

VULPES RECREATION

CASE STUDY



SPORTS + RECREATION
APPLICATIONS



The old adage that a family that plays together, stays together takes on a new meaning when the family gets serious about it. The Vulpes Recreation Center is a private gym/field house for a very active family. With a daughter who takes her volleyball very seriously and a son who takes his wrestling just as seriously, the Vulpes athletic facility get's a lot of use. At the center of the tension fabric structure is the volleyball court. Add some pads and it becomes a practice area for wrestling. It also has a basketball hoop for frequent pick up games. Floor hockey is also popular.

The workout center on the mezzanine was added during the design phase, and like many of our structures, it is supported from the solid steel roof and wall beams. That gives more clear space underneath.

BUILDING NAME

Private Sports Facility

LOCATION

Kimball, MN

MARKET SECTOR

Sports

APPLICATION

Private Athletic Facility

SIZE

70' x 140' (9,800 sq ft)

SPECIAL FEATURES

Aluminum siding on two exterior walls

INSTALLATION

Legacy in-house crews





You might think that the floor is reserved for the kids while the workout center is for their parents and owners of the building. The parents, however, have recently discovered they can play tennis on the main floor during the winter, so the competition for floor space is keen. Even the dog gets some floor time, playing fetch indoors when the weather outside is disagreeable.

Materials

One challenge with this tension fabric sports complex was making it match its surroundings. Located on a farm and connected to the house made our designers change the recipe a bit. Our structures typically have all fabric walls and fabric roofing. In this case, to match the other buildings our crews installed regular siding on one wall and a section of another wall.

The owners also wanted to use as much of the materials as possible from the barns they tore down to build this. Reclaimed steel and barnwood is used in the kitchen and throughout the facility. “Merging old materials with new materials-- and then using unconventional construction—were among the challenges,” said the owner.

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Events

In addition to exercise and sports, the facility was also designed for family events. They have already had a graduation party there. That’s why a kitchen was part of the design. The huge glass doors were primarily to let in as much light as possible, but they also get opened during summer gatherings and events, giving the sports center an even more open feeling.

The owners and their kids use the facility constantly, whether for exercise or sports or just fun. On the fun side, there is a fire pole installed from the mezzanine to the floor as well as a rope swing. In the end, the family continues to find new uses for the space. That makes this more than just a sports facility and more of a family center.