

FERRIS STATE TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY FACILITIES

With Ferris State University continually expanding its efforts to accommodate all of its student-athletes, the Bulldog men's and women's cross country and track programs are just two to have become beneficiaries of this progression.

The athletic facilities at Ferris State have undergone a recent transformation in order to provide the varsity athletic programs with first-class facilities for its respective student-athletes.

Katke Golf Course, a university-owned 18-hole golf course situated on the western flank of the Ferris campus, serves as the site of home cross country meets. Katke is named after Mr. and Mrs. Marvin L. Katke, whose generous donation influenced campus development and the initial phase of the golf course. Katke, a friend of Ferris and a Mecosta County native, was vice president for manufacturing of the Ford Motor Company and a 1967 recipient of an honorary degree from FSU. The Katke Golf Course opened in 1974. A new clubhouse was added during the summer of 1999.

The site for the Bulldogs' home track and field meets is Top Taggart Field, named in honor of W.C. "Top" Taggart. The stadium, which also serves as home to FSU's varsity football program, was dedicated October 1957 in honor of the school's first official varsity football coach and his contributions to the institution.

The facility underwent a multi-million dollar renovation in the spring of 1998, which involved the installation of a 400-meter, eight-lane track with a brick red urethane surface surrounding a top-of-the-line artificial turf playing surface. Also, renovations were completed for two shot put circles, two long and triple jump pits, and a pair of pole vault boxes.

Funded by a generous donation from alumni John Wheeler, the new state-of-the-art \$1.8 million Wheeler Pavilion is a three-story building that includes new restroom and concession facilities at the stadium. Construction was completed in August 2001.

The Ferris State Track and Cross Country offices are housed in Ewingleben Sports Arena on the southern edge of campus. The arena includes athletic training and weight room facilities as well as the offices of the athletic department staff. The arena welcomed the addition of the new Jim Wink Arena in the fall of 1999.

The many new facilities, supplemented with existing ones like Ferris State's Racquet and Fitness Center, allow athletes to train and enhance their performance capabilities in the best possible facilities.

WHEELER PAVILION

The \$1.8 million state-of-the-art Wheeler Pavilion is the latest addition to Top Taggart Field and allows Ferris State University to have one of the top NCAA Division II facilities in the nation.

The three-story building was constructed through the generosity of alumnus John Wheeler ('76), Chief Executive Officer of Rockford Construction Company and the Rockford Development Group. Wheeler and his wife, Chris, pledged \$500,000 and an in-kind gift of \$100,000 in professional services.

A public fundraising campaign raised \$600,000 in contributions and pledges, which was matched by the University.

