



The University of South Dakota announced a \$20 million gift from Sanford Health Wednesday, Aug. 8 that will be used to eventually build a proposed \$50 million athletic arena. This image depicts what the inside of the proposed basketball/volleyball arena would look like. (Courtesy image)

## ARENA

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administrative offices, a new training room, luxury boxes, and the Kinesiology and Sport Science (KSS) program.

A new arena, however, is not the only upcoming change to the USD athletic facility landscape.

The complete 2015 Master Plan for Athletic Facilities called for \$70 million in construction projects — renovations to the Dome, a new basketball/volleyball arena, and track and soccer complexes. USD received permission last year from the state Board of Regents to move forward with, for those to be directly impacted by having a new home, there was excitement surrounding Wednesday's news.

"It's the next step to it becoming a reality. It's definitely going to happen, it's just a matter of time now," USD volleyball coach Matt Houk said. "It's exciting for all of us."

Houk was at Wisconsin-Green Bay when the school began construction on a new arena, and said that project "added some buzz" to the campus.

"The kids are excited that things are going on," he said. "The fact that we can say to recruits, 'This is going to be your home,' it shows an absolute commitment from everyone."

That's the next step in the phase for USD: Raising the remaining \$30-35 million.

"As I see it, the challenge has now been issued to USD alumni and friends to match the Sanford gift and make our vision a reality," USD president Jim Abbott said in a release.

With nearly half of the project committed, Sayler said that

should alleviate concerns from donors.

"That's the key. A lot of the discussions we've had before were about the dollar amount, that it might be overwhelming," Sayler said. "Now we can honestly say the end is in sight."

Kudera agreed, saying that it was only natural for early donors to be skeptical of a project that was still looking for significant financial backing.

"When almost half of this is taken care of, it's more of a realistic goal," he said. "Hopefully we can have some donors help finish this thing up."

Wednesday's gift was similar to the ones Sanford made with North Dakota State two years ago for \$10 million for facility improvements, and the one last week with South Dakota State for \$10 million for an indoor practice facility and human performance center.

When it comes to upcoming construction in Vermillion, however, the finish line is in sight, Sayler said.

"This whole project has united everyone in our department," he said. "We're all on board because we know this will benefit everyone."

"From administrators on down to athletes, it's a great thing."

Transitioning from a spacious environment like the DakotaDome to a new, more intimate arena will certainly take some time to adjustment, but in the end it will be worth it, Kudera said.

"The dome has its own home court advantage — it's tougher to shoot in there and it can get really loud. But a true basketball arena has more advantages," he said.

"David Sayler and everyone else realizes that, so I think this will be a great thing."

# Jumping in with both feet

By Kelsey Collier-Wise

Executive Director, United Way of Vermillion

I am one of the hoards of parents who descends on the city pool every day for swimming lessons during the summer. For almost a month now, my two year-old has been learning the basics of the life aquatic -- kicking your legs, blowing bubbles, going under water, and, of course, jumping in. So far it appears that, much like her mother, she is not a born swimmer. But thanks to the great Parks and Recreation swim instructors, she and other kids like her are getting the chance to improve their skills and learn to love the water.

At swimming lessons the other day, another mom who was preparing to move away from Vermillion was lamenting how hard it would be to find another community that had so many free and low cost activities for kids. "In other places I've lived, there are nice things for wealthy families, and few opportunities for everyone else," she told me. "Here, it's the same for everyone. Everyone is together. You can't tell who's rich and who's poor at swimming lessons."

I was really struck by her statement. It reinforced a lot of things I believe about Vermillion and the things we value here. It also



## United Way of Vermillion

gave me the chance to tell her about the work I do with United Way of Vermillion -- an organization that is one of the big reasons that swimming lessons are only \$10 per child for the estimated 400 kids who take advantage of them every summer. This community of generous United Way donors has provided funding for about half of the costs not covered by registration fees for years. What an amazing accomplishment!

We hear a lot about the number of struggling families in Clay County, and it's an

issue that deserves our attention. We should be proud, however, of all we do to make sure the children in Vermillion have a chance to learn and splash and play, a chance to dive at any opportunity, a chance to jump into life with both feet, no matter what their circumstances.

Learn more about the United Way of Vermillion and how you can Live United at [UnitedWayofVermillion.org](http://UnitedWayofVermillion.org)!

## SDPB Radio jazz host nominated for honor

Jim "Uncle Jimmo" Clark, cool jazz host of SDPB Radio's Jazz Nightly, has been nominated for Jazz Programmer of the Year by JazzWeek.

Clark is nominated in the small market category for his work on the long-running SDPB Radio program, airing weeknights from 8-11 p.m. (7-

10 MT) across South Dakota. JazzWeek, the national jazz radio airplay charting organization, tracks how releases are used by stations and programmers across the United States.

"It's an honor to be nominated," said Clark. Jazz Nightly with Jim Clark features the best of jazz classics,

top new artists and local performance. Check out the Web site at [SDPB.org/JazzNightly](http://SDPB.org/JazzNightly) for playlists.

Jazz hosts and record industry representatives from across the country will be voting on the JazzWeek nominees. Winners will be announced Aug. 30 in Detroit.



JIM 'UNCLE JIMMO' CLARK

## TURF

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needed."

Herbster visited several facilities, but was sold when he visited the indoor practice facility at the University of Kansas. The Jayhawks had the same kind of system that USD was looking for.

"When we saw the field at Kansas, we knew we wanted to have that in the DakotaDome," said Herbster.

The surface will be AstroTurf PureGrass, a tufted nylon product that provides exceptional, all-around performance. PureGrass was designed as a premium, multi-purpose, extra-plush turf with a high fiber density. The PureGrass system at the DakotaDome will not contain infill and is designed to be a portable system, which will rest on an 8mm pad.

The system will employ the AstroHopper conversion system, which is designed to allow for removal and storage of the field in a timely and cost-effective manner, to allow the

DakotaDome to convert for other types of events.

The AstroHopper system rolls up field panels and maximizes storage capacity by eliminating wrinkles, bagging, or telescoping which can lead to increased surface wear, tear, and damage.

AstroTurf is backed by Textile Management Associates, Inc. (TMA), one of the leading suppliers to the synthetic turf industry. Textile Management Associates, Inc. is part of a 35-year-old, family owned manufacturing group based in Dalton, Georgia. The company has owned the AstroTurf® brand,

including all assets and intellectual property, since 2004.

This summer, the three largest indoor sports facilities in the Upper Midwest are getting new AstroTurf surfaces. Not only is the DakotaDome updating its AstroTurf surface, the FargoDome in North Dakota and the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D. are also getting new AstroTurf fields.

The DakotaDome project will be complete in time for the Coyotes to take the field for their home opener against Colgate on Sept. 8.

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