

BETTY KOHN FIELDHOUSE

CASE STUDY



LOCATION

New Ulm, MN

MARKET SECTOR

Sports

APPLICATION

**University
Athletics Facility**

SIZE

150 ft x 240 ft (36,000 sq ft)

SPECIAL FEATURES

**Structure built around
existing locker room, custom
fabric design with college
logo decals added**

INSTALLATION

Legacy in-house crews



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE conducted a capital campaign to fund a new fieldhouse. Shannon Humbert, Building and Project Design Consultant for Legacy Building Solutions (Legacy), heard of the campaign and reached out to Scott Schmudlach, Martin Luther's athletic director at the time, to discuss the benefits of a fabric building. They connected on fabric as an option for the fieldhouse. Humbert worked with Martin Luther and the committee on the cost-effectiveness of fabric and how a tension fabric building would provide the added benefits they were looking for.





The Betty Kohn fieldhouse provided a unique challenge, a pre-constructed locker room inside the footprint of the building. The locker room was constructed before Legacy's main frame was erected. "The logistics in erecting a building over an already existing building added some challenges to the project, but because of our customizability and having our own in-house crews, we were able to move forward with installation allowing construction to stay on schedule," stated Humbert. Legacy is a sole-source manufacturer, meaning that most everything related to the building project is done on Legacy's campus in South Haven, Minnesota. With the cooperation of our own engineers—that are familiar with our product—and their team, we were able to conceive a plan that our own installation crews could execute. This allowed them to keep the existing structure.

The exterior of the fieldhouse is nothing short of a wonder. The grey and white fabric exterior was custom designed and manufactured by Legacy. Because of the fabric's versatility, Martin Luther College worked with a subcontractor to add a few large decals on the exterior and interior of the building. "The custom exterior fabric design and the exterior and interior decals give the building an aesthetic that allows it to blend in with the campus but stand out as an additional feature for future students, current students, and alumni," said Humbert. The interior also features two retractable batting cages, event netting, and field turf, and the mezzanine features a golf simulator.

Every building Legacy does is customized. We don't do cookie-cutter. We don't do off-the-shelf. We tailor your building to your needs.

The pandemic would be one of the biggest struggles with constructing the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse, such as labor shortages and rising costs. Being in southern Minnesota, wind also plagued the crews. However, all things considered, operations still moved forward. Schudlach describes the whole process as "it was fun to watch because it went really fast" and despite any issues that arose, he said, "Legacy was very cooperative." Legacy's multi-faceted manufacturing allows us to cater to a large audience and deliver a building as close to what our clients want as possible.

"Every building Legacy does is customized. We don't do cookie-cutter. We don't do off-the-shelf. We tailor your building to your needs. When clients like Martin Luther College come to us asking for a cost-effective building solution with access to a list of benefits they couldn't get with a traditional building, I show them the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse," stated Humbert. "It's a great testament to what Legacy can provide to college athletic departments."