

ATHLETIC OFFICES SCORE UPDATED LOOK, NEW EXHIBITS

By Bob Evancho

Visitors to the Nicholson-Yanke Athletic Center, formerly known as the Varsity Center, may feel they've walked into a small sports museum. In addition to refurbished walls and ceilings in the midsection and hallways, the one-story Athletic Department office building at the south end of Bronco Stadium sports new Bronco athletics exhibits throughout its remodeled core.

The center now provides the men's and women's basketball programs and the Athletic Department business office with updated facilities. The expanded space became available when the ticket office

moved to a new home on the ground floor of the Stueckle Sky Center last August.

The old ticket office was refurbished and made part of the expansion of the men's and women's basketball offices.

The most noticeable component of the overall project is the addition of new displays on the walls of the main hallways. During the past summer and fall, the Athletic Department affixed 18 vertical 3-foot by 6-foot displays for each of the intercollegiate sports played at Boise State. An additional display, for softball, will be added this spring. Each display contains a historic photo from the sport and a brief history of the program. Smaller, plastic fixtures that are removable from the larger displays will allow the Athletic Department to present updated information without replacing the main piece of artwork.

Also new is an exhibit on the history of Bronco Stadium and the blue turf and a large display of Bronco sports lore on both walls of the east main entrance. The entryway exhibit lists the top team and individual accomplishments in Boise State athletics history: team national champions, individual title winners, national coaches of the year, former Bronco athletes who have won world championships, and former student-athletes who excelled as scholars, among others. The display also features the Athletic Department's "Pyramid of Success."



"Part of the whole remodel project was to provide representation for all the programs in the Athletic Department," says Lori Hays, assistant athletic director for operations and event management. "It's obviously a busy hallway. Recruits, parents of recruits and student-athletes, boosters and all kinds of people walk those halls. We wanted to show all of them that the Athletic Center is more than just the home of our football and track teams. We also wanted to show that our athletes excel as students; that's why we have the Pyramid of Success and a list of postgraduate scholars as part of the exhibit."

In addition to the renovated facilities, the Nicholson-Yanke Athletic Center also houses the Athletic Department administrative offices, the Simplot Center for Athletic Excellence, the Fedrizzi Fitness Center Annex, the wrestling team's practice room, the football locker room, and the track and field/wrestling locker room.



COLORFUL POSTERS featuring individual sports line the halls of the Nicholson-Yanke Athletic Center.