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Turning In-Line To Ice

Keys to Successful Combination Ice/In-line Hockey Rinks

Recreation professionals have been challenged more than ever to get the most activity programming for their budget dollars. In cold climates, building an outdoor rink for both ice and in-line hockey is a great solution. A successful combination ice/in-line rink starts with proper planning and the right equipment.



Border Patrol Pro 4500 Combination Ice/In-line Rink
Inver Grove Heights, MN

FOUNDATION / SURFACE

Concrete is the preferred foundation for a combination ice/in-line rink. It can be finished smooth enough for in-line hockey play with a puck, and does not require a special roll-on coating. The concrete surface provides an excellent base for making ice in the winter. Concrete requires a larger initial investment than asphalt, but over time it is a better value.

Asphalt also provides a good base for making ice. However, when using asphalt, be aware that (1) a special roll-on coating must be applied for in-line hockey play with a puck, and (2) the roll-on coating will need to be replaced every 2-4 years because of wear and tear. This can be expensive over time, and causes most communities to choose either the natural concrete or natural asphalt surface.

DRAINAGE

The preferred method of surface drainage for a combination ice/in-line rink is having drains in the goals. This keeps the rink playable for in-line hockey shortly after a rain, and makes for good ice in the winter, as the drains are plugged before flooding. Raising the middle of the playing surface and having the water drain off on all four sides is another option that provides playability shortly after a rain shower. The drawbacks to this method are having to seal the gap between the bottom of the dasher boards and the surface before flooding/freezing, and it takes longer to build solid base in the middle of the rink, versus a surface that drains toward the goals or is flat. A third option is a flat surface which works well for making ice. For communities where making ice is a higher priority than a playable in-line hockey surface, or for communities that get very little rainfall, this may be the best choice.



MAKING GOOD ICE

The ideal temperature for making ice is between 10 degrees and negative 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Use a fire hose/fire hydrant if possible. Otherwise, a pump truck will work. Start at one end of the rink and apply the water from side-to-side, working your way to the opposite end.

(continued on page 6)



ICEdashers

New Crystaplex Rink A Bright Spot for Brown University

Building on last year's break-through season, the Brown University men's ice hockey team is poised to earn an ECAC playoff berth this year. With Head Coach Roger Grillo, the Bears returned an All-American goaltender, their entire front line, and 75% of their defensive unit for this, their 78th season of collegiate ice hockey. As if their season didn't look bright enough already, figure in a \$4.3 million renovation to Meehan Auditorium, which houses the Bears' home ice.

The renovation project transformed the building into the one of the best rinks in the East, and brought their hockey program to a whole new level. "An up-to-date arena was long past due," according to Head Coach Grillo. "This renovation project has had a huge impact, and is the professional edge we were looking for."



Pollard Rink In Meehan Auditorium, Brown University, Providence, RI

The existing boards at Pollard Rink on the Providence, RI campus dated back to 1962, and featured custom-made wooden-framed boards, supported by metal pipes anchored into the ground. While it was state-of-the-art at the time it was built, it had long since lost its shine, to say the least. After some research and visits to other rinks, Brown chose Athletica to supply its new dasher system based on its reputation for quality. The Crystaplex Series 6A dasherboard system with the GlassFlex seamless glass shielding system was installed in October 2002.

"The old system we had was extremely rigid due to the anchoring with pipes into the concrete," explained Grillo. "Our new system is so much different. We have cleaner, more consistent play off the boards due to the full frame system, and the seamless glass gives a better view of the game. The safety offered by the flexible components [GlassFlex] is a bonus."

Grillo went on to say that the bright new rink is the first thing you notice when you walk into the arena, and makes a positive impression for fans, visitors and recruits. The rest of the Meehan Auditorium upgrade included a renovation of the entire lobby area to include new ticket booths and concessions areas, four new visiting locker rooms, a new hospitality room, and a dramatically changed Bears' locker room. Now that

the project is complete, Brown plans to rededicate the auditorium March 1, 2003 during their final scheduled home game against Clarkson.

For more information on Crystaplex Ice Rinks, or to find a local representative in your area, please contact Athletica at 800.809.RINK, or e-mail boards@athleticainc.com.

For Sale: Used Dasher Boards

Used Steel Frame Ice Dasher System

85' x 200' Rink; 28' Radius Ring; 48" high panels

Rink includes: (1) Curved Equipment Gate, (6) Box Gates, and (2) Straight Access Gates

Supported Shielding includes: 3' high acrylic on sides and 5' high acrylic on ends.

Sold as is. FOB - New Richmond, WI.

