

University of Northern Colorado

Athletic Facilities Master Plan Executive Committee Presentation

January 10, 2006

SportsPLAN Studio
in association with
Davis Partnership Architects



Executive SUMMARY

Introduction

As the University of Northern Colorado Athletic programs strive to meet the challenges of beginning competition in July of 2006, in the Big Sky Conference at the NCAA Division I level, the facilities and infrastructure that support athletics programs must be adequate and competitive with comparable institutions. The University recognized that the existing facilities available to athletes for practice and performances are not adequate and determined that a Master Plan for improvements of these facilities would be critical in affecting logical and feasible expansion and upgrade.

The Davis Partnership/SportsPLAN Studio consulting team began in the Fall of 2005 as follows:

- ◆ confirm the institutional mission,
- ◆ establish goals and objectives,
- ◆ assess the existing condition of current facilities,
- ◆ determine athletic program needs,
- ◆ develop a program of space requirements and
- ◆ recommend a Master Plan for maximizing and improving existing facilities, as well as building new ones.

The results of this effort are presented here for review, comment and approval of the Executive Committee.

Process

In Fall of 2005, the process began with tasks and activities that included:

- ◆ a series of meetings and interviews with Athletic Department coaches and staff, Sport and Exercise Science faculty and University administrators to determine the current needs and to anticipate the long-term, needs of the athletic and academic programs at UNC
- ◆ a comparative survey of selected institutions, among them conference rival, the University of Montana and Marshall University, was conducted to provide additional guidance



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- ♦ existing facilities were assessed as to physical condition and suitability for each specific use to determine adequacy and to facilitate consideration of options for maximizing each one.
- ♦ information was synthesized to create a program of space requirements for each facility necessary to support the Varsity Athletic programs currently offered at UNC
- ♦ the priorities of the Athletic Department and University were established, once the needs were identified and documented
- ♦ options were identified and explored for development of the most critical improvements required to adequately position the University of Northern Colorado to be competitive with recruiting and conference peers
- ♦ several concepts for new facilities, expansion/renovation and reconditioning/upgrading existing buildings were investigated
- ♦ a number of different master plan concepts were developed for athletic facilities within the context of the Campus Master Plan, the current improvement projects and feasibility study

One of the most significant needs of Varsity Athletics at UNC is an arena or suitable performance venue for basketball and volleyball. To address this, a feasibility study for the development of a new arena is underway concurrently with this Master Plan.

Additionally, the design for renovation of the Butler Hancock sports fields, the Jackson Sports Complex redevelopment and the expansion of the Recreation Center to include of a new single-court gym are ongoing and were incorporated for consideration in development of this Master Plan.



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Master Plan Overview

The Master Plan concepts were developed based on the priorities established during the planning process. In addition to the University and Athletics Mission and Goals, the more specific priorities for developing new facilities involved maximizing utilization of existing facilities, addition or expansion of existing facilities and construction of new facilities. In addition to the arena/performance venue, the most critical needs to be addressed, are as follows:

- ◆ **Athlete support facilities** to include locker rooms, strength and conditioning facilities, sports medicine and athletic training, equipment storage and athletic administration offices
- ◆ **Athletic performance venues**, including Butler Hancock Sports Pavilion, baseball stadium, softball venue, tennis courts (Jackson Sports Complex improvements will significantly improve the soccer venue)
- ◆ **Academic success facilities**, relocated and expanded during the course of this Master Plan, should be within a centralized athletic facility
- ◆ **Equipment storage facilities** in Butler Hancock, at each performance venue and for Sport and Exercise Science activity classes

Recommended facilities to address these needs are:

- ◆ **Athletic Center** to include locker rooms, strength and conditioning facilities, sports medicine and athletic training, athletic administration offices, academic success facilities and equipment storage for most programs
- ◆ **Indoor Practice Facility** with artificial turf practice field, batting cages, golf center, indoor track facilities for field events, spectator accommodations
- ◆ **Renovations to Butler Hancock Sports Pavilion** to include aquatics, softball, wrestling and "court sport" locker rooms, equipment storage, sports medicine/athletic training, Sport and Exercise Science equipment storage, classrooms, meeting rooms, academic department offices, faculty/staff aquatics locker rooms, auxiliary fitness and weight training
- ◆ **Expanded Tennis Center** with replacement of existing deteriorated tennis courts, construction of a Center Court, addition of tennis locker rooms, hospitality center and possible construction of indoor tennis facility



