Janssen-Lagorio Gym Takes Shape

Since the groundbreaking ceremony in early December, construction has been proceeding rapidly on the Janssen-Lagorio Multipurpose Gymnasium. The new athletics facility is expected to open for fall 2009 and will be used for team practices and student recreation.

“Thanks to the generosity of Regent Kathleen Lagorio Janssen ’68, Dean Janssen and other key donors, Pacific is developing new facilities that benefit students — even at a time when other universities are forced to cut back,” said President Don DeRosa in December at the groundbreaking. “We are extremely grateful to have supporters who recognize the value of investing in education and the facilities needed to provide that education.”

Dean and Kathy Janssen are the lead donors to the building. Longtime supporters of Pacific, the Janssens have also served on the board of the Pacific Tigers Athletics Association and the Athletics Campaign Committee. They were inducted into the Pacific Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

The 23,732-square-foot facility, between Long Theatre and the Alex G. Spanos Center, will have features such as moveable walls to allow the main gym to be divided into smaller practice areas.

The building will cost approximately $7.5 million. The design also includes many sustainable features, such as those that conserve energy and water and make use of recycled materials.

Thirty-six-foot concrete wall sections weighing approximately 15 tons were raised by a crane over a three-day period in May.

The Winningest Coach

With Pacific’s 65–55 victory over UC Irvine on February 14, head coach Bob Thomason ’71 became the Big West Conference’s all-time leader in league wins with 206. He overtook former Long Beach State and UNLV head coach Jerry Tarkanian, who had 205. With the season concluded, that number climbed to 209. Thomason was honored for his achievement by Commissioner Dennis Farrell of the Big West Conference at the game against UC Davis on February 25.

Thomason is in his 21st season as head coach at Pacific. He has coached more games than any coach in school history, surpassing his former coach, Dick Edwards, for the most career wins at Pacific. Thomason, a five-time winner of Big West Conference Coach of the Year, has guided his teams to nine Big West Tournament semifinal games and has won two championships.
Farewell to a Coaching Legend

Football coaching legend and Stockton resident Charles Washington ’54 died February 21, 2009. An all-star lineman, Washington lettered on Pacific’s football team in 1952 before winning more games than any other prep football coach in Northern California. In an 18-year span, his teams logged a record of 133–54–6 and won six league championships.

Washington became the first African-American high school football coach in Northern California when he took the position at Stockton’s Edison High School in 1965. He taught and coached there for 22 years before becoming assistant principal. He was known for his commanding presence, his great speeches, and his big heart. Some of the athletes he coached, counseled and mentored went on to NFL careers.

He directed numerous football camps and received many honors over his career, including Pacific’s Amos Alonzo Stagg Award and California Football Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Stockton Athletic Hall of Fame, the Stockton Black Sports Hall of Fame, the National High School Football Hall of Fame and the Pacific Athletics Hall of Fame. In 2004, the Stockton Record established the Charles Washington Award, given annually to a senior student athlete from San Joaquin County who exemplifies athletic and academic achievement and community involvement.

Washington and his wife, Shirley, were married 48 years. They have two daughters.

Stagg Award Honors Three Alumni

Three distinguished alumni: Noel Manoukian ’61 (football), Cindy Spiro ’76, ’84 (administrator and women’s basketball) and Jon Werner ’70 (men’s tennis) were honored with the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award of Merit in January. The Award was established in 1981 to recognize alumni who participated in athletics at Pacific and who have achieved distinction in their lives through the notable examples of integrity, dedication, idealism and team spirit.

A football player and two-time class president at Pacific, Noel Manoukian was a distinguished student and athlete. An attorney and then Nevada District Court Judge, he became Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court in 1977. He serves today as a Nevada Senior Judge.

Cindy Spiro has been a pioneering female as an athlete, coach and administrator throughout her career. The first female student athletic trainer, she was appointed as the first full-time Coordinator of Women’s Athletics at Pacific in 1979. Spiro is now the Senior Associate Athletics Director for External Affairs and Resource Development at UC Davis.

Jon Werner began his career as an educator from 1973–78. He went on to work in the home building industry and has served as the President of UDC Homes and Kaufman and Broad. Werner has served on the San Diego Mayor’s Housing Advisory Committee and as a consultant for the Student Regional Occupational Program for Mt. Carmel High School in Poway, Calif.

Summer Athletics Camps

Throughout the summer, Pacific Tigers Athletics offers a full range of summer skills camps and the Tiger Cubs children’s day camps. The Tiger Edge speed and strength training camp is for children in elementary, middle and high school. There are camps for baseball, basketball, field hockey, golf, soccer, softball and swimming. The Tiger Cubs activity day camp serves children ages 5–12. Some camps have residence options.

Go to PacificTigers.com for details and registration information, or call Pacific Athletics at 209.946.2472.