



PROJECT PROFILE

Harold Alfond Athletic Center

Thomas College

Waterville, Maine



Project:

Harold Alfond Athletic Center
Thomas College

Architect:

Orcutt Associates
Yarmouth, Maine

Use:

Field House

Services:

Civil / Structural Design
Construction Management

Completion:

Fall, 2006

“This facility will enable the college to attain an even higher level of distinction in the education and community services it provides, and will be a critical element in meeting enrollment growth goals.”

Conrad Ayotte, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Overview

The Harold Alfond Athletic Center is the centerpiece of the Thomas College campus and has a large presence when entering the campus. This 35,500 sf athletic complex was designed with the intention of functioning primarily as a recreation center for the student population and secondarily as an indoor training facility for Thomas College's athletic teams. The Architect designed the shell of the building around a pre-engineered structure with brick masonry and architectural metal panels above the masonry to compliment the adjacent structures.

Upon entering the main entrance to the building, the high roof line and the extensive use of interior glazing allow a continuous view from the lobby to the field house. A skylight creates a bright space for the student lounge and reception area in the lobby.

The field house features a three lane track around the perimeter and three, multipurpose sport courts in the center of the track. The entire floor of the field house is covered with a Mondo synthetic sports flooring.



Challenges

Operable mesh curtains provide protection for those using the track while other sports are taking place, and they also act as dividers between the courts allowing maximum flexibility in the usage of the field house. Orcutt Associates incorporated natural light into the space by means of a skylight running along the ridge of the building and the use of Kalwall translucent panels in the walls.

Overlooking the field house from a second level are the exercise room and the multipurpose room with a cushioned hardwood floor. The exercise room is divided between a weight training area and a fitness area equipped with the latest in aerobic fitness equipment. Locker rooms on the lower level further accommodate the needs of the students.

The building was sited in a location between the entrance road and a ravine that resulted in steep slopes and very little room to maneuver around the building. In addition to the challenges surrounding the building pad, the scope of work for the site also encompassed additional parking, drainage modifications to the existing parking lots and extensive storm water management improvements.



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