


2018

UA1C2/1 Academic Athletic Performance Center Photos

WKU Archives

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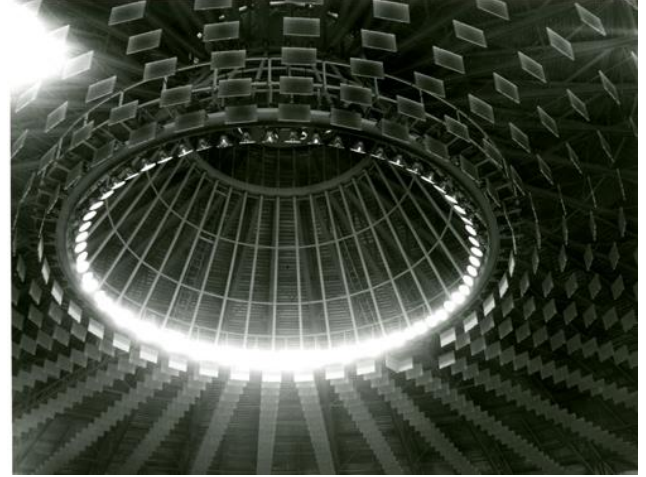
Western Kentucky University

UA1C2 WKU Archives Building Photo Collection

Subseries 1 Academic Athletic Performance Center

Contact information:

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Administrative History: Artificial collection created by WKU Archives to Diddle Arena images together. The majority of the photos are from WKU sources, but some donated by individuals.

Diddle Arena
Other Names - Academic-Athletic Building No. 1
Date Built - Nov. 15, 1961-1963
Cost of Construction - \$2.5 million
Gross Square Feet - 188,251 (1969)
Building No. 30
Architect(s) - Frank Cain & Ben Johnson

Namesake - E.A. Diddle:

Edgar Allen Diddle was born at Gradyville, Kentucky March 12, 1895 to John A. and Mary Elizabeth Hughes Diddle. After his early education at Columbia, Kentucky, Diddle entered Centre College at Danville in 1915 where he excelled in football and basketball. He served in the Naval Aviation program during WWI, returning to Centre in 1918. He left again in 1920 to begin his coaching career at Monticello High School. In 1921 he coached at Greenville High School. On September 7, 1922, he joined the staff at Western as athletic director and coach of all sports. He relinquished his duties as head football coach in 1929 and of baseball in 1956.

Diddle married Margaret Louise Monin December 27, 1923. The couple had two children, Edgar Allen Diddle Jr. and Mary Jo Diddle Phillips. E.A. Diddle, Sr. died January 2, 1970.

Col. Edgar B. Stansbury (1906-2009). The Diddle Arena lobby was named for Col. Stansbury in 1998 after he pledged \$1 million for scholarships. Stansbury came to Western in 1926 and played football, basketball and baseball under Coach Diddle. He later returned as an assistant coach for football and baseball and served three seasons as tennis coach going on to serve as director of athletics and head of the Health & Physical Education Department. He was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994.

Building History:

Discussion and planning for Diddle Arena began as early as 1956. By December 1960 plans had been drawn. Between 65 to 70 percent of the construction was funded through the sale of bonds with the remaining capital coming from the state. When the building was first designed, it included the basketball arena, a

swimming pool approximately 72 x 42 ft., an auxiliary gym, 30 classrooms, offices, shower, locker and equipment rooms. The building was 3 stories high and was equipped with 3,344 theater-type seats and 3796 permanent bleachers. However, the seating capacity was 13,000. At the time, Diddle was the 3rd largest building on campus behind Cherry and the Science Building.

A bulldozer was used for the groundbreaking on November 15, 1961 and the arena was dedicated on December 7, 1963. The Hilltoppers lost to Vanderbilt 82-60 in the opening game. In 1991 an electrical fire broke out. Several students attempted to douse the blaze. Seventeen students, firemen and WKU employees were checked for possible asbestos contamination.

When it was first constructed the arena housed the departments of Foreign Languages, Military Science and Physical Education.

