



Spectators can enjoy a 270-degree view from Union High School's new tennis facility.

Oklahoma School Builds Top-Level Tennis Complex

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — Aspiring tennis pros at one Oklahoma high school can now enjoy a facility that matches their world-class aspirations. The newly completed 5,100-square-foot Union Public Schools tennis facility and adjoining complex features eight competition courts, a training room and a number of other top amenities rarely found at the high school level. The addition will further support the school's thriving tennis program, and was recognized by Associated Buildings and Contractors for excellence in construction in early 2014.

Union High School's crisp, colorful tennis complex, designed by Dewberry Architects of Tulsa, was planned with both players and spectators in mind. Dewberry, which has worked with Union Public Schools for more than four decades, took care to balance the input of both school officials and design team members. The end result was a sharp, modern facility that values both flexibility and functionality.

While young players go head to head on the court, families and visitors can view the action from a variety of spaces, including enlarged stair landings, a shady outdoor viewing area and an elevated indoor spectator gallery. This indoor space in particular allows spectators to easily keep an eye on all eight courts simultaneously by providing an impressive 270-degree viewing angle. A counter also runs along the observation deck, allowing parents and coaches to jot down notes throughout matches. Outside, two rows of stadium-style seats offer visitors an excellent court-level view of the action, while a raised platform nearby allows spectators to check

out matches from bleacher seats or to bring their own chairs.

Inside the facility, students can take advantage of a new training room, spacious locker rooms and a racket stringing area. Extra space was also added for storage, meeting areas and a full catering kitchen to serve the team and accommodate school events and gatherings.

The building also incorporates the Union High School Redskins' signature red hue, featuring it throughout the building's interior and exterior. The shade is most prominently found in the facility's curved roof. Rather than integrating a flat or angled roof, the rounded design mimics the arc of a player's swing, as well as the motion of a tennis ball. Red is also used on doorframes, decorative wall tiling and various other interior accents, as well as the lighted exterior signage and the school's insignia.

Outside, blue and green synthetic turf courts contrast the red-metal and tan-brick building. Between sets, players can take a break on canopied benches positioned between the courts, which are contained by a black, chain-link fence that helps to separate the complex from surrounding facilities and parking areas. An adjacent plaza also serves as a communal space for school gatherings, and strategic placement of the lower level concessions area allows the space to be used by both tennis and track-and-field spectators. This open-air complex also features stadium lighting and innovative wind control measures.

Flintco of Tulsa served as construction manager on the project. Wallace Engineering, Lee & Browne Consulting, and Howell & Vancuren, also located in Tulsa, contributed to the design process.

University of Utah Expands Entrepreneurial Offerings

SALT LAKE CITY — Following a \$12 million donation from alumnus and mining mogul Pierre Lassonde, the University of Utah has announced plans for a new 148,000-square-foot student residence to support young entrepreneurs. The \$45 million Lassonde Studios will expand the work of the school's existing Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, which serves as a hub for student entrepreneurship and innovation.

"The most important natural resource we have is not gold but our young people, our next generation," Lassonde said in release issued by the university. "It is vital that we support and encourage them to challenge themselves and find creative ways to work together. The Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute is doing this, and the new building will allow even more students to benefit from the innovative programs and mentorship."

Lassonde earned his MBA at the University of Utah and later launched the Franco-Nevada Mining Corp. in the early 1980s. He has long been invested in the school's success and, in 2006, donated more than \$13 million to develop his namesake institute, which caters to students in all areas of study.

According to an April 8 statement, the Lassonde Studios will have the same versatility and durability as an industrial loft building. The new facility will include 412 student residences, and an estimated 20,000 square feet of workspace for individuals and groups to build their burgeoning companies. That workspace will reportedly offer top technology, such as modern workspaces, moveable pods, power tools and 3-D printers, and will be available to students 24 hours a day. The entire building will reportedly use a "universal grid" design, allowing sections to be

remodeled and repurposed as student needs change and fluctuate.

"The building will be as innovative and entrepreneurial as the activities inside," said Troy D'Ambrosio, executive director of the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, in a statement. "Students will be able to choose what type of residence they want and what type of work space they prefer, and if we don't have what they want, we might start knocking down walls. If this building is the same five years after we open the doors, we are doing something wrong. Entrepreneurship is never static."

"This building is the materialization of Pierre Lassonde's visionary approach to student innovation and entrepreneurship," added David Pershing, president of the university. "His enormous generosity and this unique building will make the University of Utah the best place in the country to be a student entrepreneur. The Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute has a distinctive mission to provide hands-on learning experiences that allow students to test their ideas and succeed on their own terms. This building will make those opportunities available to many more students. We believe it is the first of its kind anywhere."

According to the university, the ultimate design was the result of numerous visits to similar entrepreneur-focused facilities across the country, and also integrates feedback from hundreds of University of Utah students, faculty and partners. Contractors on the project include EDA Architects of Salt Lake City and global firms Cannon Design and ARUP.

Groundbreaking will likely take place on the campus sometime this fall. The project is currently slated for completion in 2016.



The Lassonde Studios will contain more than 400 residences and ample workspace for young entrepreneurs.