



ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION

FALL 1976/VOLUME 11-NUMBER 1

Official Publication of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics

THE KIBBIE DOME: IDAHO'S INDOOR INOVATION

By Leon G. Green
Athletic Director, University of Idaho



An Idaho native, Leon Green's association with the University stems back to 1933, when he enrolled as a freshman student. In 1937 he graduated with a BS in Education, and two years later completed work on his masters. He earned his PhD from New York University in 1953. Green was appointed head of the school's department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 1951, and seeing the need to expand the University's athletic facilities, he soon became a key proponent of a multi-purpose facility. He took the reigns as athletic director in December, 1973, directing the development of the Kibbie Dome.

The past decade has witnessed a parade of multi-purpose athletic facilities, each succeeding its predecessors in utility and grandeur.

Future entries will have a difficult time surpassing the University of Idaho's unique William H. Kibbie-ASUI Activity Center, however.

The Kibbie Dome, as it has come to be called, features the ultimate of multi-purpose facilities: It serves as a stadium for football, sheltering Vandal fans from the sometimes inclement Idaho autumn Saturdays. And it may be quickly converted to a fieldhouse to house a myriad of indoor sports activities, serving as the home court for the UI cagers.

The center's uniqueness is arched

in its first-of-its-type dome, a 4.5 acre clean span arch roof of wood and steel trusses which was chosen the Outstanding Structural Engineering Achievement of 1976 by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The barrel-arch roof, which contains a million board feet of laminated lumber, 57 miles of tubular steel and 35,00 steel pins, spans 400 feet with a clear height of 150 feet, approximately 14 stories. The roof provides the university with the largest indoor college facility in the nation and fifth-largest overall.

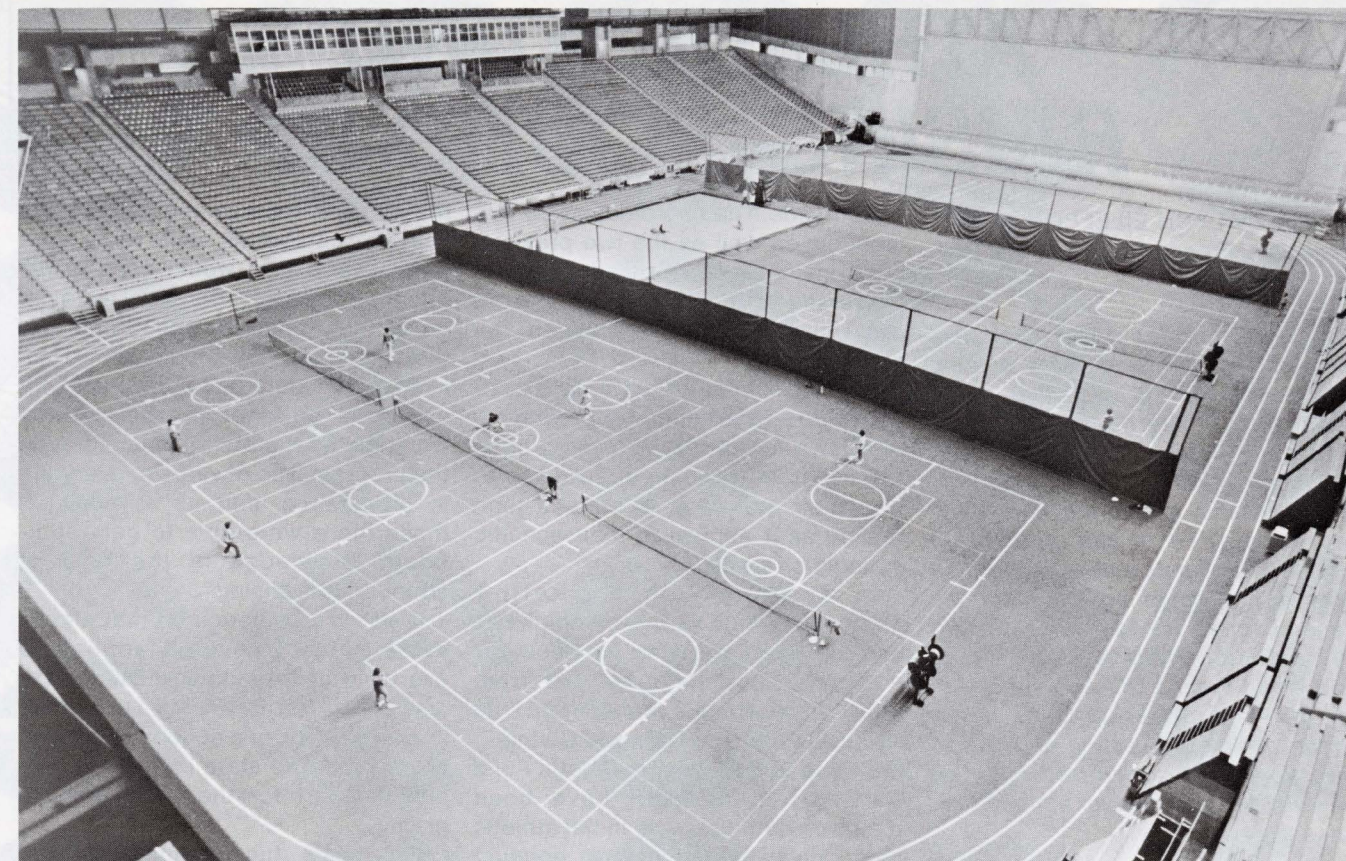
The University of Idaho has come a long way to enjoy its new and notorious facility, however. The Dome stands on the site of old Neale Stadium, UI's grid home from 1936 to 1968. Neale, which bore the suffer-

