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Celebrating the Richard & Helen DeVos Fieldhouse
Ottawa Kent Insurance is honored to support Hope College and their new Facility, the Devos Fieldhouse. Matt Haverdink, a 1991 Hope Graduate, also sponsors the half time shoot out during Hope’s home basketball games.

“Hope College is an important part of our Holland community. We are proud to partner with Hope College and the Devos Fieldhouse.”

Matt Haverdink
Vice President
Ottawa Kent Insurance

Hope College’s New Devos Fieldhouse

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**thanks to the DeVoses**

By Esther Martin-Hayes
Special to The Sentinel

Richard and Helen DeVos were happy to give to a vision that would not only benefit Hope College, but the greater Holland community as well. Their seed gift of $7.5 million sparked several others to contribute to the project of building the DeVos Fieldhouse, an arena that would be comparable to those built for the NBA.

“We are honored to be one of many who are a part of this project,” said Mr. DeVos.

Although Mr. and Mrs. DeVos attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids (and are extremely generous to that school), Hope President James Bultman said the couple has a tremendous love for Hope and the city of Holland, and were eager to lead the project. Their daughter, Cherie, is an alumna of Hope and member of the college’s Board of Trustees. Mr. and Mrs. DeVos lived in Holland for several years and have always considered the city to be their community.

“It was genuinely a benevolent gesture to do something nice for the college and the community,” Bultman said. “They really wanted it to — continued on page 5

Richard and Helen DeVos’ seed gift of $7.5 million sparked several others to contribute to the project of building the DeVos Fieldhouse. Together they presented the game ball at the men’s home opener on November 19, 2005.
After 75 years of playing basketball away from the campus, the DeVos Fieldhouse now provides a home for a sport that has flourished at Hope College for more than a century.

Hope women formed the 18-member Basquette Club in 1900 and first played basketball in the wooden gymnasium, which was constructed in 1862 as a chapel-gym but since 1894 was only a gym. The Hope men started competition during the winter of 1901-02.

Following a 1902 student petition for a new gymnasium and a $30,000 gift from steel manufacturer Andrew Carnegie, the gym bearing his name opened in 1906. In 1924 a National Guard Armory was built at 16 West Ninth Street to house Company D of the 126th Infantry.

This facility served as a “neutral site” for the 1929 Calvin game. Calvin officials demanded Hope play there because the Knights were forced to play Hope at the Grand Rapids Burton Junior High School since the Franklin Street campus gym was too small. Calvin won, 31-30. Hope won the 1930 Armory game, 34-17.

This facility served as a “neutral site” for the 1929 Calvin game. Calvin officials demanded Hope play there because the Knights were forced to play Hope at the Grand Rapids Burton Junior High School since the Franklin Street campus gym was too small. Calvin won, 31-30. Hope won the 1930 Armory game, 34-17.

Hope’s 1930-31 team, coached by John (Jack) Schouten, was the first team to play its complete schedule off campus. Although Hope’s Milton L. (Bud) Hinga spent his entire career coaching in the Armory, won Hope’s first MIAA crown in 1934 and designed the famed fast break offense, his first season in the military facility was the second for the Dutchmen.

During the 1931-1947 Hinga era, continuing under coaches Russ DeVette and John Visser through the 1953-54 season and unlike the tiny Carnegie confines, the Armory seated 1,300 fans. When Hinga retired from coaching in 1948 he chose his former player, DeVette, 24, who directed basketball through the 1977 season.

Hope began a 51-year stint in the 2,700-seat (994 reserved) Holland Civic Center on November 27, 1954, defeating Central College of Pella, Iowa, 65-56 before 1,500 fans. Visser had replaced DeVette who was recalled into the Marines in 1951. DeVette resumed basketball coaching in 1956-57 and the Flying Dutchmen nickname debuted in 1958.

Like his predecessor, DeVette selected his successor, Glenn VanWieren, 34, who had played four seasons for him. VanWieren is in his 29th season.

In the 1960s and when basketball became a Women’s Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (WMiAA) sport, Hope women played in the Armory. Since 1978-79 when the men’s and women’s conferences merged into a governance under the single name MIAA, the women played in the Dow Health and Physical Education Center which opened on October 20, 1978.

The Flying Dutch used the facility through last season but won the 1990 national crown in the Civic Center. In 1995, the NCAA ruled that the Civic Center’s floor length was four feet short of regulation, causing tournament games to be played at the Dow Center over the next decade. Carnegie, when constructed, was regarded as one of the finest basketball facilities in Michigan and the Civic Center held similar credence a half-century later. DeVos Fieldhouse now holds that distinction as one of the best Division III arenas.

Randy Vande Water wrote One Hundred Years of Hope Basketball in 2004.
Mr. DeVos, who co-founded Amway Corp. in 1959, and his wife are also known for their generous contributions to other projects and charities. Half of their philanthropic support goes to Christian organizations in the state of Michigan, where they grew up, and Florida, where they now reside. In addition, they give to hospitals, the arts, colleges and universities. Mr. DeVos is also a renowned speaker and the owner and chairman of the Orlando Magic.
Hope College is recognizing four couples who have played significant roles in the life of the college by naming portions of the new DeVos Fieldhouse in their honor.

