$10 Million Center Proposed For Activities at Ohio State

By GRAYDON HAMBRICK
Of The Dispatch Staff

A proposed $10 million recreation, physical education and intramural sports facilities building will be built at Ohio State University, financed by private and public funds. OSU officials announced Tuesday.

Officials said also that the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation of Pittsburgh has offered a $1 million grant to help meet costs of the center, to be constructed south of Ohio Stadium.

The OSU Development Fund will be required to match the Benedum Foundation gift with other private support necessary to help pay for the center.

Recreation facilities, which must be financed with private funds, will cost $4.4 million of the total.

The university has asked the Ohio General Assembly for $5.6 million, the remainder of the building's cost, to finance physical education facilities in the multi-purpose center.

UNIVERSITY Prof. Charles Mand, chairman of a task force which made recent recommendations on recreation, intramural sports and physical education, said the proposed building would contain:

- Six gymnasiums with basketball, volleyball and badminton courts; indoor and outdoor swimming pools; handball and squash courts; areas for indoor tennis, gymnastics and golf; locker rooms, offices and space adaptable to other recreation activities.
- OSU's recreation and physical education facilities have not "kept pace with the growth of the university and are now taxed beyond all reasonable limits," university President Novice Fawcett said in announcing the Benedum gift.

PAUL Benedum, the foundation's president, said, "We are convinced of the essential role that physical education and recreation play in the total education and development of young people."

"IN THE TRADITION of the foundation to help people help themselves, we sincerely hope the grant will serve as a challenge to other friends of Ohio State to raise the balance of funds necessary to provide an adequate modern facility for recreation and intramural activities," Benedum said.

Fawcett said the new center, which must be approved by the university's Board of Trustees, would be the basis of a six-year master plan for the development of recreation, intramural and physical education facilities.

Rec center given million-dollar boost

By SUE GILLER

The University announced acceptance Tuesday of a $1 million grant to begin construction on a $10 million recreation center.

The grant, from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation in Pittsburgh, is the first donation for the proposed recreational and physical education center to be completed in 1973. University President Novice G. Fawcett announced acceptance of the gift.

The site of the proposed multipurpose center will be southeast of Ohio Stadium, in the open space West of Campbell Hall.

"Ohio State has urgent need for better facilities for physical education," Fawcett said. Most of the present facilities were built in the 1920's for 12,000 students and have had only minor additions since 1946, he said.

Fawcett said the University has requested a $5.6 million capital improvement fund by 1973 from the Ohio legislature for new physical educational facilities. State money may be used for facilities used for physical education courses.

"Rather than build a separate facility for physical education and another for recreation and intramurals," he said, the University is asking the private sector for another $3.4 million. The activities center may then be used for educational and recreational purposes.

The proposed building will include six gyms with basketball, volleyball and badminton courts; indoor and outdoor swimming pools; courts for handball and squash; areas for indoor tennis, gymnastics and golf; plus locker rooms and offices.

Fawcett said the present facilities will still be utilized in full capacity. However, a $2 million improvement is anticipated for the buildings.

The Benedum grant will serve as a "challenge" to the private sector to raise the total sum, he said. "I am not very worried about meeting the funds."

The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation was established in 1944 by the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Benedum as a memorial to their son who died in World War I. The Benedums were pioneers in the oil industry.

The foundation's grants have been to educational, religious, health and welfare, and community service organizations have totaled nearly $30 million.

Robert G. Smith, vice president for University development, said the grant is one of the largest the University has received.

The proposed activities center must still be approved by the Board of Trustees.
MEMORANDUM

TO:    Dr. Robert V. Esmond
FROM:  Saul Seigel
DATE:  October 9, 1975
RE:    Benedum photographs, slides and cooperation

...just a note to thank you for your very splendid cooperation in providing the Development Fund with necessary photographic requirements needed in respect to our relationships with the Benedum Foundation.

I accompanied Herb Lape a few weeks ago to Pittsburgh and heard "firsthand" how anxious they are to learn more about the status of the project.

Herb and our office are working closely with President Harold Enarson in respect to this situation, and you may be assured that your "assist" is very much appreciated.

SS/jm

cc:   Herb Lape
Benedum Recreation Center set to open

By Bob Nusgart and Al Esposito

For those students who have a craving desire to roller skate or excel in the finer points of karate, Benedum Recreation Center, which will be dedicated and open to the public Saturday, May 21, is the place to be.

The $10 million athletic project, which began four years ago, will also serve as the new home base for the intramural department and intercollegiate gymnastics, volleyball and fencing teams.

THOSE VARSITY sports will join the women's synchronized swimming team and the men's and women's swimming squads which already use the Peppe Aquatic Center.

According to Fred Beekman, director of University Recreation and Intramural Sports, the facility will combine the new addition to Larkins Hall with the Peppe Aquatic Center. The addition will house five, multi-purpose gymnastics.

HE ALSO SAID Benedum Center will contain 20 handball and raquetball courts, two conditioning areas, a roller-skating rink and a lounge.

When divided up, the gymnasiums can be converted into eight basketball courts, four tennis courts, six badminton courts, a 140-yard track or a gymnastics gym with a seating capacity of 600 people.

In addition, the new Larkins Hall addition will contain a multi-purpose room which can be used for karate, table tennis, archery or shuffle board.

IN CASE OF any injuries, the Benedum Center will have an assessment area which will be staffed by two doctors.

The center can be used by students, staff, faculty and their families.

IDENTIFICATION cards will be required to get in the center, but this regulation has been waived for the opening day, because everyone will be invited to come in and look around, Beekman said.

However, after May 21, a fee will be required for guest passes, towels, lockers and roller-skate rental. Beekman said.

The new addition of Benedum Recreation Center offers two conditioning rooms for students.
This multi-purpose gymnasium, which can be divided into smaller gymnasiums, is part of the new addition to Larkins Hall.
Skating: Only a fear of falling

By Justice B. Hill
6-28-77

Amid the cool comfort of an air conditioned building and the soft sounds of disco music, the Benedum Recreation Center roller skating rink opened Wednesday evening.

Although few students attended the rink's summer opening, those who did seemed fascinated by the novelty of the rink.

The novice skaters who came received skating instructions from recreation aides. The instructors, provided by the Department of Recreation and Intramural Sports, teach the novice skaters to control the skates. As the instructors guide the novice around the rink, they give valuable tips to help the skater acquire a feel for the rink.

NOVICE SKATERS soon learn that the key to skating is overcoming the fear of falling. Skates act like mini-roller coasters that swerve and sway across the rink's surface, and until the novice learns to control this roller coaster, skating will be a trying experience.

Suzanne Tegtmeier, a recreation skating instructor, said skaters must fall and hurt themselves a few times before they start improving.

In contrast to the mechanical movements of beginners, Tegtmeier's fluid, graceful strides make roller skating seem easy. However, she earned her share of bumps and bruises before perfecting her skating skills.

The skating rink is part of the recreation department's $10 million Larkins Hall expansion project. It is one of the few university operated skating facilities in the country.

RONALD ALTHOFF, assistant director of intramural sports, said the skating rink serves as a multi-purpose gym that gives the recreation department greater programming flexibility. The gym can be used for basketball, volleyball and other sports activities.

Althoff said the recreation department would promote the rink in its 1977-78 handbook and with a physical education class in roller skating.

The rink's summer hours are from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays and from 3 to 5:30 on Saturdays.