

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - COMMERCE COMMERCE, TX



PROJECT PROFILE

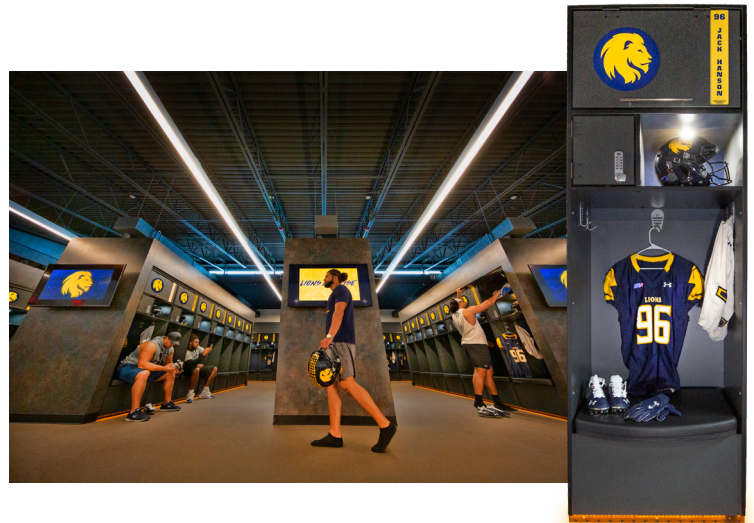


GEARBOSS® CUSTOM WOOD LOCKERS

LION LOCKER ROOM RECRUIT-READY THANKS TO WENGER CORPORATION

“You walk in this locker room and no matter who you are, you say ‘Wow,’ because it’s so impressive.”

–Head Football Coach David Bailiff



CHALLENGE

Worn-out lockers and an inefficient locker room layout

GEARBOSS SOLUTION

Wenger Corporation created an open, spacious locker room with a look and feel to match the architect’s vision. The GearBoss® lockers are a complete solution with custom storage spaces for helmets, shoulder pads and other features to impress current student athletes and incoming recruits.

PRODUCT LIST

GearBoss® Custom Wood Lockers

BENEFITS

- An impressive industrial-style locker room that's recruit-ready at all times
- An open layout that allows the coach to see and address the entire team at once, as well as space for student athletes to study, collaborate and relax
- LED lighting throughout to improve visibility, add ambience and save energy
- A spacious, efficient locker design that includes an integrated flip-up seat with storage below, and behind-seat hanging storage to maximize available space
- Secure storage with a lockable cubby to provide security for personal belongings
- Enhanced sanitation with ventilation in each locker integrated with the building's HVAC system

HIGHLIGHTS

The term "recruit-ready" is how Texas A&M University - Commerce Athletic Director Tim McMurray likes his locker rooms. He wants them to be clean, organized and impressive to anyone who walks in.

He recently got exactly what he wanted in the new football locker room, thanks to Wenger Corporation's product brand, GearBoss®. McMurray and the coaching staff revealed a newly completed locker room to student athletes after months of construction. "We couldn't hold them back," says McMurray. "They all rushed in and the energy was incredible. It was like they all got a new Christmas present."

"You walk in this locker room and no matter who you are, you say 'Wow,' because it's so impressive," says David Bailiff, Head Football Coach.

Populous Architects and Vaughn Construction created and built the new structure specifically to house the locker room, showers and equipment area. They worked with Wenger Corporation and A&M-Commerce staff to ensure everything the team needed would be included.

Replace and Renew

The Texas A&M University - Commerce Lions compete in the Division II Lone Star Conference of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. In 2019, the GearBoss brand became a sponsor of the Conference and was designated the official locker provider of the LSC. GearBoss athletic lockers and high-density storage products are part of Wenger Corporation's full line of specialty equipment designed for athletic programs.

The Lions old locker room was not up to Conference standard.

"Our old locker room looked like a junior high school," McMurray says. "What locks we had were broken and we didn't have a place to address the entire team at once. We had to meet out on the field to talk to the players."

McMurray, Coach Bailiff and Connor Moreno, the Associate Athletic Director for Internal Operations began their search. They were looking for a locker that would align with their team's mission statement to be best in class.

Wenger Corporation rose to the top early on. A trip to their Minnesota headquarters and the University of Minnesota was a big factor.

"The quality of the locker and the space for the student athletes were always the priorities so we were not willing to cut costs on the locker room," McMurray says. "If we had to give up space it would have been on the outside or storage or equipment. One area we would never value engineer would be the area the students are in every day. This project was about boosting morale and recruiting." Gary Schlatholt, Athletic National Account Manager for Wenger Corporation, invited them to Minnesota to show them the Wenger Corporation manufacturing facility to see and feel the quality first hand.

"We saw their commitment to their program and how important it was to get a quality product installed in a short timeframe," says Schlatholt.

He also took them to the University of Minnesota to show them custom designed GearBoss lockers that had been installed ten

years prior.

"It was a best in class experience," Moreno says. "The lockers at the University of Minnesota were durable and still looked great after years of daily use. It made us feel much more comfortable knowing that we were going to have a great, high quality product for a long period of time."

After determining that a variety of features could be installed such as custom helmet and shoulder pad spaces, as well as LED lighting and lockable cubbies with USB ports and power outlets, they decided to move forward together. Moreno liked the fact that he would have a single point of contact on the project.

"It's been great having someone to go to, from the first point of contact, through the construction and installation process. Gary was attentive and responsive every step of the way," Moreno says.

"There were a couple of unique features in the lockers such as the HVAC system, as well as the graphics and industrial feel they wanted the locker room to have, so we worked very closely with the architect and builder to deliver it in the timeline they required," Schlatholt says.

Time to Shine

An entirely new building was created specifically to house the locker room, showers and equipment. The new space has everything the team wanted, including:

- Custom shoulder pad storage area
- Secure cubby storage area with a programmable lock, electrical outlet and integrated charging ports for USB devices
- Helmet display area with accent LED lighting
- Padded, lift-up bench seat
- Vented footlocker and ductwork connected to HVAC system for ventilation
- LED toe-kick lighting
- Garment bars and 5 hooks for clothing and uniforms
- Laser-cut, powder coated Lion logo, player name and number on each locker

"We selected the perfect locker. Our players love them. They're big enough to store all of their equipment, they're functional, and they're durable," Coach Bailiff says. "These will stand the test of time."

The room also features open spaces for the coach to address the entire team at once, 6 big screen TVs, chairs, sectionals and a dry erase board. There is plenty of space for the student athletes to study, hang out and relax.

"The layout, the TVs, and the technology make this an awesome environment," says Aston-Ryan Walter, Team Grad Assistant.

The final touch is the equipment area in the same building, which includes GearBoss Pass-Through Cubby lockers for easy access to laundry facilities, storage carts, work surfaces, workstations, and shelves. The building now houses everything the team needs.

I've done this for 35 years and these advancements are amazing," Coach Bailiff says. "You walk in this room and it's inspirational. The athletes want to hang out here because it's comfortable and they're proud of it. That helps you grow as a team."



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