Russ and Doris DeVette, Bob and Marcia DeYoung, Ray and Sue Smith, and Glenn and Jackie VanWieren are being honored for their decades-long service to Hope College.

“These are four very special couples who have had an extraordinary impact on the Hope and Holland communities with the career-long commitments,” said Dr. James Bultman, president of Hope College. “We honor them as couples because each in their own special way has been a team that has had a profound impact on generations of Hope students.”

The main basketball gymnasium is named the “DeVette-VanWieren Gymnasium,” after Russ DeVette and Glenn VanWieren, who together total more than 50 years as head coach of the men’s basketball team.

DeVette, a 1945 Hope graduate, taught or coached at Hope for nearly portions of DeVos Fieldhouse named for 4 couples.
The DeVos Fieldhouse will help students score big — both on and off the court.

Although much attention is devoted to the arena and the sports teams that play there, the facility also boasts an impressive academic aspect designed to equip and train students for the future. The fieldhouse includes two classrooms, a dance studio, a weight room, an exercise physiology laboratory, the athletic training program and offices for the department of kinesiology.

“This facility gives more possibilities for our departments to become even better than what they already are,” notes Dr. Richard Ray, professor and chairperson of the department of kinesiology and athletic trainer.

With the additional space and new state-of-the art equipment, Hope College can provide the best educational opportunities available for their students.

“Hope is a better college and Holland a better community because of their contributions to our quality of life,” President Bultman added about the four couples being honored. “Their lives have been marked by a commitment to professional excellence, service to others, and fulfilling with distinction the mission of Hope.”

The plaques honoring these individuals have been permanently placed on the concourse wall overlooking the weight room.

Four couples were recognized for their service to Hope athletics by having portions of the DeVos Fieldhouse named for them. Honored at the Russ DeVette Classic on December 28, 2005 were (left to right) Ray and Sue Smith, Jackie and Glenn VanWieren, Doris and Russ DeVette, and (far right) Bob and Marcia DeYoung, pictured with President James Bultman and his wife Martie.

Helping Students Score Big in academics

By Carrie Rietsma
Specialty Publications Writer

The new DeVos Fieldhouse will help students score big — both on and off the court.
“You’re not likely to find something like this at most liberal arts colleges,” Dr. Ray says.

The weight room, visible through large windows on the south wall of the arena, has more than 50 brand-new exercise stations. It complements a two-level weight room and workout space in the Dow Center.

“One thing we continue to build on is a culture of collaborative student and faculty research,” Dr. Ray explains. “We learn by doing. We see value in teaming undergraduate students with faculty members so they can learn together, side by side. It creates all kinds of connections.”

Besides providing a great venue for sports and academic achievements, the new fieldhouse also opens up more possibilities for the Dow Center. The additional space created after the relocation of the kinesiology faculty gives the dance faculty more office space.

“The dance faculty has really been crunched for space for a long time,” Dr. Ray notes. “It’s a large department that’s been shoehorned, but now there’s a centralized space for all of us.”

The addition of the fieldhouse will also allow the Dow Center to be used as an activity-orientated center, which is what the building was originally designed to be. Moving games and practices to DeVos will make the Dow Center more available for the college’s intramural program and general student use.

The DeVos Fieldhouse project was part of Hope College’s “Legacies: A Vision of Hope” campaign, which was launched in October 2000. In addition to the new fieldhouse, the campaign included constructing a new science center, renovating the Peale Science Center, increasing the endowment, and the construction of the Martha Miller Center for Global Communication.

“Buildings are great and they matter a lot,” Dr. Ray notes. “But ultimately it’s the people — the teachers, the counselors, and the coaches — who work with the students and help them grow. They make the difference. The building is a catalyst to attract students and aid their learning, but it’s the people who are the heart and future of this school.”
LET THE GAMES BEGIN.
Allen Timmerman has watched the Flying Dutchmen in the Civic Center for more years than he can remember. So, when plans for the DeVos Fieldhouse were revealed, he was confident that he would be “taken care of.”

He was right. As a season ticket holder, Timmerman was among those who had first pick of seats at the new location. He chose seats that were similar to what he had in the Civic Center.

Providing first pick of seats was just one way box office officials attempted to make fans feel more comfortable in the fieldhouse, and fans like Timmerman could not be happier about the new location.

“There’s not a bad seat in the house,” he said. “The old house was nice, but the new house is so much better.”

With the new state-of-the-art venue also comes fresh concession food choices provided by Creative Dining Services – the campus’ exclusive catering service.

Bob VanHeukelom, director of dining services, says those who have tried the new food are thrilled that attending a game can include quality food as well.

“We’ve received nothing but positive comments,” he said.

