

Rev. Thomas J. Elewaut, C.J.
Principal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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John Dewey
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BISHOP'S 3.4 MILLION DOLLAR ATHLETIC FACILITY NOW COMPLETE

Dan Peeters '87
Dean of Athletics

Bishop Garcia Diego High School received a 3.4 million dollar donation from an anonymous benefactor for construction of a new practice gymnasium. May 1, 2006 was a historic day at Bishop with the Board of Trustees, local community leaders, business leaders, faculty, staff, parents, and students present for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Ray Vazquez '86
Dean of Students

Now, one year and one day later, the school formally dedicates and opens the new facility.

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"This is the largest and most extensive project on the campus since it was built in 1958, and the first undertaken since Bishop became an independent Catholic high school on July 1, 2005," stated John Gherini, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He further stated, "This is a bold statement that Bishop High School will be here for the long term. As it has done so well in the past, Bishop will continue to serve the Santa Barbara community and people of all faiths for many generations to come."

The new gymnasium is equipped with six baskets, two basketball courts and two volleyball courts. In addition, campus upgrades include new rest rooms installed in the main gym, new shower and locker rooms, handicap access, improved fire access, new landscaping to a portion of the quad and other improvements to the school's infrastructure. Bishop is the only high school with two gym facilities serving the needs of its students.

"This gymnasium will enhance Bishop's athletic department and school community on many levels. It will eliminate conflicts and will obliterate the loss of practice time that has, up to now, occurred during art, theatre, musical, and social functions," stated Dan Peeters, Athletic Director.

From a family perspective, it will increase the amount of family time for student athletes by allowing them to get home at a more reasonable hour. The next generation of Bishop student athletes, their families, and their coaches will reap the benefits of a second gymnasium.

Eighty five percent of Bishop High students participate in athletics and other school activities. Many students participate in several sports programs while maintaining high academic standards. Seventy-six percent of our Bishop students received a 3.0 GPA or higher last semester, with 27% above a 4.0, while taking college prep, honors courses and AP Courses. In addition, since 2002, 100% of the seniors have gone on to the colleges and universities of their choice nationwide.

The school recently received another \$750,000.00 anonymous grant to fully landscape the courtyard quad to feature more grass and green areas, paved walkways, lighting and benches to create an atmosphere for culture, beauty, leisure and recreation.

In addition, the school recently completed construction on a new softball field, improvements to the baseball field and resurfaced the tennis courts to complete an entire athletic upgrade at the school.

“These projects are for the students, now and in the future. The students have earned it. As a school community, Bishop offers opportunities for the multiple-sport athletes, and recognizes student athletes whose hard work and dedication allow them to compete against schools up to six times its size, fielding competitive teams in 16 Varsity sports. This project shows that Bishop is committed to providing the best facilities for our students. We are proud of our students and our goal at Bishop is simple, we not only prepare students for college, but we prepare them for life. Building facilities such as this and encouraging student athletes is one way to help achieve this goal,” noted John Gherini.

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