

Oklahoma Unveils Legacy Court

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NORMAN, Okla. -- As the 100th year of Oklahoma basketball approaches, the OU Athletics Department and Director of Athletics Joe Castiglione are proud to announce the unveiling of Legacy Court. Legacy Court is a museum style, historical representation of the Sooners' men's and women's basketball programs.

Legacy Court, which was made possible by generous gifts from the Tip In and Fast Break Clubs, is housed over two stories and 4,800 square feet between the practice facilities and the main arena at the Lloyd Noble Center. It was designed in a joint effort by Gallagher & Associates and 1220 Exhibits, who also worked on the Legends Lobby at the Switzer Center.

"Oklahoma basketball has a rich tradition of success which needed to be celebrated in an exciting way," said Castiglione. "Our aspirations for future greatness are buoyed by the legacy which has been created over the years by so many wonderful players and coaches. We wanted people to experience some of the incredible moments in our history and be inspired to continue working with us to ensure a bright future.

"We are so very grateful to the members of the Tip In Club and the Fast Break Club for embracing this vision. Without their support, this display would not be possible."

OU women's basketball head coach Sherri Coale added, "The Legacy Court is the mecca for fans of Oklahoma basketball! Our sports information department did an outstanding job of locating information and artifacts representative of the entire history of both the men's and women's programs. The presentation of the memorabilia is both attractive and inspiring creating an entire area that speaks volumes about this institutions support of basketball. I wish that everyone who has ever worn an Oklahoma basketball jersey had a chance to see it. It is truly a special space."

First-year men's basketball head coach Jeff Capel was also impressed with the new exhibit, "We're very proud of Legacy Court, and everyone who was involved with creating it did a fantastic job. It shows the rich tradition of history of Oklahoma basketball. It allows people to see more clearly the great coaches and players who have been here and have made the basketball programs what they are today. On the men's side, you get to experience the accomplishments of coaches like Bruce Drake, Billy Tubbs and Kelvin Sampson, and players such as Wayman Tisdale, Stacey King, Mookie Blaylock and Alvan Adams.

"We feel like we have one of the elite programs in the country and Legacy Court reflects that. It's a showcase of excellence and we're proud to call it our own."

On the bottom floor of Legacy Court is the center court structure, which features two glass artifact cases, a 100-year time line, historical coaching biographies and eight flat screen television monitors. The monitors will continuously air historical videos on each program that were produced by Winnercomm of Tulsa.

The existing memorabilia cases on the first floor, which have been in the area since 2003, were updated for this unveiling. Five unique interactive displays give visitors a hands-on experience where they can test their hand speed or vertical leap, and compare their hand size, shoe size and height to those of members of both Oklahoma programs. Also featured on the lower floor are two large hologram-like lenticular graphics and giant banners featuring current players.

A legends wall is the marquee item on the second floor of the Legacy Court. The wall features 35 Sooner legends (20 men's and 15 women's). Also encased on the upper floor are the retired jerseys of Alvan Adams, Mookie Blaylock and Wayman Tisdale. On the east and west walls of the second floor are All-Conference and All-America displays and interactive monitors. On the touch screen monitors, visitors can access bios, highlights and stats on Sooners who have earned All-Conference or All-America honors. Similar content is available for each player on the 2006-07 teams.

The exhibit, which also serves as the entry way to the basketball offices, is officially open to the public during the hours of 9- 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday. On game days, Legacy Court will open when the arena does and will close one-half hour after the contest.

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