Available April 1, 2003. Asking price: \$15,000 US.

For more information, contact Bob Vohnoutka at Athletica, 1.800.809.7465, ext. 216.

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FACILITYproducts

**100% Recycled Products:
What's New For Your Facility**

The call for lower maintenance, cost-effective products has driven the demand for recycled products to a new high. Athletica is proud to offer a variety of plastic lumber products made from post consumer 100% recycled high density polyethylene, including bleacher and locker room seating, custom skate storage systems, hockey stick racks, and locker room shelf and wall divider systems.



Benefits of the recycled products include:

- Maintenance-free; never needs paint, stain or sealer
- Weatherproof, all seasons
- Rot-proof; will not split, crack or peel
- Unaffected by wood-destroying organisms, insects or salt water
- Nontoxic, environmentally friendly
- Aesthetically-pleasing, wood-like appearance in a variety of colors
- Complete with a 25-year manufacturer's warranty

For more information on the recycled plastic lumber products offered by Athletica, contact Arena Services at **1.800.576.1132**.



Some Clarity on the Issue of Seamless Glass In the NHL

There has been a tremendous amount of misinformation circulating about the future of seamless glass in the NHL. The following facts are intended to shed some light on the topic.

- The NHL did not ban seamless glass. In June 2002, the NHL mandated that the shielding in all of its arenas meet a flexibility standard, with Chicago's United Center (a Crystaplex system with acrylic shielding) serving as the baseline system. The league required that by the beginning of the 2003/04 season all NHL facilities that use seamless glass must modify their systems to be within 10% of the flexibility exhibited in Chicago.
- Martin and Martin, a Denver based engineering firm, was named to do all testing of seamless glass rinks to make sure they meet the 10% standard. The test consists of both a simulated soft hit and a simulated hard hit.
- The Colorado Avalanche has retrofitted their Crystaplex seamless glass system. It passed the testing criteria, and was shown to be more flexible than the acrylic standard.
- Prior testing with Martin and Martin has shown that Athletica's GlassFlex system already exceeds the hard hit requirements, and needs a minor amount of additional movement to meet the soft hit requirement. Athletica anticipates their improved GlassFlex will pass soft hit testing in early 2003.
- Several teams, (such as Buffalo, Toronto, and Tampa), decided to change to acrylic rather than wait to see how the tests turned out.
- Several other teams, (such as Nashville, Montreal, and Calgary) decided to wait for the test results and hope to keep their seamless glass systems.
- Most of the flexibility differential would appear to relate to the weight and density of tempered glass versus acrylic. The manner in which the glass is installed (seamless vs. supported) seems far less important to the League's flexibility criteria.
- Compared to the NHL rinks, the flexibility issue has less relevance for community rinks in their consideration of shielding choices because most new rinks choose to use tempered glass in a supported or seamless version. Other important factors to consider include player size and skill level, as well as maintenance required and replacement budget.

For more information regarding seamless glass systems, including Athletica's GlassFlex product, please contact Bob Vohnoutka at 1.800.809.RINK, ext. 216 or via e-mail at bvohnoutka@athleticainc.com.

MULTI-SPORTSsystems

Variety of Rink Systems

Camp Seneca Lake Grows with GamePlex

Camp Seneca Lake owner Irv Bader has always been ahead of the game when it comes to summer camps. In his 35 years as a camp director and owner he has seen fads come and go. But when he was introduced to in-line hockey in the late 1990's, he recognized it as a sport with staying power. Five years and five rinks later, his camp's reputation as a leader in in-line hockey and floor hockey is well-known.

"We considered the rising popularity of both in-line and floor hockey, and we knew we needed a rink system that measured up to the quality of our camp. Our first rink system in 1998 was a Border Patrol Portable Rink System. We found that this rink was the best system available and was priced right for camp owners. We like working with Athletica because they are dedicated pros who know their hockey," said Bader. Within two years, hockey's popularity at Camp Seneca Lake led them to a rink system as unique as Camp Seneca Lake - the NHL COOLAir Inflatable Arena System. The summer 2000 camp debut of the NHL COOLAir was a screaming success.

Over the last two years, Camp Seneca Lake has added three GamePlex Rink Systems (two outdoor, one indoor) - bringing their rink total to five. "When we saw Athletica's GamePlex, we knew this rink would be the perfect fit for us. Each August Camp Seneca Lake hosts a camp dedicated strictly to hockey. The camp consists of five days spent on different types of hockey, such as floor hockey and in-line hockey, with each participant playing three games per day. The GamePlex system can accommodate either netting or acrylic, and is so versatile we can even play other sports in it," said Ross Zuckerman of Camp Seneca Lake.

