

FLEXMAR®

Application Focus

FLEXMAR Polyaspartic Coatings Hit a Home Run at Penn State Athletic Center

Facility:

Penn State New Kensington Athletic Complex

Location

New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Coating System:

FLEXMAR® Vinyl Chip Polyaspartic Coating System

Coating Applicator:

U-Neek Concrete Coatings

Resin Supplier:

Bayer MaterialScience

Coating Area:

625 ft²

Project Completed:

2012

Penn State Pride dots the state of Pennsylvania with two-dozen campus locations of varying size. From its massive University Park campus packed with over 45,000 students, to its Shenango campus with 578 students, each state-owned university campus offers a full range of degree programs and amenities for students. Nestled outside an industrial community along the Allegheny River in Western Pennsylvania, Penn State's New Kensington campus is no exception.

With an enrollment of around 700 students, Penn State New Kensington offers thirteen academic majors, supported by a library, computer technology center, engineering and science laboratories, an art gallery, 350-seat theater, multi-purpose conference center, and athletic center.

Varsity Athletics Key to New Kensington

Like most schools, the athletic program is vital to the student body and the school itself. One in seven students participate in varsity sports at New Kensington. It offers men's soccer, women's volleyball, wrestling, men's basketball, softball, co-ed golf, and cheerleading as part of the



The athletic center is home to seven varsity sports programs and over 100 student athletes.



Penn State New Kensington serves over 700 students in the Western Pennsylvania region.

United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA). Central to these team sports as well as other extracurricular athletic activities for the general body is the 30-year-old athletic center. The facility includes a gymnasium, weight room, fitness room, racquetball courts, and a combination Pilates/wrestling room. A soccer field and activity field lay adjacent.

In an increasingly competitive market, small satellite campuses like Penn State New Kensington always seek an advantage to recruit the best and brightest students. Athletic Director Dave Murray understood that a vibrant, competitive varsity sports program would be central to that recruiting effort, even on the small New Kensington campus. The athletic center itself, including the locker room facilities, would be under constant scrutiny of potential student athletes.

Existing Floor's Lackluster Appearance Falls Short

But the athletic center's locker room facilities, with its bare concrete flooring, fell short when it came to projecting an image of excellence that would attract athletes. "The appearance of the locker room floor was a standard basement-like floor," Murray explained. "It was nothing more than a cement floor with your standard cracks in it. It was not appealing to the eye, it looked like a locker room that was unfinished."



Penn State New Kensington Athletic Director Dave Murray knows that the key to recruiting the best, brightest students is to offer a vibrant, competitive varsity athletics program and facilities that follow suit.

Cleaning the floor did nothing to help improve the appearance. He remarked, "Our janitorial staff would typically clean the floor perhaps once a week, but the floor never looked that clean because it had the finish of a basement floor."

So the Athletic Department explored the improvements that could be made to the facility to enhance its appearance. "We elected to renovate the locker rooms in order to help our recruiting efforts. And when we laid out the scope of the project, we thought new lockers without a finished floor would just not look right. It would look half-done. So we elected to not only paint the locker rooms, we also elected to put in new lockers and finish the floor."

Personal Attention and Coating's Superior Performance Properties Lead to Slam Dunk

During an extensive search of hard-surface flooring treatments, including epoxy coatings and other conventional commercial-grade flooring systems, Mr. Murray discovered polyaspartic coatings manufactured by FLEXMAR® Coatings, headquartered just a few miles away from campus. Todd Slomka and Kevin Bertocki of Tarentum-based U-Neek

"After meeting with FLEXMAR Coatings and learning about the polyaspartic floor coating, we were sold immediately."

Concrete Coatings, the local FLEXMAR-authorized applicator, visited the athletic center to make the sales call. But the sales process didn't stop there. "FLEXMAR went one step further," Murray recalls. "The owner of FLEXMAR Coatings came out, explained the product, and delineated the installation process in a very systematic way."



A FLEXMAR 3-Coat High-Build Vinyl Chip polyaspartic coating system was applied to the locker room floor as part of a complete renovation to the locker room facility, including painting and installing brand new lockers.

The personal attention given by FLEXMAR Coatings made Murray and the Athletic Department confident that FLEXMAR polyaspartics was the perfect choice. "After meeting with FLEXMAR Coatings and learning about the polyaspartic floor coating, we were sold immediately."

