

Bellevue Redmen Fieldhouse

Bring it to ... The House!

A State of the Art Weight Room and Athletic Training Facility

The *Bellevue Athletic Boosters* and *The Gridiron Foundation of Bellevue* have teamed up to design, construct, and fund a new weight room and athletic training facility at Bellevue High School.

THE NEED - It has been over 20 years since the Bellevue Athletic Boosters built the existing weight room at Bellevue High School. Over the years, several new machines have been added and more and more student-athletes are lifting and conditioning in the weight room. The weight room also doubles as the wrestling practice room and is used by the football team for pre-game and half-time. The limited space of this *multi-purpose* room requires that mats and machines be frequently moved.

WHY NOT KEEP THE STATUS QUO? - Athletic training *ain't what it used to be!* Training standards have evolved. *Strength and conditioning* regimens in nearly every sport now include weight training. Many BHS athletes use the elastic band resistance program that is also housed in the weight room. This training requires space for athletes to walk or run away from a fixed steel support holding one end of the bands. In addition to lifting weights and using the bands, our athletes use portable step-boxes, throw weighted balls, and use a variety of training aids requiring space for proper and safe use.

WHO USES THE WEIGHT ROOM? - When the weight room was built 20 years ago, it was envisioned to be a *weight-lifting* room that would be used primarily by the varsity football and wrestling teams. Today, both male and female athletes across all sports train with weights. In addition, junior high athletes utilize the room for conditioning and strength training. Physical education students also use the weight room for their own personal conditioning.

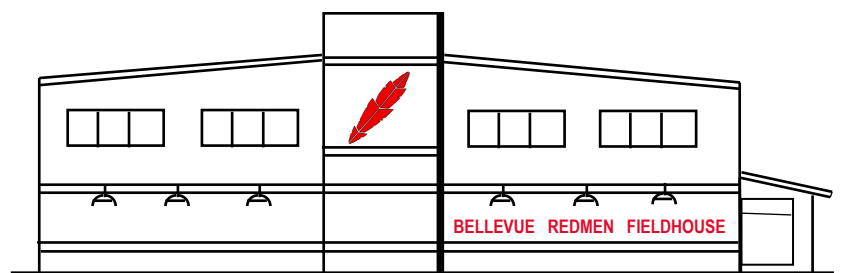
TELL ME ABOUT THE NEW *FIELDHOUSE*

The nearly 15,000 sq. foot *Fieldhouse* will house the following: weights and conditioning tools; a netted batting cage area for softball, baseball, and golf; storage for tennis, softball, track, and football equipment; male and female lavatories, meeting/locker rooms for track and football officials; track and football locker room and showers; laundry room; taping and training room; and a meeting room for coaches and athletes. A central feature of the *Fieldhouse* will be a nearly 5,000 sq. foot *open area* that all athletes can use for running, throwing, and year-round conditioning. A second-level area will feature a large meeting room, an office for the Boosters organization, and additional storage.

WHAT ABOUT THE OLD WEIGHT ROOM?

Moving the weight room into the new *Fieldhouse* will permit our esteemed wrestling program to greatly expand their practice area. Having a designated wrestling room will make it easier to maintain appropriate heating temperatures inside this room.

LOCATION OF THE *FIELDHOUSE* - The new building will sit north of and run (roughly) parallel to the tennis courts at BHS.



WEST ELEVATION

ARE THERE OTHER BENEFITS? - In a word, "Absolutely!" Moving the football and track locker room into the *Fieldhouse* will allow the existing locker room to be remodeled for basketball, wrestling, and baseball. The topsoil excavated from the job-site will be used to redress low spots and uneven areas on the practice field behind the high school providing an improved practice area for the band. Having a new indoor throwing and fielding area for spring sports will help ease competition for gym time (e.g., cheerleading practice). *Fieldhouse* lavatories can be used during tennis and softball games.

