

## Cooper Gym Gets a Floor Lift

Contributed by Kenny Casperson  
Friday, 26 October 2007

So the title is something of a bad joke.

Athletes and, in fact, anyone else who happens to wander into the 'Bud' Cooper Gym in Norris is going to notice a rather significant change beneath their feet from now on — a full size, full gym hardwood floor, worthy of any university stadium. No longer will maintenance workers need to disassemble the floor after every basketball season as they have in the past, and certainly no Lake State athlete need play on a poured, hard rubber gym floor ever again. Athletic Director Kris Dunbar described the floor as 'More than just the wood that you see', and given the fact that its existence is a direct result of a fund raising campaign that was able to collect over three hundred thousand dollars in just under fourteen months stands as tribute to that fact. 'You have no idea what this floor means to us', she added later.

Amanda Epolito, who spoke for the LSSU Women's basketball team, said that the floor was a huge boost for the team, firing them up not only for games and events, but for regular practicing — which the ladies started into as soon as the dedication was finished, soon being joined by the men's team as well. Her sentiment echoed the words spoken by the staff at the Norris center about the deep significance of finally having a true, professional-style floor for our school, on par with those schools that our teams have been competing against all this time.

For anyone who didn't know — or for freshmen — the floor of the Cooper gym was originally a poured surface, similar to hard rubber, and was later improved by the addition of a sort of 'portable' wooden floor that was put together like a puzzle at the start of every year, and taken apart the same way at the end of the season. 'We finally have a true, full-gym floor,' Dunbar said.