Hot menu items such as the “Big Pig” and a host of meal combos are winning fans of their own. Another hit is the “Hungry Dutchman” prize. But, fans don’t have to be Dutch to win this meal deal. Winners are selected randomly by the ticket office to receive a $10 voucher to be used at the concession stand.

Concessions by Creative Dining Services are available during all Hope College and Holland Christian High School games held in the DeVos Fieldhouse.
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The 102,000-square-foot facility is home to Hope College men’s basketball, women’s basketball, women’s volleyball, and Holland Christian men’s basketball.

Fieldhouse came from the Conseco Fieldhouse for the Indiana Pacers,” explains Doug Beichley, Principal and Senior Project Manager at Ellerbe Becket. “This size facility is very special to me,” he continues, regarding the DeVos Fieldhouse. “Large projects are nice, but there’s a personal feeling of excitement and accomplishment and appreciation for a facility this size. I can honestly say this is my favorite arena or fieldhouse.”

A lot of people are boasting about the new structure. Tulip Time Director Tamara Bouman says it’s a welcome addition for the community of Holland. “It’s gorgeous,” she says. “The physical nature of the fieldhouse has already changed the landscape and it creates a natural perimeter on the east end of town. Now we have beautiful facilities that anchor both the west and east ends of downtown.”

The location and outward appearance of the grounds was intentionally designed to enhance the “Eastern Gateway” to both the community and the college. The scenery is quite different now from when the old Western Foundry building sat on the site.

“Holland has an impressive thing going here,” says Dr. Richard Ray. “When people drive into town, this is the first impression they see of a thriving community.”

The park-like setting produces a relaxing atmosphere.

“One of the design goals of the project was to create a gateway to the college campus,” notes Beichley. “To achieve that, we didn’t want the building right next to Chicago Drive. We held it back so there’s some green area. Instead of coming into town and having a building right in your face, this softens the image.”

Blundy says preserving the natural habitat was important to the college. “President Bultman wanted to preserve a lot of trees on this site,” he notes. “I think preservation is more and more on people’s minds and it’s the right thing to do.”

The snowmelt system beneath the building’s sidewalk entries not only provides added safety measures, in the long-run it will save on maintenance costs.

“A few NBA clients are envious of the amount of snowmelt we have at the fieldhouse,” laughs Beichley.

The DeVos Fieldhouse has plenty of features for competitors to be envious about, as well. The orange anchor in the center of the basketball court measures 22 feet in diameter, leaving no doubt whose home it is. The wood-like floor was constructed from maple trees in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The floating floor is made to absorb force, providing players a more forgiving landing.

“The seating rank is steeper than most arenas, keeping the crowd closer to the game,” Beichley adds. “That creates a good home court advantage. It helps get the fans into the game. I’ve always been impressed with the Dew Crew (student section) and how excited they are and how they get the whole crowd into the game. We wanted to be sensitive to where they are located and create an area that was appealing for them.”

Fans won’t have a problem seeing the high-tech digital scoreboard, which weighs 6,500 pounds. They will also enjoy the state-of-the-art sound system and lighting. The arena was designed to be capable of hosting concerts.

Hope College’s athletic tradition is incorporated into the building’s design, creating a sport museum feel. Eighteen alcove displays surround the concourse level of the fieldhouse.

“It really liven up the concourse,” Beichley says. “It adds so much interest and color and life.”

The fieldhouse was designed to be flexible. Many spaces can be transformed and used for a variety of events.

“I think this is a very durable facility and it will be able to withstand the heavy use we anticipate,” says Beichley. “This will be a place everyone will be able to enjoy — students, athletes, the community and visitors to Holland.”
a community Centerpiece

By Carrie Rietsma
Specialty Publications Writer

Hope College and the city of Holland have existed as teammates in many ways over the years, each benefiting the other. The DeVos Fieldhouse is another example of the two entities working together to build a stronger community.

Anne Bakker, DeVos Fieldhouse event and ticket manager, says the new facility will host many large-scale community events unrelated to the college, including concerts, basketball tournaments, gymnastic competitions, other special sporting events, and Tulip Time activities.

“I think it just makes sense and it’s logical to open it up to the community,” she says. “The city and the college work hand-in-hand. This has given Holland something it desperately needed — a larger facility. And it will open up a lot of possibilities for Holland. It benefits the whole city when big events come in here.”

Tulip Time Director Tamara Bouman is thrilled about the new fieldhouse and the possibilities it opens up for the annual spring festival.

“We are delighted with the opportunity to consider the DeVos Fieldhouse for our events,” she says. “This will allow us to take programs to a new level. It will certainly be a great musical venue and I feel it will allow Tulip Time to offer a concert to a new target audience. Over the years, our goal has been to reach out to various demographics, and having this facility should help us target the 25-40 age range.”

The DeVos Fieldhouse is certainly a welcome addition to Hope College — and the community as a whole.
Congratulations Hope College on the beautiful new Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse!

We are proud to serve as your General Contractor. Thanks for letting us be a part of your team!

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