

New Training Facility Signals New Era

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The Hertz Center, a major addition to Green Wave athletics, will be dedicated this academic year. A training facility for men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball, the center is destined to be a major new resource for recruiting and training top athletes in these sports.



The new Hertz Center for men and women's basketball and women's volleyball training nears completion on the Tulane uptown campus. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

The center's debut represents a victory for those who have spent years bringing the facility to life. "To see things be sunk into the ground and become permanent is symbolic, but it is also unbelievably appropriate that it [the center] is named for Doug," said athletics director Rick Dickson.

Doug Hertz, an Atlanta businessman and chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee of the Board of Tulane, promised the university the naming gift for the

[Hertz Center](#) after being involved in Tulane athletics through its ups and downs in recent years, including Hurricane Katrina's \$650 million in damages to the university.

"I felt like it was my responsibility, since I was the one asking the questions, to step up and help make it happen," said Hertz.

Support from alumni and fans came naturally once they understood the purpose of the project: giving student-athletes a home away from home. "Student-athletes live around their sports program," said Yvette Jones, executive vice president for university relations and development.

"For them to excel, they need their space. It is their classroom. It's their laboratory, too. It's where they get their work done."

With two courts, a strength-training center, film rooms, offices, lockers and conference rooms, the \$13 million facility will not only benefit this year's students, Jones said ? it also will help coaches recruit new athletes and build programs capable of national success.

The new facility is nearing completion on the uptown campus along Ben Weiner Drive, between the Reilly Student Recreation Center and the Goldring Tennis Center.