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- ◆ Baseball Stadium and Clubhouse repair and upgrade, field relocation
- ◆ Expand Softball Venue amenities for players and spectators
- ◆ Complete planned improvements and additions at Jackson Sports Complex, Butler Hancock Fields and the Recreation Center

Recommended Master Plan

Several Master Plan options were explored and the optimal Plan includes the following new and expanded facilities and proposed locations:

- ◆ **Athletic Center at the north end zone of Nottingham Field**

The athlete support building should be the first new facility built in this initiative as it would impact the greatest number of athletes. While approximately 140 parking spaces would be displaced, this location offers an important opportunity to create the “presence” so lacking for Athletics at UNC and all athletes will, of necessity, utilize the facility, creating a true centralized Athletic Department. It could be phased successfully, if all components are designed at once to allow construction phases.

- ◆ **Arena or appropriate performance venue**

If the ongoing Feasibility Study for a new arena does not support construction of a new facility, an addition or expansion of Butler Hancock Sports Pavilion should be more extensively studied.

- ◆ **Field House/Indoor Practice Facility located on the current softball site**

The significant change in elevation from the adjacent street level provides some mitigation of the significant mass of this facility. Spectator circulation, access and other accommodations must be considered, as the indoor track and field venue would be included. Relocation of the softball venue would be required.



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◆ Softball venue relocated to the south or elsewhere

The construction of the Field House on the current site of the softball field would require the relocation of this facility. It could be located to the south of the Field House, displacing a recreational sports field, or at a different location on campus. It should include expanded dugouts, training areas, spectator seating and amenities, and storage. Locker rooms should also be included or located nearby.

◆ Tennis Center with Center Court on current site of tennis courts

The existing renovated courts would remain with a Center Court constructed on the deteriorated courts adjacent to the existing storage facility. Spectator accommodations, locker rooms, hospitality areas and storage should also be included. Possible addition of an indoor tennis facility to the south of the Center, on newly-acquired land, should be considered. An indoor tennis facility could also be part of the Field House, requiring the softball venue to be located farther south, also on newly-acquired land.

◆ Jackson Sports Complex

The baseball stadium, training areas and clubhouse require repair and upgrade. Relocation of the field to the east is recommended to allow adequate space for a bullpen and safety zone adjacent to the street. In addition, the grandstands and press box should be relocated and modified. Improvements and additions to the soccer facility currently underway will be a significant asset for Varsity Soccer and may provide additional facilities for Baseball, as well.



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♦ Renovations to Butler Hancock Sports Pavilion and Fields

Improvements as previously described are strongly recommended. The outcome of the arena study and preferred location of the softball venue may impact the uses of this facility, but expansion and upgrade of aquatics, wrestling and "court sport" locker rooms, auxiliary equipment storage for programs utilizing this building, sports medicine/athletic training and meeting rooms would provide significant improvement in the level of support for these programs.

More accessible, expanded Sport and Exercise Science equipment storage, academic department offices, auxiliary fitness/weight training and faculty/staff aquatics locker rooms, would be possible and would address the academic and some recreational uses of the facility.

Renovation of Butler Hancock Sports Fields, currently underway, will provide needed additional practice space for the field sports, as well as improving play space availability for recreational purposes.

Illustrative Master Plan drawings of the preferred and an alternate concept for adding and expanding athletic facilities at UNC are included on the following pages. The plans identify the new, relocated and expanded facilities on the West Campus, as well as the proposed improvements at the Jackson Sports Complex.

West Campus Master Plan-Optimal

- ♦ New athletic facility in north endzone of Nottingham Field
- ♦ New Field House/Indoor Practice Facility on current softball facility site
- ♦ Softball Venue expanded and relocated to south of new Field House
- ♦ Tennis Center/Indoor Tennis Facility south of existing courts on newly-acquired land

West Campus Master Plan-Alternate

- ♦ New athletic facility in north endzone of Nottingham Field
- ♦ New Field House/Indoor Practice Facility with Indoor Tennis on current softball venue site
- ♦ Softball Venue expanded and relocated to south of new Field House/Indoor Tennis Facility on newly-acquired land

Jackson Sports Complex Master Plan

- ♦ New Soccer locker rooms, equipment storage and athletic training facilities
- ♦ Improved soccer field and spectator amenities
- ♦ Relocated, improved Baseball field, player, media and spectator amenities

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