NEW VILLAGE GYMNASIUM TO OPEN IN MAY

For many years, employees and the user community have suggested the need for an indoor gymnasium. Early in 1979, the Fermilab Recreation Committee prepared the first proposal for a complete gymnasium facility which was very ambitious in its scope. This proposal was presented to the Laboratory but was not accepted because of the great expense. Although the Laboratory was favorable to the project, the money required wasn't available.

With the formation of the Quality of Life Committee, another group of interested people again pursued the possibility of such a facility. In 1980, members began determining the minimum requirements for a gymnasium complex, keeping in mind both the needs of athletes at Fermilab and the need for keeping costs down. They determined that the primary requirement was a building with a full-scale basketball court, in which both tennis and volleyball courts could be accommodated. They also felt that locker rooms were of utmost importance. The final plan accepted

Carol Wilkinson of the University of Wisconsin and Glenn Smith of Fermilab try out the Universal weight machine in the refurbished exercise room in the Recreation Complex.

(Photograph by Fermilab Photo Unit)
by the Laboratory proposed a very basic shell building erected next to the existing exercise facility in the Village. Appeals for funding to various outside organizations were unsuccessful until the Universities Research Association agreed to provide funding for a minimal facility.

The newly completed complex contains the main gymnasium and an expanded exercise room. Locker rooms and showers will be added and be ready for use by fall. The gymnasium is large enough for a collegiate-size basketball court, but can be converted to a tennis or volleyball court by setting up poles and nets. The exercise room has been refurbished and has new equipment, including a weight machine, free weights, and an exercise bike. Additional space has been provided with exercise mats suitable for gymnastics, aerobics, or martial arts practice. Plans for scheduling open recreation time and specific activities are being based on interest groups and their desire to use the new facilities. Requests for use of time and space will be accepted by the Recreation Office.

Use of the Fermilab Recreation Complex will be limited to members only. Membership is open to Fermilab employees, users, contractors, and members of their immediate families; a nominal yearly fee will be charged to pay for a membership key and to help pay for maintenance. Memberships may be purchased in the Recreation Office in Wilson Hall after May 23.
The first prototype quadrupole for the Tevatron I project.

(Photograph by Fermilab Photo Unit)