



Case Study:

University of Nevada, Las Vegas Fertitta Football Complex

Las Vegas, NV | Architect: Perkins & Will

PRODUCTS INSTALLED

- Performance Monster – 7,880 SF
- Bounce 2 – 2,154 SF

PROJECT NEEDS

- Weight Training & Field Work Integration
- Custom Colors & Logos
- Hygienic

PRODUCT BENEFITS

- Safety
- Ergonomics
- Acoustics

State-of-the-Art UNLV Football Complex Embraces all aspects of student-athlete life

Background

Home to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Rebels, the Fertitta Football Complex is a state-of-the-art facility that embraces all aspects of student-athlete life to help prepare them for success on and off the field. The facility includes an academic center, team dining hall with full kitchen, nutrition bar, sports medicine center, hydrotherapy, team auditorium, position meeting rooms, team lounge and barbershop. The heart of the complex is a 9,000 square-foot weightlifting area, which includes a modern locker room and coaches' offices with balconies overlooking the practice field.

Challenge

Football facilities are now an integral part of the recruitment tool for sought-after high school athletes. UNLV wanted to take its football program to the next level from both a training and academic perspective. The coaching staff and trainers were seeking a holistic approach to their program while bringing together athletes as a cohesive team. Finally, they wanted the new facility to capture the excitement and energy that flows from the nearby Las Vegas strip.

Solution

The staff wanted the “the best of the best” when it came to both equipment and flooring for its training center. As such, UNLV teamed up with Perkins and Will to specify the surfacing and equipment, along with Advanced Exercise's support. Two of the surfaces selected, Performance Monster and Bounce 2, feature Ecore's patented itsTRU Technology. With team unity as a major focus of the football program, designers for the Fertitta Football Complex envisioned a weight room that integrated weight training with field work. This meant installing a strip of turf in the middle of the training center with lifting racks and platforms on either side.

The Performance Monster system was selected to cover the weightlifting areas. Designed to outperform the heaviest lifter, Performance Monster features a dense, dual durometer rubber surface field united to an underlayment. The components of this system perform together to drastically reduce the transmission of heavy impacts in both body and sound vibrations associated with strength training. The lifting area included three different accents of Ecore colors that matched the UNLV logo. Performance Monster was also installed on the weightlifting platforms. This durable composition rubber fitness flooring is highly shock absorbent and easy to maintain.



The biggest challenge with the weightlifting area was ensuring a seamless transition between the turf and the rubber surface. Ecore was able to achieve one continuous plane from rubber to turf to mitigate tripping hazards.

“The layout of the flooring created a central area where everyone is working out together and supporting each other,” said Jenna Cruft, interior design director, associate, Perkins & Will. “The idea is to allow athletes to go straight from the racks to training on the interior turf.”

Installed in the sports medicine and hydrotherapy areas, Bounce 2 features a synthetic wood-grain surface that is fusion bonded to a vulcanized composition rubber-base layer. It achieves the look of real wood but is more economical, durable and easier to clean.

“Bounce 2 was an ideal product for this space because of its hygienic properties,” added Hannah Cothorn, interior designer, Perkins & Will. “The rubber backing also made it comfortable for the trainers who are standing on their feet all day and for the athletes performing agility moves.”

Results

UNLV Strength Coach Matthew Fyle trains three different lift groups consisting of 30 to 40 athletes daily. What impresses him most about Ecore flooring is the traction and force distribution of Performance Monster. “When the force from a shoulder drop is distributed back to the athlete, it can result in ankle, knee and hip pain,” said Fyle. “With Performance Monster, that force is distributed to the floor, which allows our athletes to train harder with less pain and inflammation. I also like the dynamic capabilities of going from turf to weights.”

According to the design team, visitors are raving about the new facility. “The flooring hits all the functional and safety needs for the athletes,” said Cothorn. “Ecore worked with the project team from the start, and I feel the cohesive process resulted in an amazing facility.”