

ASBA's Track and Field Award Winners

*The winners of the annual award program show excellence in design, construction and use.
by Mary Helen Sprecher*

*2009 Indoor Track of the Year,
American Sports Builders Association*

**Central College, Kuyper Fieldhouse
Pella, Iowa**

Specialty Contractor: Kiefer Specialty Flooring, Inc.

Architect/Engineer: Central College

General Contractor: Central College

Suppliers: Mondo USA

Governing body: NCAA

A 22-year-old fieldhouse that needs to be updated? Well, let's just say that a lot has changed since it was first built. After all, standards are different, rules have undergone considerable revisions and naturally, the technology has advanced.

Now, try taking all that into consideration *and* doing the renovation work during a college's winter break.

That was the challenge facing Kiefer Specialty Flooring, Inc. of Lindenhurst, IL. Central College needed a total overhaul of its Kuyper Fieldhouse, and the Pella, Iowa-based institution had the tightest of deadlines.

"We had a timeline of December 15th to January 13th," writes Brion Rittenberry of Kiefer. "Bearing in mind the Christmas holiday, this was a very aggressive timeline."

The facility and the college that owned it also had a few specific limitations, including financial reservations.

"The owner had an existing prefabricated surface," notes Rittenberry. "Due to budget and time constraints, the owner did not wish to remove the existing surface. This presented several problems. There were significant areas that were loose, and the existing surface had to be properly prepared to assure adhesion of the new surface."

All that required some ingenuity on Kiefer's part, adds Rittenberry. "We had to pull back all loose areas to allow the concrete substrate to dry properly. Large fans were brought in to help facilitate the drying process. Once the concrete substrate had dried, we then sandblasted all exposed areas to remove all dried adhesive from the substrate. We then re-glued all loose areas with a special waterproof epoxy adhesive. Once the loose areas had been repaired, we then had to prep the existing surface with riding belt sanders. Once this was accomplished, the entire floor was scrubbed to remove dirt and dust. We then adhered the new pre-fabricated surface to the old, using a special polyurethane adhesive. Lastly, the surface was striped to adhere to the NCAA regulations."

The 54,000 square foot facility, a steel frame building with cinderblock walls and a forced air ventilation system, now has a 200-meter track that adheres to governing body standards. The six-lane track as an eight-lane sprint. There is one chute and a common finish. The track surface is vulcanized rubber, dark grey in color, with light grey and red accents. There are practice areas for field events, including long jump, triple jump and high jump, as well as shot put.

The finished facility has retractable basketball nets (a total of five basketball courts, meaning 10 nets) as well as movable bleachers that can be used during events. Drop-down netting helps contain balls and other equipment to keep athletes and spectators safe.

For all the facility's advantages, though, Rittenberry is still proudest of meeting the school's tight turnaround -- less than a month from start to finish. "We achieved this deadline," he notes. Normally, this timeline is needed just for a new installation. We achieved the timeline doing all the prep work as well."

In addition to school administrators and athletes, someone else is impressed with the facility - the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA), which named Kuyper Fieldhouse its Indoor Track of the Year for 2009. The award was presented at the Association's recent Technical Meeting, held in Savannah, Georgia. (ASBA is the national organization for builders and suppliers of materials for athletic facilities. It presents its annual awards to recognize outstanding sports facility construction).

2009 Outdoor Track of the Year,
American Sports Builders Association
Texas Tech University Track
Lubbock, Texas

Design/Build Services: Robert Cohen Co., LLC
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Architect/Engineer: Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer & Associates, Inc.
Specialty Contractor: Mondo America, Inc.
Suppliers: UCS Equipment
Mondo America, Inc.
SportsEdge
Subcontractors: Lubbock Masonry
West Texas Paving
Amco Electric
Bear Lake Enterprises
Governing body: NCAA

The overused expression, "time is running out," was never more accurate.

When Texas Tech University wanted its running track demolished and rebuilt, it had a specific deadline in mind: the school had to be ready to host the 2009 Big 12 Championships. That meant administrators needed not only a competition-level track facility, but field events to match.

New Mexico-based builder Robert Cohen Co., LLC took the design/build job. The scope of work included design and construction of a unique layout whereby the track infield contained four pole vault runways, four long jump/triple jump runways and eight sprint lanes for the 100m and 110m dash and hurdles. In addition, throwing events (two shot puts, two hammer throws, two discus and two javelin areas) were located at a dedicated throwing area at a separate location.

"Time constraints were critical to prepare for the Big 12 meet," wrote Robert L. Cohen. "Unusually severe weather impeded our progress. We worked seven days a week for a portion of the project.

Extremely flat conditions in Lubbock, where the project was located, made drainage difficult. Grades inside the oval were super-critical to achieve desired drainage."

The track was built to NCAA standards with a red vulcanized rubber surface, beige exchange zones and beige sprint lanes. The track had eight lanes on the oval, plus eight sprint lanes. A concrete header curb was built flush with the asphalt, with a raised aluminum curb on lane 1. Existing surface drains were utilized in the project.

Absolute attention was paid to the grading of the project. Inclination of the oval in the running direction was 0%, while the lateral inclination was 6%. Long jump and triple jump events, as well as the pole vault area, were constructed to similar grading standards. Hammer, shot put, discus and javelin, which were located at areas removed from the oval, used specific landing areas well, tailored to each event.

"Our goal was to bring to life the vision of Texas Tech head track coach Wes Kittley," wrote Cohen. "Wes believes that throws constitute a hazard to runners, particularly during practice, and should be located away from the track oval. In addition, he wanted to showcase his jumpers and sprinters inside the oval for the enjoyment of the spectators. We were asked to furnish construction and design and construction services to make this possible. Although it looks simple, the complex grading requirements of the runways, sprint lanes and 'D' zones conflict, and required critically precise execution to pull it off."

Not only was the project completed on May 15, 2009, in time for the Big 12 Championships, but it received its own honor: being named the Outdoor Track of the Year by the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA). The award was presented at the Association's recent Technical Meeting, held in Savannah, Georgia. (ASBA is the national organization for builders and suppliers of materials for athletic facilities. It presents its annual awards to recognize outstanding sports facility construction).

Note: The American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) is a non-profit association helping designers, builders, owners, operators and users understand quality construction of many sports facilities, including track and field. The ASBA sponsors informative meetings and publishes newsletters, books and technical construction guidelines for athletic facilities including running tracks and sports fields. Available at no charge is a listing of all publications offered by the Association, as well as the ASBA's Membership Directory. Info: 866-501-ASBA (2722) or www.sportsbuilders.org