

## WEBSTER CITY ATHLETICS

Re: Proposed additions to the Athletic Department Facilities

### Overview:

In the past, Webster City was known for its overall commitment to athletics. Part of that commitment was well-maintained and up-to-date athletic venues, noticeably the football field and Jefferson Gymnasium for basketball and wrestling. Unfortunately, during the past 10-15 years, that has not been the case. The football field has become an average facility—at best—for a 3A school and Jefferson Gym, while it has sentimental value for the Webster City fans, is smaller than most 3A gyms with several challenging shortfalls.

The district has addressed some of the concerns, with the building of the new ticket booth and bricking of the concession stand at the football field. The old row of shrubs were removed and new fences were built which cleaned up the appearance significantly. A new building has been also built in the southeast corner of the facility which will provide a team room for both football and soccer as well as softball storage.

Jefferson Gym had significant renovations recently completed, making it as good as it can be, considering the size and parking challenges. The locker rooms, floor, and sound system are all as good as possible.

A weight training facility was added to the building within the last eight years. It serves the purpose and is workable.

### Vision for Athletic Facilities

There are three main areas of interest when it comes to planning the continued improvements to the athletic facilities: the outdoor athletic complex, an indoor training facility (the courtyard), and a competition gym.

#### 1. Outdoor complex

Improvements would include:

- a. field turf the present football field/soccer field
- b. new bleachers on the home side, move the home bleachers to the visitors' side
- c. new pressbox
- d. new scoreboard
- e. visitors' team room added to the present garage on the visitors' side
- f. brick the baseball dugouts
- g. one more set of bleachers for baseball and a new pressbox
- h. move the high jump to the infield of the track
- i. add a track storage area to the existing garage at the east end of the track, tearing down the existing track storage shed allowing parking to be added from the existing parking lot all the way to the softball field

#### 2. Indoor Training Facility

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Proposal would include:

- a. an area roughly 120' x 110' with an all-sport rubber floor
- b. a 40' x 20' storage area which could later be converted to a racquetball court if desired
- c. a 100' x 40' weight training/ plyometric / core training area

### 3. Competition Gymnasium

- seating for 2000
- 2-- 94' x 50' courts side by side for practice

## Rationale for Improvements

### 1. Outdoor complex

- a. field-turfing the football/soccer fields would completely eliminate the need for watering, fertilizing, aeration, mowing and raking, etc. There would be no maintenance needed for the field.  
With the number of lower level (7,8, 9, and JV) games that are now played on the field, it is under much more stress that it was in the past.. One good rain with a game being played can ruin the field for the rest of the season. In addition, we are playing 10-12 soccer games on the field each spring, severely limiting the ability to do any field work or grass-growing until the first of June. The new field turf is much softer than the traditional asto-turf, doesn't cause the burns, and doesn't hold the bacteria like the old turf.
- b. our bleachers can be moved to the visitors' side, which would allow us to install much-needed new bleachers on our side. The bleachers on the visitors' side could be moved to the track
- c. our pressbox is quite small for a 3A facility, with the demands of coaching staffs, filming for both teams, radio, video, and the clock people.  
The present press box could be moved to the track
- d. by moving the high jump to the infield of the track and tearing down the present track shed, we could add a good deal of parking in the area between the track and baseball fields. This would solve our handicapped parking problem for baseball/softball, as well as adding a good number of spaces for all events.
- e. Turfing the football field will eliminate the need for a soccer game field, which would include bleachers, lights, scoreboard, etc., which would be not only a considerable expense, but would also increase the size and upkeep area of the athletic complex

### 2. Indoor Training Facility

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An indoor training facility would provide our athletes some real benefits and allow us to train athletes much more efficiently.

- a. We would have an area 120' x 110', with an all-sport rubberized floor. We would have room for 2, full-sized basketball floors, with portable standards. This would alleviate our practicing problems that currently exist and we would not have to have kids practicing at 6:00 am

We would also be able to have 2 tennis courts; we could hang a batting cage; soccer can use the area in the spring; football could use it in the fall; we could throw the shot, high jump, etc. for track; baseball and/or softball could do drills in the area; golf could hit into nets/curtains

In general, the area would address many of our practice concerns, particularly basketball and the spring sports, when we have a total of 8 squads trying to work and give us the room we need to train large numbers of athletes at once.

- b. We would have a 100' x 40' strength and conditioning facility. The facility would be designed and equipped with training athletes in mind, as it would only be used by Webster City athletes.

There would be plenty of room for ground-based strength training equipment, plyometric training area, and a core-training area. Strength and conditioning programs have been lagging behind in our athletic department, we have made significant strides in the past year, but we still have a long way to go if we are to compete with the top tier programs in our class, in all sports.

### 3. Competition Gymnasium

- a. A new college-sized floor, with 2 practice floors next to each other, in a gym that seats 2000, would be a tremendous addition to our district. We would not only have a better environment for our players and fans, but we would likely be assigned tournaments, in basketball, wrestling, and volleyball.
- b. We would add locker rooms for boys and girls, which would be a great improvement over what we have now
- c. The foyer/concourse area would be used to finally get our trophies and displays in a common place, as they are now spread all over the district. The Hall of Fame, state trophies, and special recognitions would add to the climate we are striving to change.

## Conclusion

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When people are looking to move their family or business to a new location one of the first things many look at is the school and the athletic facilities. The changes and improvements that we have outlined would propel Webster City into the 21st century and put us at the top of 3A school athletic facilities. Additionally, as we are trying to change the climate and work ethic of our athletes, new and upgraded facilities will only help with motivation and enthusiasm. The indoor training facility would definitely help the training of our athletes and the overall athletic strength and conditioning. Our athletes would have a training facility that would be the envy of the vast majority of schools in the state of Iowa.

We want to have a first class athletic program at Webster City. We look to honor the past and try to use that tradition to help our current athletes move to the next level. We have made good movement in the facility area in the past couple of years, we have a vision for where we want to go, and right now, it's just a matter of how fast we can get there. Effort, facilities, and enthusiasm are all parts of the climate change that we are trying to produce in the Webster City Athletic Department, as we strive to become one of the top programs in the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bob Howard

Athletic Director  
Webster City High School