ings of age and weather, was torched by an unknown arsonist in 1969, bringing to the surface all plans for a new facility.

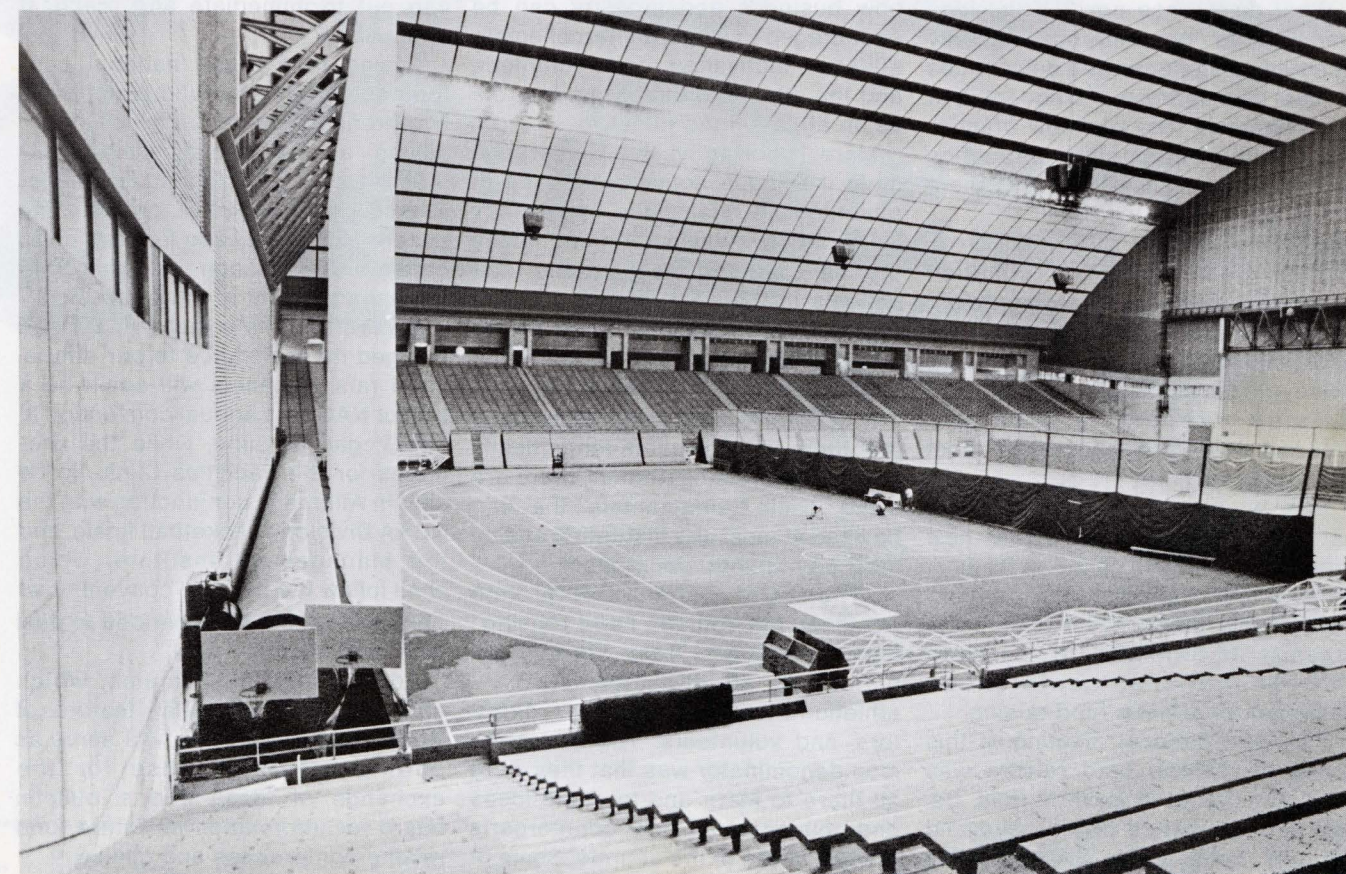
By 1971 the shell of the new stadium was completed, allowing the Vandal gridders to move back home. A year later further construction on the yet un-named stadium displayed its first "first," a roll-up artificial turf field.

