



SHERYL NADLER / THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

GOLD-MEDAL FACILITY. The \$30-million David Braley Athletics Centre is scheduled to open Sept. 18 and will provide students and athletes with first-class facilities.

Mac athletes score big

Impressive athletic and rec centre prepares to open its doors

By Larry MOKO

Class will have more class at McMaster University this year.

The doors are about to swing open on campus for the new \$30 million David Braley Athletics Centre, an impressive stone, glass and steel building connected to the Ivor Wynne Centre.

"On Monday, Sept. 18, the facility will open to the general community," said Therese Quigley, McMaster's Director of Athletics and Recreation. "I'm delighted for the students and for the athletes that will have access to it."

Plans for the athletics and recreation centre include:

- A new double gymnasium
- A wellness and fitness centre twice the size of the current Pulse
- Four new international glass-backed squash courts
- New locker rooms
- A high-performance strength

and conditioning area

■ A three-storey indoor climbing wall and cycling studio

■ Expanded sports medicine clinic and rehabilitation centre

■ Two multi-purpose studios for karate, yoga, dance and tai chi

Various areas will be ready in stages with mid-October being the target date for overall completion. First to open will be the locker rooms, fitness centre, business office and sport medicine area.

"When I came across the (outdoor) track last week I saw some of the athletes that were training," Quigley said. "They were just bursting to get into the new indoor track.

"When I see the expression on their faces and the excitement within the student body ... People have been waiting for this for a long time."

Quigley said the sport hall will be

finished last – but be ready by Homecoming.

"I'm very pleased. Everything is moving along beautifully."

There have been delays along the way – plans originally called for an opening yesterday – but the project is definitely in its final stages.

"We're opening a massive facility at the same time that we're starting school," Quigley said. "Anyone who doesn't think there's going to be some extra hours and issues is pretty naive."

Members of the coaching staffs have already relocated to new office space at the Braley centre.

Facility updates and online membership registration are available at www.athrec.mcmaster.ca

In posting, Quigley thanked everyone for their patience and understanding during construction.

"We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to

the students of McMaster for the confidence they have demonstrated in supporting this initiative; to the numerous donors who have so generously supported this project; to the campaign team and staff in our Advancement office who are working tirelessly on the fundraising efforts; and to all the McMaster staff and volunteers who went beyond what anyone could expect to bring this project in on time and on budget."

In the first phase of Mac's renovations, a new artificial surface Alumni Field opened last spring. The \$13 million Ronald V. Joyce Stadium with its 332 underground parking spaces, 6,000 permanent seats and artificial turf is scheduled to be completed next fall. Varsity football and soccer will be played there.

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By the numbers

Facts about the David Braley Athletic Centre

\$30 million

Cost of the facility

\$20 million

Student contribution through a levy

\$5 million

David Braley's contribution (second-largest donation to a Canadian university athletic department in history)

132,000

Square feet

70,000

Square feet of programming space

500,000

Number of man hours consumed

24

Different roof elevations

400,000

Tons of glass, concrete and metal

4

New international squash courts

15,000

Square footage of additional gymnasium space, double the current capacity at the Ivor Wynne Centre

1966

The year that the Ivor Wynne Centre was built

4,686

Undergraduate and graduate enrolment at McMaster in 1966

30,458

Total number of degree credit and non-degree credit students at McMaster.

\$355

The cost of a 12-month community membership.

200m

Length of the four-lane rubberized indoor track.

CYAN
MAGENTA
YELLOW
BLACK

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