

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA, PA

PROJECT CASE STUDY



GEARBOSS® WOOD LOCKERS

“Our new custom GearBoss lockers for women’s lacrosse work out really well – coaches and students like them. Wenger’s customer service was excellent, including installation and follow-up.”

– Dr. Michael Diorka
Associate Director, Recreation & Athletics



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CHALLENGE

Outfit new locker room for Division I women’s lacrosse team with custom wood lockers made to accommodate special equipment and fit available space.

WENGER SOLUTION

Partnering with architect to design custom locker featuring special compartment to hold lacrosse sticks. Installing lockers in coordination with project schedule. Following up to ensure customer satisfaction.

BENEFITS

- Provides organization and professional appearance
- Closed-cell, poly-laminated surfaces enable easy cleaning
- Integrated seat frees up floor space
- Rich wood look enhances locker room aesthetics
- Design features facilitate airflow to aid drying
- Bolt-through construction ensures durable performance

HIGHLIGHTS

The women's lacrosse team at the University of Pennsylvania has been very successful recently, reaching the Final Four three times. Their locker room was upgraded as part of a larger campus construction project, according to Dr. Michael Diorka, Associate Director, Recreation & Athletics.

"After hearing about our coach's desire for wood lockers, Crawford Architects recommended GearBoss," recalls Diorka. As the project moved ahead, Wenger worked with the architect to create a custom wood locker that would accommodate the lacrosse stick bag.



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"The stick bag is a problem for all lacrosse teams," says Diorka. "It's long and linear, containing several sticks, goggles, mouthpieces and other gear." Penn athletic personnel wanted to eliminate the clutter that sticks and stick bags can cause in the locker room, whether on the floor, leaning against walls or set on top of lockers.

"We produced a drawing of the locker and Wenger fabricated it," explains James Pastine, Graduate Architect with Crawford Architects, Kansas City, Mo. Each locker features an 8" deep compartment or pocket inside the back of the locker, designed to hold the player's sticks and stick bags. "Wenger was able to understand what we were looking for – it was a very easy process."

Pastine also praises his Wenger contact for being timely, helpful and thorough. "We'll definitely keep GearBoss in mind for future projects," he comments. "It's a wonderful product!"

Diorka says the installation went smoothly and he appreciated Wenger's follow-up afterwards. "Many companies don't bother – they just take your money and forget about you." He declares, "As a customer, I want to have confidence that we're getting a return on our investment – both in actual product and also in fewer headaches."

The women's lacrosse team is also appreciative. "The players love the new lockers – they're very excited," says Karin Brower Corbett, Head Coach. "The pocket for holding sticks is excellent and it gives our players more room to hang up their things."

The top of each GearBoss locker features a lockable cubby ideal for storing personal items; Penn players use the nearby open slot for holding playbooks. Each locker features a built-in seat that enables the team to hold meetings or film sessions in the locker room.

This room's compact layout includes 30 lockers installed along three sides. Most lockers are 18" wide; the two goalie lockers are 30" wide. The front of the locker room features a white board and retractable video screen with TV and computer hook-up. In the middle of the room, Penn's school logo accents the carpet. A large plaque recognizes major donors; donors will also be invited to fund individual lockers.

According to Corbett, the new locker room functions many different ways. "Players just love hanging out in there – they think it's a great place," she remarks, adding that players often don't go back to their rooms during the school day. "If players have a break, they'll come to the locker room," says Corbett. "They'll study in the locker room – we have wireless – or use their computer."

Diorka sees an 'arms race' in college athletics today, with more money spent to attract recruits. "First it was fields and stadiums, and now it's locker rooms," he explains, before emphasizing that Penn's primary goal is to offer the best education possible.

"But for our student-athletes, we also want to add value to their out-of-classroom experience, making it just as good as their academic experience," contends Diorka.

Corbett sees the advantages this new locker room offers in recruiting. "It's nice to have a locker room we're proud of." She concludes, "There's no question that this new locker room makes recruits feel that lacrosse is important here at Penn."



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PRODUCT LIST

GearBoss® Customizable Wood Lockers, incorporating unique pocket designed to accommodate lacrosse sticks.