

INNOVATIVE SPORTS FLOORING FOR **MANITOWOC LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL**

When a community comes together, it's heartwarming. That's just what happened in Northeast Wisconsin, where a new gym was built for student athletes at Manitowoc Lutheran High School. The new gym came with a \$9 million price tag, which was entirely covered by outside donations.

A NEED FOR MORE PRACTICE AND PLAY SPACE

The old gym was frequently packed with multiple teams so that kids had to wait to play and got home late from practice. The city stepped up to donate, and students are appreciative.

"I'm so thankful for everyone who's been able to donate money to us," said a sophomore athlete. "It really shows how much of a supportive community we have here at Manitowoc Lutheran."

A recent grand opening of the new gym was intended to showcase how much room students now have to enjoy their sports—five basketball teams can now play at once! But before the grand opening, way back to the beginning of the project, there was a big component to tackle first: the floor.

STRONG RELATIONSHIP = STRONG FOUNDATION

The Action AnchorFlex system is what we call an This community-backed project needed to go off without a hitch, and when you need something done right, you go to someone you can trust. For Scott Loberger, Manitowoc Lutheran's Athletic Director, that person was our Midwest Sales Rep, Gary Zander. Gary has a personal connection to

the school, with his wife and children having graduated from there. Gary established trust by being involved from the ground up, working with the building committee, providing input on budgetary items, and recommending an upgraded floor from what was first proposed.

GETTING IN THE ZONE

Gary recommended the Action Zone, an anchored resilient sports flooring system, which has a subfloor made from recycled polymer with anchoring T-block retainers, continuous 5/8" strip foam, and all-natural rubber pads. For athletes, this provides:

- Vibration control/dampening
- Proper vertical deflection
- Room for horizontal expansion
- Ideal ball rebound
- Uniform playability
- Superior comfort

But what really sets the Zone apart from comparable flooring is its dual pad system, a system made for safety and founded on qualitative and quantitative research.

RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF REPETITIVE MOTION

Data has shown where most basketball practice shots are taken, presenting a concern about monotonous movements for players. Northern Michigan University, which also conducted research on the Zone, explains the effect of repetitive motions:

“... a basketball player will perform 70 or more jumps in a game,” said Assistant Professor Matt Kilgas. “If athletes are jumping and landing repeatedly, it can lead to overuse injuries to the knee and ankle because those joints are constantly dealing with repetitive, high-impact forces.”

The Action Zone system was designed to have dual pads strategically placed where repetitive motions take place. The pads reduce vibration and the impact on joints, helping with soft tissue development and safeguarding athletes' bodies.

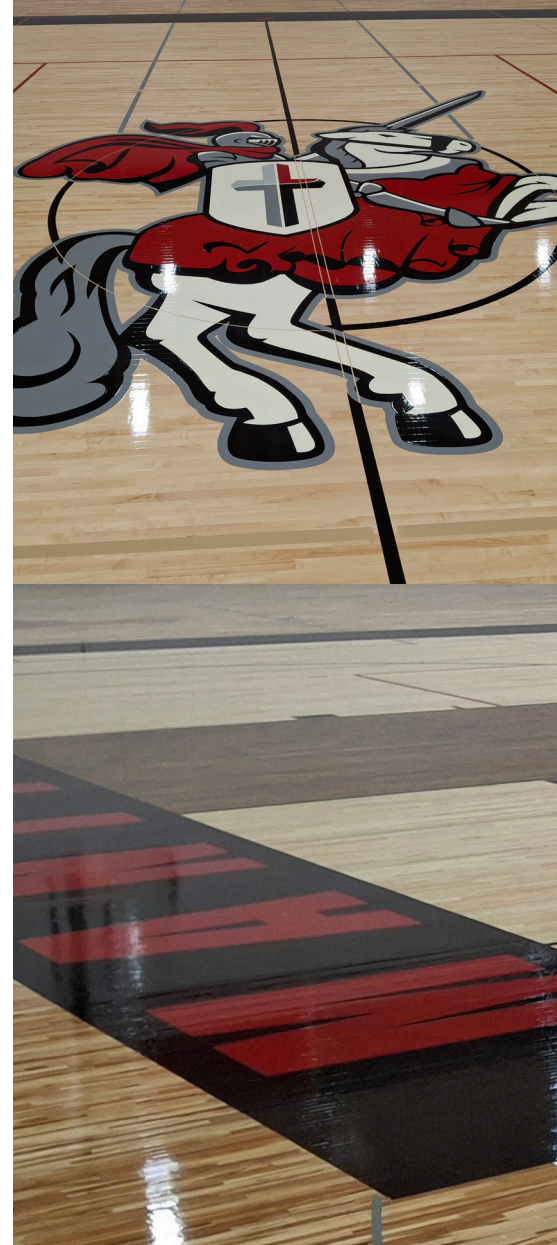
“I think it's awesome for the kids,” said Loberger of his Action Zone floor. “Most of our kids are three-sport athletes, so anything we can do to protect them from injury through the course of their year is great.”

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STRATEGICALLY SELECTED FLOORBOARDS SOLVE HVAC CONCERNS

Many school gym HVAC systems are different than they were before the pandemic. HVAC pros have tuned systems to increase air exchange, which keeps air healthier but also adds more untreated air to spaces. That additional air leads to more fluctuation in temperature and humidity.

Changing environmental conditions like this affect the performance and longevity of maple hardwood floors, which is why we recommended that Manitowoc Lutheran go with 1 ½-wide floorboards instead of the typical 2 ¼. With narrower floorboards, there's more room for the maple to breathe (aka expand and contract), preventing cupping and gapping in the wood and keeping the floor performing its best.



IS IT TIME FOR YOUR NEW FLOOR?

We're so excited to watch Manitowoc Lutheran's athletes enjoy their Action Floors courts over the decades to come. But, is it your facility's turn? Get started on your sports flooring project by contacting our team today!