

# DEL NORTE HIGH SCHOOL, SAN DIEGO, CA

## PROJECT CASE STUDY



GEARBOSS® X-CARTS™, TEAM CARTS™, SPORTCARTS™ AND SHELVING

***“With GearBoss, we can control and monitor our equipment, and help keep our facility clean. It fits each sport’s needs – plain and simple – and the space saving is amazing.”***

– Mike Giaime,  
Athletic Director

### CHALLENGE

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Organize and equip athletic storage rooms at new high school.

### WENGER SOLUTION

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Providing planning resources to athletic department personnel. Recommending optimal combination of carts, shelving and accessories to suit program needs, budget and available space. Installing storage solutions in coordination with project timeline.

## BENEFITS

- High-density storage maximizes limited space.
- Flexible system easily adapts to future needs.
- Open cart design aids drying and sanitizing.
- Proper planning enhances organization, traffic flow.
- Mobile carts streamline equipment distribution process.
- Secure storage guards against loss and theft.

## HIGHLIGHTS

“For me, the GearBoss system sold itself,” declares Mike Giaime, Athletic Director at Del Norte High School in San Diego, CA. In the planning process for this new school, which opened in the fall of 2009, Giaime’s research was aimed at creating a good atmosphere for the athletic program, while staying within the budget.

When talking with senior ADs in his area, Giaime heard that inadequate storage space was a common problem in athletic facilities. “I knew it would be important to maximize the limited storage space we had,” he states. Solutions considered included installing a sliding rack or shelving from floor to ceiling.

“I had first seen GearBoss at a national AD conference in San Diego,” Giaime recalls. “The GearBoss catalog contained different solutions I thought would work for us.” The district reviewed Giaime’s selections, evaluated the costs and agreed he was proposing the best-case scenario for the limited space.

Coming from an older school, Giaime understood the losses that can happen when uniforms or equipment are left out where they can be damaged, stolen or lost.

“In the end you’re actually spending more money than if you would have stored it correctly the first time,” he explains. “There’s no reason to throw money down the drain when GearBoss offers a complete solution that works for all sports.”

A Wenger GearBoss Athletic Specialist helped Giaime plan the layout of the storage areas after a site visit. Utilizing notes, sketches and architectural plan drawings, Wenger prepared floor plan layout drawings for seven rooms – including the location of GearBoss high-density carts and shelving – to make the available space work better and to meet the owner’s vision for the spaces. “With the right facility design and a flexible system like GearBoss, you’ll never outgrow your facility,” he contends, adding that he also consulted the GearBoss Planning Guide for Athletic Facilities.

At Del Norte High School, Giaime estimates they store close to \$100,000 worth of equipment in their GearBoss system, in separate storage rooms for boys and girls sports. There are 27 varsity athletic teams, and almost every team has its own GearBoss cart.

The school has enough football equipment to outfit 150 athletes, with approximately 100 playing each season. GearBoss carts hold football helmets, shoulder pads, practice pants and jerseys and pads.

“The space saving is just amazing,” exclaims Giaime. “Football equipment probably takes up a tenth of the space it would otherwise.”

For distributing track and field equipment, the appropriate cart can be rolled outside to the stadium. “It works beautifully and is much easier than having 100 students lined up outside the equipment room,” Giaime says.

People inside and outside the school have noticed the improved organization. Technicians from helmet manufacturer Rydell claimed it took them 30 percent less time to recondition Del Norte’s helmets on-site because the equipment was much better organized than in most schools they visit.

The GearBoss carts also make sanitizing easy. Once uniforms are issued, Del Norte’s training staff cleans the empty cart with a bleach solution, which Giaime calls “a simple, easy process.”

Improved security is another GearBoss benefit. Tight school budgets have eliminated many equipment manager positions, so coaches must take responsibility and ownership for their equipment.

“Each coach has a key to the appropriate storage room and puts a lock on their own GearBoss cart,” explains Giaime, adding that coaches know there are not funds for replacement equipment. “If carts are left open, someone will fish in it and stuff will disappear.”

Whenever Giaime sees an unlocked cart, he’ll take something and make the coach pick it up from his office. “I’m trying to help teach coaches a lesson,” he states.

To visiting ADs touring Del Norte High School’s athletic facilities, Giaime emphasizes the importance of creating a secure storage environment. He concludes, “I also tell them how a GearBoss system would help take their program to the next level.”



GEARBOSS® SPORTCART™

## PRODUCT LIST

GearBoss® High-Density Storage system, comprised of X-Carts™, Team Carts™ and SportCarts™, with accessories including storage attics, helmet and garment hangers and shoulder pad stackers. Also, GearBoss® Shelving and TranSport Cart™. GearBoss® Planning Guide for Athletic Facilities.