

Track building to be ready by spring

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

It's been 10 years in the making, but construction is nearly finished on the William J. Bowerman Building at Hayward Field.

The building, which cost \$2.1 million to build, is a gift from former Oregon track and field coach Bill Bowerman. Bowerman and his family financed the building completely on their own.

The building, which will be ready for use by late March or early April, will house coaches' offices, lockerrooms and a warm-up area in one wing. The other wing will house the International Institute for Sport and Human Performance, which is associated with the physical education department.

Duck women's track coach Tom Heinonen said the new building has been in the works for nearly 10 years.

"There have been discussions and negotiations about the building since 1982," he said. "In fact, the first building designed was totally different from the one now."

Heinonen said the Bowerman Building will make things much more convenient for the track coaches and athletes.

"This building is going to give us a lot of uses," he said. "It will bring the coaches back to campus."

Even though the new building will have offices for the track coaches, they will still retain their offices at the Casanova Center. Heinonen said the new Casanova Center is nice because the whole athletic department is there, but it is a



A construction worker adds some finishing touches to the Bowerman Building at Hayward Field. Architect Johnathan Stafford said the building should be completed by spring.

little far from campus.

The new building will also add to Oregon's reputation as a dedicated track mecca and will likely help attract more prestigious events to Hayward Field.

In fact, the building seems to already be paying dividends. The University is bidding for the 1993 TAC (The Athletes Congress) Nationals.

The track program is not the only program that will benefit from the new building. The International Institute for Sport and Human Performance will take up half of the building.

The IISHP wing will give the building an academic flavor. Graduate students will get the chance to work in one of the

two trainer's offices.

Construction on the building, which started in the beginning of 1991, has gone extremely well so far, architect Johnathan Stafford said.

"It's come along very nicely," he said.

Stafford said he expected to have people in the building by the end of March, but the building will still need some exterior work.

Heinonen said there is still a lot of work left to be done on Hayward Field.

"This building is not the final piece of Hayward Field," he said, "but it is the most important."

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