

BUILDING **PROFIT**[®]

SUMMER 2004

An
Exciting
Sports
Facility
That's

**All
About
Kids**

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**New Headquarters,
Old World Charm**

An Exciting Sports Facility That's

All About Kids

This attractive, flexible facility is a magnet for junior athletes

Two youth-related sports centers under one roof—that was the concept. Husband Emmitt Tyler and his business

partner, Roy Niemi, ran Power Cheer, a Louisville, Kentucky, center that trained kids in cheerleading. A mile away, wife Angie Tyler had Champion Gymnastics, a school for budding gymnasts. Emmitt and Angie wanted to join their related enterprises to form All About Kids, a multi-sports center for children as young as 6 months* and up.

They found their contractor when Stan Lichtefeld of Lichtefeld, Incorporated, a Butler Builder® in Louisville, took his twins to a birthday party at the gymnastics center. There he met Angie, who earlier had inquired about

leasing space in Bluegrass Industrial Park in Louisville, where Lichtefeld, Incorporated owned property.

Stan Lichtefeld showed the Tylers and Niemi the many advantages that systems construction can provide in a sports facility—such as economical, large clearspans and low-cost maintenance. They decided to purchase land in the park and hired Lichtefeld, Incorporated as their design/build contractor.

Emmitt says that they felt confident that Lichtefeld could best meet their requirements.

"Other builders we had interviewed were more ready to push what they thought we needed, versus what we were asking for," he observes.

Speed despite challenges

One of the owners' primary needs was for construction that could meet a tight seven-

ALL ABOUT KIDS
Butler Builder®: Lichtefeld, Incorporated, Louisville, Kentucky
Size: 46,200 square feet
Butler® Systems:
Landmark™ 2000 structural framing system
Widespan™ structural framing system
TextureWall™ wall system
MR-24® standing seam roof system
VSR™ architectural standing seam roof system

* Children as young as 6 months are enrolled in a swim class for babies.

BY BEN JONES PHOTOGRAPHY BY PADDOCK PRODUCTIONS







The facility's swimming pool area and entrance canopy are accented by an attractive green VSR™ architectural standing seam roof system.

month schedule. Lichtefeld, Incorporated broke ground on the project in August, and had to have the two-story, 46,200-square-foot project completed by April. The builder met the target date for the \$1.8 million project despite a month's delay over parking-requirement holdups.

Angie Tyler was impressed.

MORE ABOUT ALL ABOUT KIDS

All About Kids was built to house two companies: Champion Gymnastics and Power Cheer. Of its nearly 6,000 members (3,000 of whom attend each week), about 1,200 pursue gymnastics and about 650 are in cheerleading. The center also offers classes in dance, swimming, soccer and karate, accommodating both competition teams and recreational classes.

Angie Tyler's Champion Gymnastics, with 28 instructors, is the largest gymnastics team program in Kentucky. Girls as young as 4 can try out for a developmental team if they are recommended by an instructor. In 2003, Champion Gymnastics swept the state championship team titles for levels 4-10, and five of its level 10 gymnasts—the highest level—went to the national competitions. Another young athlete traveled to Jamaica for an international competition and won in the balance beam.

With the new facility and 11,250 square feet of training space, Power Cheer touts itself as the largest, best-equipped cheerleading facility in the Midwest, and area high-school teams often practice there.

Power Cheer's Emmitt Tyler and Roy Niemi were both All-American cheerleaders and members of the national championship cheerleading squad at the University of Louisville. Their staff trains children 5 years and up in tumbling, stunts, jumps and motion technique. They also choreograph cheer routines, cut music for the routines and teach private camps and clinics.

"We've heard many horror stories of how buildings are never done on time," she says. "But our builder was awesome. We set a date for our grand opening, and we made that date, because Lichtefeld was amazing."

The businesses moved into their new facility over spring break.

"Just to be shut down a week—that's a huge amount of money for us," Angie continues. "Our leases on our other facilities were up. If we hadn't gotten everything moved in on time, it could have caused some major problems."

