

# New weight room opens with flourish



Photo by Jamie Dull

Diane Baxter and Greg Wilk celebrate the new weight room.

By Melissa Martin  
Of the Emerald

The physical education department is "a tad arrogant" about the new Harry Jerome Weight Room in Esslinger, officially opened after a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday morning.

More than 50 students in the term's first weight training class walked through the purple ribbon into a "wall-to-wall-plus" carpeted room lined with mirrors, new weight equipment and a built-in stereo system.

Michael Ellis, dean of the physical education department, used the sound system to formally dedicate the new room to University students.

The weight room, which can accommodate 40 to 60 students at a time, twice as many as the old room, was designed for classes and recreational weightlifters, not for University athletic teams, Ellis says.

"The other one (old weight room in Esslinger) was a piece of junk and this one is amazing. It's better than a lot of clubs I've seen," weight training instructor Greg Wilk told a television reporter.

He expects 200 to 300 people to use the new facility daily.

The \$40,000 remodeling project was partially funded by "Men of Oregon," the Oregon track alumni.

Former track coach Bill Bowerman recalled the physical education department helping his track team with weight training and authorized the donation.

Ellis called the project the "brain-child" of Diane Baxter, head of the service and shape program.

Baxter says the idea began as a dream two years ago and became reality after "a real team effort."

Graduate Teaching Fellows in the PE department donated time this summer to put the new room

together.

In October, Ellis plans to have an official dedication ceremony in appreciation for the gift from the Men of Oregon.

"We have definitely needed it," GTF Pat Lambardi says.

"We are happy to have it for the people who are the real die-hards. It will be easier to teach. We can spend more time with the students," he says.

Wilk says the new weight room will eliminate "people standing around doing nothing." He also expects a jump in weight training class enrollment.

The room was named after Canadian Harry Jerome, one-time world-record holder in the 100 meters and a 1960 Olympian. Jerome, a former assistant track coach, died last year in Vancouver, B.C.

"It is a welcomed addition to the University," Lambardi says.

## Harris squeezes past the 'Juice'

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Now that durable but not daring Franco Harris of the Pittsburgh Steelers has surpassed O.J. Simpson to become pro football's second-leading rusher of all time, his next target is clearly in focus.

"After No. 2 comes No. 1," Harris says, referring to record holder Jim Brown.

Harris, with 11,309 career yards, trails Brown and his 12,312 yards by 1,003 yards. He needs to average 84 yards per game in the Steelers' final 12 games to set the record this season. That would seem like a difficult feat, but considering that Harris has run for over 100 yards in each of his last three games and in five of his last six regular-season games, it would not seem that hard.

"Franco has just been Franco," says offensive tackle Larry Brown. "I'm just proud to have played with him."

Though Brown's record is considered one of the sport's most cherished marks, Harris doesn't expect to be the only one to break it.

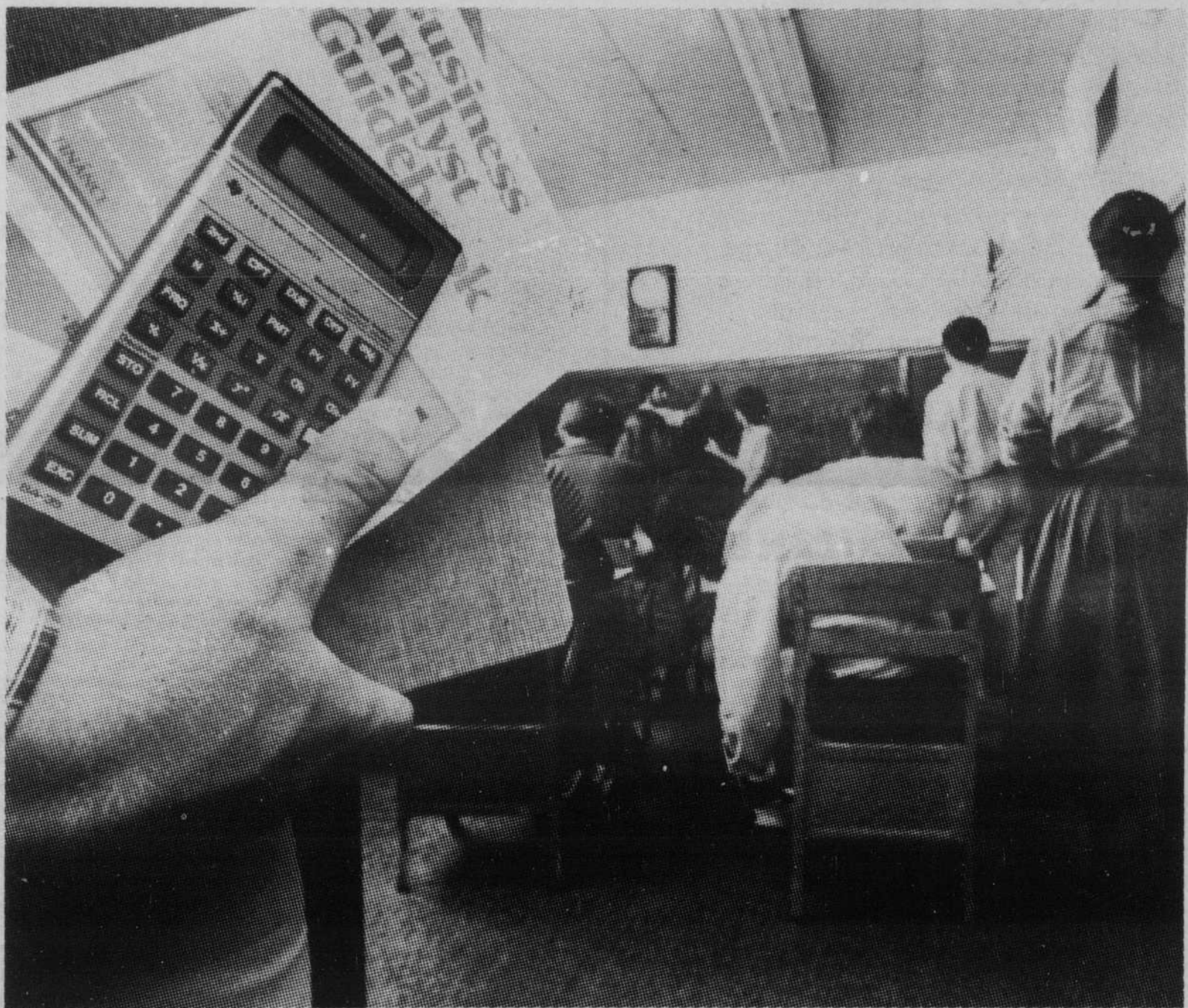
"I would just like to be the first," he says.

Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears trails Harris by only 739 yards. Tony Dorsett of the Dallas Cowboys and Earl Campbell of the Houston Oilers also have chances of surpassing Brown, if they can stay healthy.

But Harris is clearly the first in line, and if he breaks the record, his teammates say it will be because, at age 33, he has maintained a boyish enthusiasm for a man's game.

"He still plays jokes, has a lot of fun," says safety Donnie Shell.

"You can tell he loves to play football," says Steelers coach Chuck Noll. "He has never lost that enthusiasm for the game. He proves that if there is something you want to do, and it's important for you to do, you can still do it."



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