The ultimate plan called for a domed stadium/multi-purpose facility with student fees the main source for paying the eventual \$7,840,000 price tag. However, it was a \$300,000 gift by alumnus William H. Kibbie in November, 1974, which turned those plans into a reality.

Continued on page 21



Kibbie Dome is used for organized sports and various recreational athletic activities from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. These overall views reveal markings for nine basketball courts (including intercollegiate court), eight tennis courts, 11 volleyball courts, 16 badminton courts and those for the 300-meter, five-lane running track. Canvas dividers split "Tartan" floor into three areas for use by different groups or for different sports. Total cost of the facility was \$7,859,000. It's also used for a variety of nonsports events.





KIBBIE DOME (Continued from page 7)

Kibbie, president and chief executive officer of JELCO, Inc., is a native of Gannet who attended UI briefly but maintained active ties to the university. The gift was made one day prior to the opening of construction bids which had been rejected a few months earlier due to the high costs.

Initially, the portable grid surface, when rolled out on its 8' x 200' steel drum, rested on asphalt. Once the roof was in place in 1975, the asphalt was covered with 3M's resilient Tartan surface. The surface is permanently marked for eight basketball courts, in addition to a regulation hard-based court for the varsity basketball arena, eight tennis courts, 11 volleyball courts and 16 badminton courts.

The area is encircled by a 300 meter, five lane running track, distinguished as the largest permanent

indoor unbanked track in the world. The track also provides for a 100 meter straightaway. Additionally, there are two pole vault boxes and two long jump pits which, when not in use, can be covered so that other events can be held in the same area.

All varsity sports, except baseball and golf, can be moved inside permanently, and nets at one end of the Dome provide practice facilities for the latter.

Two 20' x 200' divider curtains can be lowered from the ceiling to section off the 93,000 square feet of flooring for PE classes or to separate activities. Music may be played through a sophisticated 2800 watt sound system.

A combination of 186 mercury vapor and 26 quartz lights provide sufficient candlepower for television broadcasting. Nearly 800 12-foot squares of acoustic tile are suspended

The permanent seating capacity for

football is 17,651 and additional temporary seating can up that capacity to 21,000. Portable bleachers encompassing the basketball court provide a seating capacity of 10,000.

The variety of non-athletic events (i.e. rock concerts, trade shows, convocation) the Kibbie Dome may host, and the customer capacities of each, are virtually endless.

Coinciding with the wonders of the new building, which enters its second academic year of full usage, is that it was completed on schedule and within the budget. Architect Glen Cline of Cline, Smull, Hamill Associates of Boise deserves much of the credit.

On the horizon is a fourth phase of construction — the building of locker rooms. Presently students and varsity teams must dress a block away.

For the time being, however, Kibbie Dome documents the development of a stadium into a multi-purpose facility.

