

Michael Edwards, 05:30 PM 10/1/2004, Re: Please Save the Barbell Club!!

X-Sender: me20@pop.mail.gatech.edu

X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.2.0.8

Date: Fri, 01 Oct 2004 17:30:24 -0400

To: gtg285m@mail.gatech.edu, wayne.clough@carnegie.gatech.edu,
robert.thompson@carnegie.gatech.edu, william.schafer@vpss.gatech.edu,
steve.swant@budplan.gatech.edu, michael.edwards@spaceplan.gatech.edu,
john.carter@alumni.gatech.edu, danielle.mcdonald@vpss.gatech.edu,
dave.braine@gtaa.gatech.edu, paul.griffin@at.gtaa.gatech.edu,
bshymansky@at.gtaa.gatech.edu, george.nemhauser@isye.gatech.edu,
mark.clements@ee.gatech.edu, augustine.esobue@isye.gatech.edu,
rosario.gerhardt@mse.gatech.edu, sue.rosser@iac.gatech.edu,
daniel.schrage@aerospace.gatech.edu, bill.wepfer@me.gatech.edu,
ben.zinn@aerospace.gatech.edu

From: Michael Edwards <mike.edwards@spaceplan.gatech.edu>

Subject: Re: Please Save the Barbell Club!!

X-Scanned-By: MIMEDefang 2.36

Jordon:

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the relocation of the Barbell Club from the OKeefe Gym to the new Campus Recreation Center. The Barbell Club at Georgia Tech has been an outstanding student organization over many years at Tech. I appreciate your investment in it and your passionate approach to this endeavor. It is our strong belief that it can continue as an outstanding student organization with a facility transition.

I think that its important for you and all of the club members to understand why we have come to this decision. It is in response to a NCAA Certification review process, something we are required to comply with in order to remain compliant with the bylaws of that organization. I think that you and your membership can appreciate the importance of such compliance. A peer review conducted as part of the NCAA Certification process (similar to SACS accreditation), determined that locker room facilities for the Womens Volleyball Team must be brought into compliance. In addition GTAA hired a Title IX consultant who confirmed the importance of this issue.

It is the opinion of the administration that to meet this need to remain in OKeefe Gym and respond to our recent reports, it is necessary to remodel the space occupied by the Barbell Club for the use of the Womens Volleyball Program. This was not an easy decision, but a necessary one. The Womens Volleyball team enjoys a great deal of success playing in OKeefe Gym and wants to continue playing its games and practicing there. The team has been very successful in recent years, as evidenced by its finish last season in the Elite Eight nationally. College athletics has a strong tradition at Tech for both men & women, and plays a very significant role in campus life for our students.

We also feel that this is a long-term win-win solution to the issue. The Barbell Club will be moved from the less-than-spectacular surroundings of the Old O'Keefe Gym into what is undoubtedly one of the finest recreation centers in the United States. By all accounts, this major commitment to campus life has been an immediate success from day one. This change in the recreation landscape for Tech provides us with new opportunities in recreation and fitness, which have not been previously available. The CRC is equipped with 190 different machines, more than 15,000 pounds of plates and dumbbells, the most advanced cardiovascular exercise equipment, and is configured to meet the fitness needs of the entire campus community (i.e. from beginner to advanced).

Further, by incorporating the Barbell Club into the epicenter of campus health, exercise, and recreation, we are increasing the spirit of community throughout our entire campus. While I'm sure that swimmers may prefer their own facility, runners theirs, and basketball players their own arena, we have chosen to merge all of those into one of the most dynamic health and fitness facilities anywhere.

Recently, representatives of the Institute met with representatives of the Barbell Club to discuss future arrangements. We offered to have members of the Barbell Club come and tour the CRC. The reason for this is twofold: 1) To have members gain a clear understanding of the equipment and club space (club sports office space) that is available in the CRC; and 2) To better understand their needs as a club, in not only the area of equipment, but student organization meeting space.

We believe that we can fully satisfy all of your lifting needs with the exception of one component of power lifting (clean and jerk/snatch), which by the guidelines established by the American College of Sports Medicine, is too technical to be performed without proper training and supervision. We are also willing to discuss other options in the CRC to meet the needs of the club members.

Please know that we have given this decision careful consideration. We are fully aware of your preference for remaining where you are. But I also hope that you can appreciate the imperative to complying with NCAA requirements for our Womens Volleyball Team. We hope that you will tour our new \$45 million expansion to campus recreation and work with us to mutually satisfy the needs of our entire student community.

At 09:22 PM 9/28/2004, gtg285m@mail.gatech.edu wrote:
To the members of the GTAA:

I am contacting you because you are aware and part of the Athletic Associations decision to remove the barbell club from its current location.

My name is Jordan Carr, and I am currently a junior at Georgia Tech in electrical engineering. I have been working out at the barbell club for the past two years.

The barbell club is one of the most unique and impressive organizations that I have ever been a part of. People have a common misconception that the barbell club is a fitness facility. While part of this statement is true it is by far only a fraction of what the barbell club represents. I have always thought of the barbell club having a mission statement as follows: A place for students, alumni, faculty, and Georgia Tech employees, whom are enthusiastic about the strength and fitness of their bodies, to come and physically advance their bodies as well as to help and encourage others. This is what takes place at the barbell club.

My freshman year at Tech I worked out at the SAC. While I was able to stay in shape I was not able to become a stronger. This was due to lack of proper equipment, and a high volume of users.

The new CRC was supposed to solve this problem. I have been to the new CRC and exercised numerous times. While I agree that it is a great fitness facility, it can not offer the same things that the barbell club can. It is also at times still overcrowded. At five o'clock p.m. when I am finishing my co-op job the CRC is so crowded that it is necessary to wait in line for a machine.

The Barbell club was my, as well as many others, solution to only being able to workout at the CRC. There is not another place on campus like the barbell club. The barbell club is not just a place where people go to get in shape and to become stronger. I have learned things that I would never have been able to obtain from a normal gym. I have been working out since I was twelve years old, and I have been to six different gyms and none of them had such a vast database of knowledge and expertise of weight lifting. For example when I first started using the barbell club facilities I was barely able to bench press 135 pounds. Less than a year later I am putting up 265 pounds two times, and I am still getting stronger thanks to the proper equipment and people that are willing to teach me proper technique and training skills.

I could continue on for many pages about how the CRC does not compare to the barbell club, and how it was not designed to accommodate the same goals. I thank you for having the courtesy of reading my letter, and I hope that it helps you to seek a different alternative for the girl's volleyball locker room.

Sincerely,

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Jordan Carr
gtg285m@mail.gatech.edu