

IMG ACADEMY, BRADENTON, FLORIDA

PROJECT CASE STUDY



GEARBOSS® WOOD LOCKERS

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– Steve Padgett, AIA
Vice President
Fawley Bryant Architects



GEARBOSS® WOOD LOCKERS

CHALLENGE

Provide custom lockers and storage solutions for sports academy.

WENGER SOLUTION

Working to realize architect’s contemporary vision. Coordinating construction details and timetable with architect, builder and partners.
Meeting tight installation schedule.

BENEFITS

- Contemporary look coordinates with campus architecture
- Built-in locker seat frees up space, facilitates cleaning
- Digital display panel personalizes locker
- Custom features unify locker room aesthetics
- Open design aids drying process, improves sanitation
- Lockers and storage solutions enhance organization

HIGHLIGHTS

“The impact the GearBoss installation makes when someone enters our locker room for the first time is second-to-none,” says Chris Weinke, Director of Football and Head Coach with IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida.

“Our student-athletes are humbled and proud for the opportunity to use a locker room of this caliber,” adds Weinke, who quarterbacked Florida State to a national title in 1999 and won the Heisman Trophy in 2000.

IMG Academy serves students K-postgraduate via its private school program and offers camps and training programs for students and adults of all ages and abilities, including college and pro athletes from around the world. Featuring several living options, dining halls and even a health clinic, the 500-acre campus is anchored by a new multi-sport complex that opened in 2013.

For this new stadium, IMG initially preferred traditional wood lockers for their high-quality image, recalls architect Steve Padgett, AIA, Vice President with Fawley Bryant Architects in Sarasota, Florida.

“But we wanted a progressive look that you can’t get with a wood locker,” Padgett explains. “We started thinking creatively about a more contemporary appearance for an international athletic program, and to complement the design of other IMG buildings we were designing.”

He describes IMG’s aesthetics as “synthetic” – a sleek, gray, carbon-fiber look with perforated metal, glass and reflective surfaces – like used in TV sports broadcasting.

“GearBoss took our concept and made it work, incorporating our aesthetic goals and priorities,” comments Padgett. The GearBoss design team carefully reviewed the 3-D rendering Fawley Bryant provided, then collaborated with its supplier-partners on everything from locking mechanisms and lights to the acrylic panels and seat stitching.

To review a locker mockup, Padgett traveled to GearBoss’ facility in Minnesota, accompanied by his colleague Brian Leaver, Principal / Senior Vice President with Tandem Construction of Sarasota.

“The mockup was incredible,” recalls Leaver. “We suggested only a few minor modifications and tweaks before the locker went into production.”

Unique to this project are LED-lit acrylic panels separating each locker – a first for GearBoss. Together with the rope lighting in the soffits and backlit LED logo in the ceiling, the panels create a unified mood in the locker room. Each locker also features a digital display that can be personalized with the athlete’s name and bio, along with photos and video.

Padgett says the GearBoss team worked hard to stay true to the original locker concept, without looking for shortcuts. “That’s a huge strength of the GearBoss team,” he declares. Even with last-minute changes, GearBoss still maintained the delivery and installation schedule.

“GearBoss bought into our team concept and committed to do whatever it takes to win our business,” remarks Leaver. “They went outside their norm and successfully built something they hadn’t built before.”

In day-to-day use, the lockers have proven a success, according to Equipment Manager Cortez Robinson. “We now have a fully customized, best-in-class organizational solution for our student-athletes and we couldn’t be more impressed with the quality and functionality,” Robinson explains.

Along with varsity football lockers, GearBoss provided a suite of solutions for IMG including AirPro lockers and custom-designed pass-through cubby lockers. The equipment room features GearBoss mobile storage carts, wall shelving units and a work desk.

Leaver says that seeing the amazement on the athletes’ faces and hearing their comments about the new lockers was pretty incredible. He concludes, “GearBoss was committed to getting our project right and knocking it out of the park, and they did – it was awesome!”



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PRODUCT LIST

GearBoss Customizable Wood Lockers, AirPro Lockers customized by sport (football, baseball and lacrosse), custom pass-through cubby lockers, GearBoss Workstations and GearBoss Shelving with work surfaces and lock boxes.