For more information on Athletica's line of portable rink systems, including Border Patrol Portable, NHL COOLAir Inflatable and GamePlex, contact Chris Guertin at (800) 809-RINK ext.226, or email him at cguertin@athleticainc.com. Or stop by and visit with Chris in person at the Tri States Camping Show in New York City, March 13-15th - Booth #719. For more information on Camp Seneca Lake, check out their website at www.senecalake.com.



Camp Seneca Lake utilizes a variety of rink systems to meet its activity needs, including the NHL COOLAir system shown above, and GamePlex systems shown below in both indoor and outdoor use.



PORTABLErinks

Make for Happy Campers

Pinemere Camp Gets Rolling With Border Patrol Portable



"The BP Portable rink system allowed us to provide a solid hockey program for our campers this summer. In the future, as the hockey program grows, we plan to construct something more permanent."

Rachel Levine, Assistant Director, Pinemere Camp

Camps are perpetually challenged to balance new and fresh activities to reflect their campers' changing interests, with budget and/or facility limitations. Rachel Levine, Assistant Director for Pinemere Camp in Stroudsburg, PA can attest to that challenge. "Hockey has become an increasingly popular activity in the communities that we serve," said Levine. By capitalizing on existing space and with the help of a grant, hockey became a feasible activity for Pinemere Camp. "Thus, we decided to add a Border Patrol Portable rink system to our site," said Levine.

Not far away in Medford, NJ, the JCC Camps at Medford had seen a similar interest in hockey several years ago, and met that need with help from Athletica. They purchased a variety of rink systems, including a Border Patrol Portable Combination rink in May of 2000, and a GamePlex rink in May of the following year. After a referral from the JCC Camps at Medford, Pinemere Camp contacted Athletica in the early stages of its planning. For its current needs, the camp chose the Border Patrol Portable rink system. The vinyl-covered high-density foam was delivered in June of 2002, and installed on a resurfaced basketball court.

The first season with the new rink system was a success. The hockey rink was used for daily activity periods, elective periods, clinics, intra- and inter-camp games, all during the summer months. Programming included a focus on skill building, the rules of hockey, and the importance of teamwork. They were also able to bring in a professional hockey player to lead two clinics.



Dan Peters, defenseman for the American Hockey League's Philadelphia Phantoms, performed several clinics for Pinemere Camp



For more information on Border Patrol Portable rink systems, contact Steve Peterson at 800.809.RINK, ext. 213, or via e-mail at speterson@athleticainc.com.

For more information on Pinemere Camp, check out their website at www.pinemere.com

IN-LINEdashers

Border Patrol Indoor Rink Keeps MIT Active

At Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the recent construction of the Zesiger Sports & Fitness Center was designed to address the continuing need for a balanced lifestyle for MIT students, faculty and staff, and to answer increasing recreation user demand.

Dan Martin, Assistant Director of Facilities & Operations at MIT, was involved with the project from the initial planning phase, and explained that the MAC (Multi-Activity Court) concept was included in the original design. "We wanted a space where we could do activities that we could not do in any of our other existing buildings," said Martin. They needed a court that would be flexible, accomodating group fitness and special events. The Border Patrol professional in-line rink system was recommended by one of the architects on the project, Sasaki Associates.



The Albert and Barrie Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center located on the MIT campus in Cambridge, MA



The architecturally stunning 125,000-square-foot glass complex boasts a state-of-the-art fitness center, aquatic center, squash courts, sports medicine center, and a Multi-Activity Court (MAC) featuring a 96' x 58' Border Patrol Permanent Indoor rink system.

Since the building opened in September 2002, the proposed versatility of the smaller-sized BP Pro 5000A rink system has become a reality. Currently the rink is used for intercollegiate, intramural, and club activity, as well as open and programmed recreation, physical education classes, special events and private rental. The activities on the court are as wide-ranging as its users, including in-line hockey, field hockey, soccer, volleyball, basketball and group exercise.

With the exception of a soccer ball vs. sprinkler head crisis, the first months of the building's operation have been both smooth and successful. Tim Moore, General Manager for the Zesiger Center is happy with the rink system. "Border Patrol has provided a good solution for us. The users really like the rink, and we've had no problems with the system."

For more information on Border Patrol Permanent Indoor rink systems, contact Brian Stang at 800.809.RINK, ext. 221 or bstang@athleticainc.com.

