10-18-1968

The University of Dayton to Build Basketball Arena

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation
"The University of Dayton to Build Basketball Arena" (1968). News Releases. 3404.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/3404
DAYTON, Ohio, October 18, 1968 — The University of Dayton will build a $4,000,000, 13,500-seat basketball arena on land adjacent to Perc Welcome Stadium in Dayton, Very Rev. Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., University President, announced today. The decision was reached yesterday after the Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission, created by state law earlier this year, approved a bond issue of $4,000,000 for the UD structure.

The announcement, made in Columbus after University authorities met with the Commission, culminated 18 months of involved negotiations for the sorely-needed athletic facility. The arena, according to Mr. Thomas Frericks, Athletic Director, is to be ready for occupancy by December 1, 1969.

The move will enable the University to release the present 5,880-seat UD fieldhouse exclusively for physical education, intramural sports and free play by the second term of the 1969-70 school year, which begins the first week of January, 1970. He also indicated that it sets the stage for the construction of an indoor recreation facility which reportedly will house a swimming pool, ice hockey rink, handball courts, a basketball floor, a weight room and wrestling area. This building could be built in the parking lot alongside the Fieldhouse. This structure is also sorely needed because of the increase of on-campus students who number about 3,000 and because of the growth of the physical education program.

Frericks revealed that University authorities met with the Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission on August 21 to discuss the possibility of the loan under the new law, which authorizes the Commission to examine and approve applications for the issuance of bonds to support construction on private college campuses. This is the second such approval since Kenyon College received a loan in July.

Bro. Elmer C. Lackner, S.M., University Vice President for Public Relations, said that, with the approval, underwriters of the bonds will be authorized to proceed with the printing and public sale of bonds to prospective investors. He said that the bond rate is slightly over five per cent and the term is 28 years. He emphasized that the full credit of the University will back the bonds.

Father Roesch, in making the announcement, said: "We are elated over the good news we have just received from Columbus today granting approval of our
application for a $4,000,000 loan to build a new basketball arena in Dayton. It is
the culmination of a year and a half of involved negotiations.

"While the construction of the basketball arena can now get underway in the
next few weeks, the University willingly assumed this financial burden confident
that the local community will support the previously announced plan to build up
the reserve fund necessary to the success of this project.

"We are particularly happy for the opportunity we now have of better serving
our students, faculty, alumni, and other friends in the community who have taken
such a deep interest in the success of the Flyers program."

Father Roesch was referring to a $1,000 contribution idea, indicated a year
ago, which is still an essential part of the arena project. Plans for the imple-
mentation of the project will be announced shortly. Bro. Lackner said that an
opportunity to participate in this project will be given to UD alumni, parents of
students, season ticket holders in football and basketball, and the general public.

He indicated that the funds are necessary and are required to establish a
reserve fund for the bonds. It is understood a minimum of $500,000 is needed for
this reserve fund.

The arena, according to Frericks, will be built on 4.6 acres which does not
include about 30 acres for parking. This 4.6 acres, completing an exchange with
the Miami Conservancy District, is a gift from Mr. Horace J. Boesch Sr., a graduate
of the University of Dayton. The parking area will hold approximately 3,900 cars.

Frericks also said that a contract has been signed with Pretzinger & Pretzinger,
arrests, and the B. G. Danis Construction Company. Both firms are located in
Dayton.

"It is expected," said Frericks, "that approximately two thirds of the 13,500
seats will be chair backs at the outset. The arena seating is so planned that the
remaining third can be converted as financing becomes available.

"This increased seating capacity," he continued, "guarantees bigger gross gates
which in turn opens new scheduling possibilities. Because of our success in the
past four years the need for a larger arena is immediate."

The Flyers, under Coach Don Donoher who is starting his fifth year, placed
second to UCLA in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament in
March, 1967, and won the National Invitational Tournament in New York last March.
Donoher, who succeeded the late Tom Blackburn, has compiled a 91-28 record in his
four seasons.

Blackburn had taken the obscure Flyer basketball program in the 1947-48
season and gave it national attention. His 17 teams won 352 games and lost 141.
They participated in 10 National Invitation Tournaments, finishing second in five
and winning the 1952 tourney. He also participated in 12 other holiday and post-
season tournaments, winning the University of Kentucky Invitational Tournament in
the 1955-56 season.