They learned that FLEXMAR polyaspartic coatings are up to four times more durable than epoxies and acrylics. They are strong enough to hold up to wear, tear, and abuse from athletes (including sports equipment, metal cleats, and wet towels) for years, and still look like new. They don't fade or yellow with age or exposure to sunlight or indoor lighting. They won't bubble, blister, or peel. And most importantly to Murray, the nature of the subtly irregular surface of the vinyl chip polyaspartic system left him convinced that he wouldn't have slip-and-fall issues on a wet floor: "There is a texture to the floor that we were quite confident would accommodate our safety needs. We felt like we wouldn't have any athletes slipping on the floor."

"...we were able to keep the facility open while they worked in the locker room downstairs."

Rapid Application

The U-Neek Concrete Coatings crew wasted no time transforming the locker room facility's floor. They repaired chipped and cracked concrete with a rapid-set polyurea repair material. Then they diamond-ground the existing concrete to create an optimal profile for the concrete to accept the polyaspartic coating.

Once any residual dust was removed from the floor and any adjacent surfaces, the applicators rolled on a base coat of FLEXMAR® Sand Beige Self-Prime HS Coating



The FLEXMAR vinyl chip polyaspartic floor coating system was applied in the locker facility in about eight hours. No closure of the athletic center was necessary during the application process.

and broadcast Saddle Tan vinyl chips into the still-wet base coat. In about an hour, the base coat was dry, and any excess vinyl chips were removed. Then, an initial coat of FLEXMAR Clear Coat HS sealer was rolled onto the floor. In about an hour, the floor was dry, and the crew from U-Neek Concrete Coatings applied the finish coat of FLEXMAR Clear Coat HS sealer. One hour later, the finished floor was dry and ready to be returned to service.

"I was impressed with the speed and efficiency with which they worked," Murray remarked. "The entire installation process took approximately eight hours. The process didn't require that we shut down the gym. In fact, we were able to keep the facility open while they worked in the locker room downstairs."

Minimal Disruption

During the application, no closure of the athletic center was necessary due to dust or odor created during the project. Like all FLEXMAR Coatings applicators, U-Neek Concrete Coatings took care to minimize disruptions and inconveniences that may have resulted from the floor application process. They were able to collect or swiftly mitigate any dust that was produced during floor preparation. And there were no problems with unpleasant smells since all of FLEXMAR's polyaspartic coatings, stains, and sealers have virtually no odor to them.



The new locker room facilities, with FLEXMAR vinyl chip polyaspartic coating system, enhances the athletic center's appearance and provides the look of excellence that Penn State student athletes expect.

The “Wow” Effect

With the transformation of the unsightly locker room floor complete in under one day, the new lockers were installed and the facility opened for normal use. The reactions were wildly positive.

“The new locker room with the FLEXMAR floor coating created a ‘wow’ effect. All the athletes, all the faculty and staff that came down and saw the new locker room just went, ‘Wow, that looks awesome!’”

The floor doesn’t just look great; it is performing to a standard of excellence only FLEXMAR polyaspartics can meet. “The floor has held up really well to the soccer team that goes in every day with cleats on. There

are no marks, no pieces of flooring coming up. And the vinyl chip system creates a non-slip surface. You could send any child down there with wet floors and not be concerned that they would slip and fall.”

A Big Win

Overall, Penn State New Kensington is pleased with the bright, clean look and superior performance of their FLEXMAR polyaspartic floor. “I give the FLEXMAR floor coating an A+,” says Murray. “It’s just been outstanding in every way. FLEXMAR guaranteed it would retain its luster for a couple decades, and by all means, after a year, it looks like it will do just that. I highly recommend the product.”

If it isn’t FLEXMAR, it’s just another coating.

- 1 hour between coats
- 1-2 hours return to service after final coat
- Allows for same day or overnight return to service
- 0 VOC
- Virtually no odor
- LEED Approved

ARCAT[®]

The coating system featured in this application is FLEXMAR Coatings Industrial Resinous Flooring ARCAT specification, FLEXMAR 3-Coat High-Build Vinyl Chip System.*



FLEXMAR polyaspartic coatings and sealers contribute toward satisfying credits in the Indoor Environmental Quality and Materials and Resources categories under LEED.†

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