WHAT ABOUT AN AUXILIARY GYM? - Clearly, another gym at BHS is desirable. An early draft included a half-court practice area for basketball and volleyball. This idea was vetoed for two reasons. First, there isn't room for a full court gym. Second, the school may be eligible for state funds to build an auxiliary gym in the near future. We were advised that including any designated basketball or volleyball area would likely jeopardize a *needs-based argument* for an auxiliary gym in the future.

DOES THE SCHOOL SUPPORT THIS? - There have been several meetings with school officials about this project. Over the course of these meetings, the size of the building grew as we tried to accommodate as many athletic needs as feasibly possible. School board members support this project.

WHO IS PAYING FOR THIS PROJECT? - The Boosters and Gridiron Foundation are purchasing the building and paying for the construction costs of the new *Fieldhouse*. Upon completion, the *Fieldhouse* will be given to the Bellevue City School District and they will maintain the building.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? - The estimated cost of constructing this type of facility is \$500,000. *Due to the generosity of several local businesses*

donating labor and materials, the final cost of the building will be less than this projection. These donors will be recognized in the future.

HOW CAN THE BOOSTERS AND GRIDIRON FOUNDATION AFFORD THIS PROJECT? - Working with *First National Bank* and *Croghan Colonial Bank*, the Boosters and Gridiron Foundation have secured a 10-year loan. In addition to private donations, several fund raising events are planned over the next several years.

TIMELINE OF PROJECT - The exterior shell of the new *Fieldhouse* will be completed by summer, 2008. The weight room and open conditioning areas will be ready for immediate use. The framing, construction, and completion of all of the interior spaces will occur as funds become available.

HOW CAN I HELP? - *The Boosters and Gridiron Foundation welcome tax-deductible donations of any amount:* Mail donations to: *Bellevue Redmen Fieldhouse*, c/o Bellevue Boosters, PO Box 486, Bellevue OH 44811. A list of donors at the following levels will be displayed at the *Fieldhouse*.

RED LEVEL - \$2500 and up

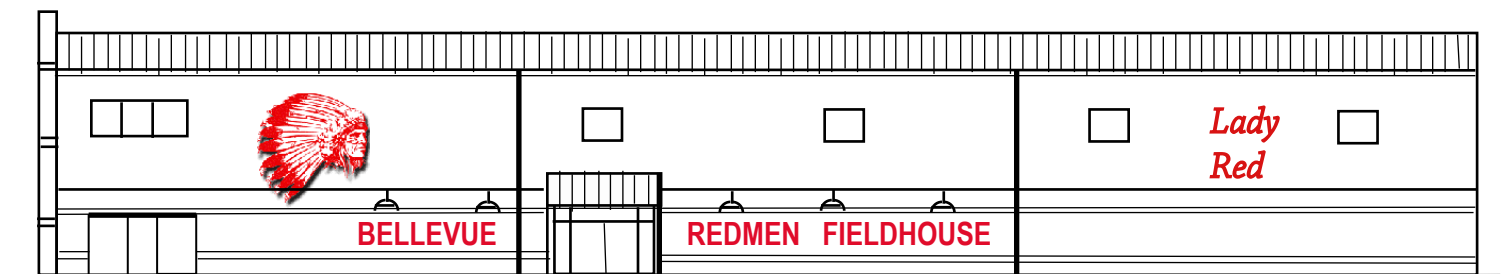
WHITE LEVEL - \$1500

SILVER LEVEL - \$1000

GREY LEVEL - \$500

WHAT ABOUT NAMING RIGHTS? - Anyone interested in possible naming rights to either the large meeting room or the entire building should contact an officer of the Boosters or Gridiron Foundation (e.g., *Bill Myers, Jeff Haynes, Joe Green*).

A FINAL NOTE - We appreciate *constructive discussion* about this and future school-related projects. We are motivated not only to provide a *state of the art athletic facility* for our student-athletes but to help restore pride in our schools and enhance the sense of unity within our great community.



SOUTH ELEVATION