

Esslinger

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tions.

About \$8.5 million comes from state building fees collected by the Oregon State System of Higher Education, which is now the Oregon University System. The remainder of the capital came from fund raising, Lobisser said.

"Early in the process, we decided we did not have funds to do everything we wanted to do," he said.

But both the covered tennis stadium and the sports medicine lab are joint efforts with other campus organizations. The sports medicine lab is a cooperative effort with Physical Activity and Recreation Services, the University Health Center and the athletic department, which has contributed \$700,000 of the \$1.2 million budget for the new tennis courts.

"The tennis courts will be a PARS-managed facility with a use agreement for collegiate tennis — men's and women's," Lobisser said.

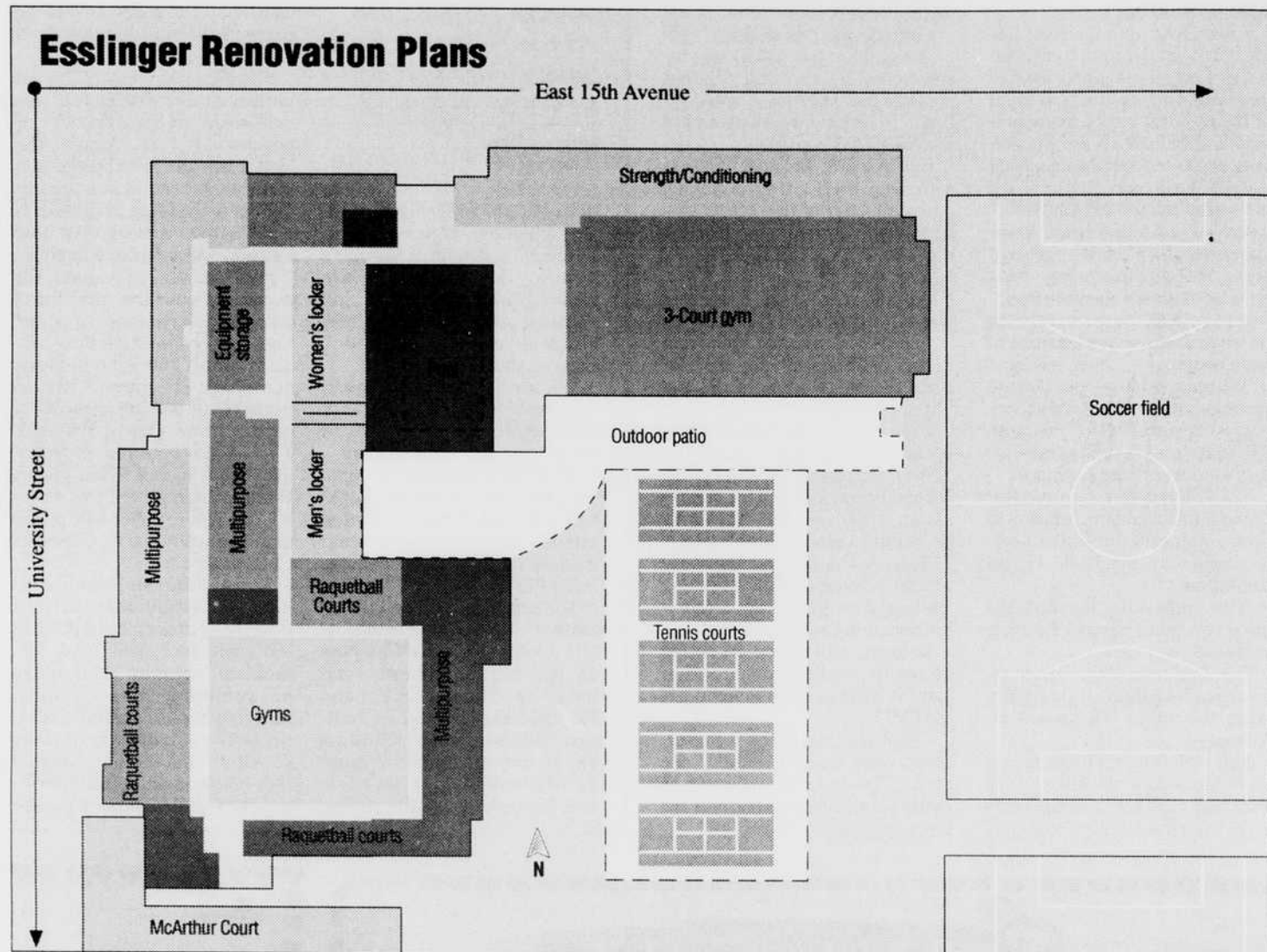
Most of the old facility remains in use, and though Leighton Pool was closed during the summer and fall terms, it reopened about two weeks ago.

Because of construction, there are no locker rooms for students to change in and store their clothes, but the pool does have the added benefit of a new mechanical system that controls water temperature and filtration.

"It's a little bit of an inconvenience, but we're excited and glad that Leighton Pool is up and running," said Brent Harrison, recreation and intramural director.

In the meantime, students change in temporary tents inside the pool area.

"Unfortunately, that's the best we can do as far as accommodations," said Molly Kennedy, facilities coordinator. "But people have been really receptive to it and happy that the pool — the



Matt Garton/Emerald

big pool — is open again."

Before Leighton reopened, students could swim in the smaller Gerlinger pool.

Christi Schones, a junior exercise and movement science major, said not being able to shower is an inconvenience.

"Like right now," she said, "I'm still in my wet suit, and I'm going home to shower."

Schones also said the thought of changing so close to other people seems a little weird, but it

was more inconvenient when the pool was closed.

Harrison said he hopes students can bear with the construction, because "the outcome will be far more of an advantage than it has been."

"The benefit to the University is manifold," Lobisser said. "It will create a more positive social environment for those on campus."

The opportunities from the recreation center will have a positive

effect on recruitment and retention, he said.

Students who become involved with health-oriented activities are more likely to develop a relationship with the institution by establishing a sense of belonging, Lobisser said.

The University is anticipating a rise in the number of people who use the recreational facility. The early projections estimate that 2,000 to 2,500 students, faculty and staff will use the new

center on a daily basis. These figures were partially computed by a 1993 needs-assessment study, Lobisser said.

Kennedy said Esslinger Hall is not seeing a large difference in the number of people using the facility except when the pool was closed. Last spring, more than 5,700 people used the recreation center about 61,000 times compared to almost 5,600 people who visited Esslinger 56,000 times last fall.

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