, Harper said. It also has provided greater opportunities for individual training.

The Collins Gymnasium, named for the late Father Charles Collins, S.M., retains its name. Collins, who died in 1984, worked at UD for 34 years as an instructor, registrar, dean of students, administrator, guidance director and chair of the athletic board. He was Inducted into the UD athletics hall of fame in 1971.