To meet the deadline despite the month delay, Lichtefeld, Incorporated and its subcontractors worked overtime. "We turned the gym portions over about 30 days ahead of time while we were finishing up the interior office space, because it took them a good 30 days to set up their gym equipment with all the matting and apparatus," Stan Lichtefeld recalls.

The builder had to construct special foundations for the gymnastics areas as well as making up for lost time. Eight in-ground pits were incorporated in the gym floors, which would be filled with foam blocks to cushion falls from the high bars and trampolines. Most of these pits were at least 6 feet deep, and some were T-shaped or L-shaped with step-downs of different heights. The building's slab could not be poured until they were completed.

"Typically, we'll pour the slab before the building's up and then work off the slab to erect the building," Stan Lichtefeld says. "This one had to be erected from the outside

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ANGIE TYLER

of the building—the roof and all the structure went up first."

Attractive, flexible systems solutions

The owners wanted the new facility to include an indoor pool and studios for karate and dance as well as gymnasium space. Lichtefeld, Incorporated employed both the Landmark™ 2000 and Widespan™ structural framing systems to maximize use of the interior space.

They used the Widespan system to house

the swimming pool, restrooms and changing areas. The Landmark system was ideal for the remainder of the facility, which is two-story in front with two gymnasiums—one for Champion gymnastics and one for Power Cheer—behind. The gymnasiums required several exercise floors, each measuring 45 by 50 feet. Angie was delighted that the vast gymnastics training area needed only two interior columns. "With the size floor gymnastics requires, it was mandatory that we had as much open space as possible," she says.

Owner Angie Tyler says that clients often compliment the building's inviting, "mall-like" entry. A pro shop, administrative offices, party rooms and a snack bar occupy the first floor.



AN EXCITING SPORTS FACILITY THAT'S
ALL ABOUT KIDS

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ANGIE TYLER



The gym walls were constructed with the factory-insulated TextureWall™ system—wall panels finished on both sides that provided an attractive stucco-like exterior, a finished white interior and significant energy savings in a single step. Special pits in the floor filled with colorful foam blocks cushion the athletes' falls.

Administrative offices, birthday party rooms, a snack bar and a pro shop occupy the first floor of the front of the main building. Above them are the dance and karate studios, an arcade, restrooms and a public viewing area on a mezzanine overlooking the gymnasiums.

The builder recommended the Butler® 42-inch-wide factory-insulated TextureWall™ system as an attractive and economical choice for the walls. The two-sided panels provided a trim, stucco-like appearance for the building's exterior and a one-step solution to both exte-

rior and interior wall finishes in the gymnasium areas. The system's off-white metal liner panels were suitable for the gyms, and were easily dry-walled for the office areas. "It's a real clean look on the inside," Emmitt says. The foam-filled panels also provided an energy-saving insulating value of R-13.

Topping off the building, a green VSR™ architectural roof system accents the pool area and canopy over the entrance, while a weather-tight MR-24® standing seam roof protects the rest of the building.

The Tylers were very pleased with their new

"The two-sided panel system provided a trim, stucco-like appearance for the building's exterior and a one-step solution to both exterior and interior wall finishes in the gymnasium areas"



facility's appearance. "It looks great," Emmitt says, noting that while the look is expensive, the construction cost was not.

"Our facility is just topnotch," Angie says. "It kind of has a retail feel when you walk in, almost like a mall. It's very open in the front—it doesn't look like your normal gymnastics facility. Parents comment on just how nice it is."

The building has also helped attract new customers. In the two years since it opened, business has increased at least 40 percent, and the Tylers and Niemi have had to buy out a competitor's space a half-mile away.

Lichtefeld, Incorporated already is busy at work renovating this 16,000-square-foot building and adding another 6,000 square feet using a Widespan structural system. Once this is complete, the competitive gymnastic teams will take over the new space, leaving the popular All About Kids center devoted solely to recreational use.

The new building means more construction challenges; but the Tylers know Lichtefeld, Incorporated can handle them.

"We're sold on their quality and their service," Emmitt says. ■

The facility's attractive pool accommodates swim classes for children as young as 6 months. All About Kids also offers classes in soccer, dance and karate as well as its mainstays—gymnastics and cheerleading.