

# In good company

Triad uses team approach on Hart Park reconstruction

Any hesitation Triad Construction Inc. staff members had about stepping outside their niche market to renovate athletic facilities at historic Hart Park in Wauwatosa was quickly replaced with confidence.

"We saw it as a good opportunity to build our experience base and provide a product for the city of Wauwatosa," said Kevin King, Triad's senior project manager for the Hart Park project.

Last May, Triad, a commercial construction firm based in West Allis, was the successful bidder on the unique \$4.2 million project to expand the park's tennis courts and revamp the athletic facility and running track. Hart Park's athletic fields and facilities are home turf for both Wauwatosa East High School and Marquette University High School.

Wauwatosa Mayor Jill Didier said she was excited to work with Triad because the city and contractor shared a vision of how to bring Hart Park back to life.

"Triad had not done a project like this before," Didier said. "But with the experience of the owners of the company and the qualified people within the organization, I had the confidence that they'd be able to pull off the project."

The 7.4-acre construction project had one very important hitch: The athletic facility needed to be completed by Aug. 21, one week before Marquette's first home game. Constructing an athletic facility already was a leap for Triad, which specializes in office and tenant buildouts, retail, restaurants, health care, banks and industrial properties. The added pressures of an absolute deadline and keeping with the park's historic features created challenges King was excited to tackle, he said.

"We're a young, aggressive firm, and this was something that was out of our comfort zone," he said. "But we had a team we knew would be able to handle this. Yes, it had a lot of challenges, but we knew we had a good team."

Those challenges — from timing to logistical constraints — were met by thinking outside the box throughout the project, King said. For example, when the new press box was installed, it had to be lifted in by crane around the park's newly installed amenities and historic structures. The track surfacing was installed as teams practiced on the new football field.

Detailed planning and teamwork among several parties — Triad, the design team and the city — was a major factor in the project's success, King said. The football field was completed prior to the Aug. 21 deadline.

"Everyone was pulling for the same goal," King said.

He credited the technical expertise of Joe Pepitone and Jackie Herington of Milwaukee-based Graef-USA Inc., the project's consulting engineering firm.

Didier said she was impressed with Triad's customer service throughout the project. She said she especially likes the new press box, which was built and detailed to fit in with the Mueller Building and the park's new Rotary Stage pavilion.

"Hart Park is extremely important to our community," Didier said. "Work Progress Administration projects helped improve the park during the Great Depression. I think it's significant that here we are in an economic downturn, and we're rebuilding the park again."

"The community needs to have a strong park where they can gather, and it also supports our local school districts. It has helped continue the revitalization of the area."



Wauwatosa East fans cheer on their team from the brand new bleachers built by Triad Construction Inc., West Allis.



Above, the Wauwatosa East Marching Band marches on the new field constructed by Triad Construction Inc. Below, the completed park is shown from above.