As of 7/6/68

182,000 gross sq. ft. cost \$3,325,000, replacement value \$3,325,743, 109 total rooms

12 classrooms

1 classroom service

4 special class labs

1 class lab service

5 Armory Facilities Service

10 Athletic-Physical Education Fac. Ser.

4 Athletic-Physical Education Facilities

5 assembly facilities service

1 assembly facility

2 conference rooms

1 lounge facility

4 food facilities

1 food facility service

30 offices

7 office services

8 custodial areas

13 mechanical areas

Additions:

1980 - new scoreboard donated by American National Bank & Pepsi Cola

1987 - reroofed for \$250,000

1992 - new seating, painted, weight room renovations, women's locker room updated, \$90,000 from Hilltopper Athletic Foundation

1993 - digital scoreboard installed, \$200,000 in corporate sponsorships; computerized ticket office, \$57,000

1995 - new sound system

2000 - "Topper Town Basketball" added for \$8000 and removal of bleachers

2001-2003 - new parking area, elevator added, new floor and air-conditioning, 8,000 new seats, 30,000 square foot addition includes offices and practice gym, swimming pool converted to convention center, new suites added, approximately \$32.5 million from Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, sales of luxury suites, bond issue and donations

Description: Images of the Academic Athletic Performance Center also called Diddle Arena.

Dates: 1961-present

Extent: 10 folders, 2 oversize, 8 negatives, 7 slides

Subject Analytics:

Athletics (WKU)

Basketball

Diddle Arena (WKU)

Sports

Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:

Architecture

Architectural Engineering

Construction Engineering

Photography

Sports Studies

Accession Information: These records transferred to WKU Archives upon its creation.

Access Restrictions: none

Allied Materials:

Images with [UA1C2.1 prefix](#)

[UA1C5.2 WKU Basketball Photo Collection](#)

[UA1C5.3 WKU Womens Basketball Photo Collection](#)

[UA1C6.6.2 WKU Events – Dedications Photo Collection](#)

[UA1C11.5 WKU Athletic Media Relations Photo Collection](#)

[UA19 WKU Athletics](#)

[UA30.1.2 WKU Planning, Design & Construction Building File](#)

Preferred Citation: UA1C2/1 Academic Athletic Performance Center Photo Collection, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Records processed and collection inventory created 2015, revised 2018, 2019.

Finding Aid Report

02/15/2019

UA1C2.1	Print, Photographic	Date
Level	Subseries	Linked toUA1C2
Title	UA1C WKU Archives Photograph Collection	
Collection	Series 2. Buildings	
Scope & Content	Subseries 1. Academic Athletic Performance Center	
	WKU Archives	
	Images of the Academic Athletic Performance Center also called Diddle Arena.	

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
MC8	Drawer 1	WKU Archives		Diddle Arena
Description	Academic Athletic Building, WKSC, Ben Johnson, Frank Cain Associated Architects, John Wilkie and Charles D. Wade & Associates, 35 x 20, see also copy in MC7, D4			Subjects Architectural drawings
NC	N5247-N5249	WKU Archives	1962	Diddle Arena - Negatives
				Subjects Construction Christmas trees
NC	N6297	WKU Archives		Diddle Arena - Negative
				Subjects Negatives Architectural drawings
NC	N13433-N13436	WKU Archives	1968	Diddle Arena - Negative
Description	digitized			Subjects Negatives Swimmers Swimming pools African Americans Blacks
OS PC	FOS22	WKU Archives		Diddle Arena - Interior
PC	F1049	WKU Archives		Diddle Arena - Interior
Description	Bleachers Regional High School Tournament			Subjects Basketball Seating furniture Scoreboards Locker rooms

PC	F1899	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena
Description	Asphalt Jonesville		Subjects Construction Western Kentucky University Parking lots
PC	F1033	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena
Description	UA2010-210 donated by Clarkie Burks		Subjects Drawings Architectural drawings
PC	F1036	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena
Description	Jonesville		Subjects Construction Bulldozers Postcards Houses
PC	F1038-F1039	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena - Construction
Description	Cranes		Subjects Construction Bulldozers
PC	F1042-F1043	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena
			Subjects Negatives
PC	F1044	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena
			Subjects Postcards
PC	F1045	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena
PC	F1046	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena - Interior
Description	Photos donated by Joe Glowacki Basketball uniforms Bleachers Showers		Subjects Bathrooms Gymnasiums Seating furniture Locker rooms Swimming pools
PC	F1050	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena - Postcards
			Subjects Postcards
SC	S1338-S1344	WKU Archives	Diddle Arena - Slides
			Subjects Aerial photographs Slides