Making Ice With In-Line

(Cover story continued)

The key to solid, consistent ice is to lay the water down in thin layers, much like an ice resurfer does. If too much water is applied in one area, or if you flood when the temperature is below -10 degrees Fahrenheit, there is a risk of air pockets forming between the new layer and the base ice, which can break away in sheets and result in an inconsistent surface. Build up as much as 10 - 12 inches of ice if possible. The thicker the base, the better your rink will stand up to warm spells in late winter.

DASHER BOARDS

Making ice puts a tremendous amount of pressure on the dasher boards. Traditional wood rink systems are often used for seasonal ice hockey rinks, but are high maintenance and then sit vacant in the off-season. Professional-style combo ice/in-line dasher boards offer both low maintenance and high performance for both in-line and ice hockey play. Athletica

offers two different models for this type of use: the Border Patrol Pro 4500A permanent system, and



GamePlex rink shown in use for ice hockey in St. Louis Park, MN

the GamePlex semi-permanent system. Both offer a safer, more durable, and more playable environment than traditional wood dasher systems.

There are several critical factors that you should consider before building your ice/in-line combo rink. Contact an Athletica Rink Specialist @ 800-809-RINK to get headed in the right direction.

SKATEPARKequipment

RampRider Rolls Out 2003 Product Line

After a successful launch of its RampRider skatepark equipment in 2002, Athletica is ramping up its product line for 2003. Customer feedback played a large role in the changes, which include new pieces, new and upgraded packages, new product heights and widths, and more.

Ramps that were 3 feet wide are now offered in 4 foot or 6 foot widths to allow more play on the ramp. In addition, new ramp heights (up to 4 feet) offer the opportunity for increased challenge. RampRider's two newest pieces, the Pick Trick and the Fun Pad, add both interest and challenge to any park.

While more than doubling its RampRider product line from



Two new pieces for the 2003 RampRider line.



2002, Athletica updated the Bronze, Silver and Gold equipment packages to reflect the new pieces offered. In addition, two new packages (Diamond and Platinum) were added to accommodate larger or more advanced parks.

With all the exciting new changes to RampRider line, one thing remains the same - high-quality, modular skatepark equipment at an affordable price. RampRider is still a great value, and will always be built to last. Athletica is proud to offer a new 10-year warranty on RampRider equipment, and a 5-year warranty on the SkateLite Pro skating surface.

Check out the new products for 2003 online at www.ramprider.com. For more information, contact Colby Anderson at 1.800.809.7465, ext. 211, or via e-mail at canderson@athleticainc.com.

RampRider Heads West to Oregon

In Willamina, Oregon, the question was not *whether* to have a skatepark, but *when*. Local skateboarders and parents have been raising funds for years. When Ken McCune became City Manager, he was committed to making their dream a reality. By seeking out major donors, the city was able to meet their funding needs and get their skatepark project underway.

After some input from the skateboarders, and some web research, McCune found Athletica's RampRider. He called to



RampRider skatepark at Oaken Hills Memorial Park in Willamina, OR

ask for some sample layouts, information on warranties, etc., and worked with Athletica's RampRider Sales Manager, Colby Anderson. "Colby was extremely cooperative and helpful," mentioned McCune. "To me, price and quick turnaround were important. Trust and follow-up closed the deal for us."

The City of Willamina purchased a Platinum Package, and placed it on a new 80' x 60' concrete slab. The skatepark is open to the public for use by all age groups with in-line skates, skateboards and scooters. The reaction has been extremely positive. "The kids love it," said McCune. "They like the flexibility, and look forward to options offered. Now, of course, they want more modules to add to the park."

When asked what advice he could give to other groups trying to start a park, McCune mentioned the importance of community involvement. "You need solid public support," advised McCune. "We were able to make this happen because the kids and parents cared about the project."

To find out how RampRider can help make your skatepark dream a reality, contact Colby Anderson at 1.800.809.7465, ext. 211, or via e-mail at canderson@athleticainc.com.



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Taking It To The STREETS

Come check out Athletica live and in person at the following tradeshows/conferences this spring:

Tri-State Camping Conference	New York, NY	Booth # 719	Mar. 13-15
California & Pacific SW Rec & Park Training Conference	San Jose, CA	Booth # 428	Mar. 20-22
National Intramural-Recreational Sports Assoc. Expo	Cleveland, OH	Booth #245	Apr. 3-5
Parks and Recreation Ontario Annual Forum	Niagara Falls, ON	TBD	Apr. 13-16
Ontario Recreation Facilities Assoc. Annual Trade Show	Guelph, ON	TBD	Apr. 30

Athletica