



GYMNASIUM UP TO NBA CLASS

OFFICIAL SAYS SHENZHEN'S FACILITIES ARE TOP NOTCH AND WILL REMAIN A BOON TO CITY

FACTFILE

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAIN GYMNASIUM OF THE UNIVERSIADE CENTER

Seating Capacity: 18,000

Distance from Universiade Village (km): 1

Address: Universiade New Town, Longgang district

Overall Description:

With a floor area of 45,000 square meters, the Gymnasium of Universiade Center is comprised of four floors in total. The first floor has the entrances for athletes, officials, media and other staff. The audience will also enter the gymnasium from the first floor. There are four well-equipped locker rooms and some office rooms. There is also a rostrum comprised of three boxes in addition to 10 VIP boxes and three media boxes. The press center, covering an area of 200 sq m, will be used as the sub-media center during the Universiade.

The gymnasium is designed as per FIBA requirements. Spectator stands circle the basketball court. Change rooms for athletes are on the same floor as the basketball court. Each change room is well equipped with a changing zone, showers and toilets.

Press and Mixed Zones:

The press zone is in the spectator stand while the mixed zone is at the entrance/departure path of the athletes.

Medical Service:

The gymnasium has a clinic and a doping control area.



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

The 18,000-seat gymnasium at the Universiade Center, which was built to NBA standards.

By SHI YINGYING
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — The Universiade Center is not only likely to be the most frequently used venue of the 26th World University Games, but also the possible host of future NBA games.

“The venue stunned the boss of the (Los Angeles) Lakers, he said he didn’t expect China to have such great basketball facilities and that he wanted to run it when he came to visit here,” said Liu Zhida, director of the engineering management department for the Universiade, which is responsible for the city’s 63 permanent and temporary venues.

The 18,000-seat gymnasium is likely to be used for pre-season NBA games in China,” said Liu.



PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

A bird’s-eye view of the Shenzhen Universiade Center.

But before that, it will host the basketball finals of the games and ice skating competitions after the games. The logistics of turning a basketball court into an ice rink don’t concern Liu.

“It’s designed for multi-function

and the wood floor is removable. First, we take the timber floor away and fill the arena with water, within 24 hours it will become a skating rink,” said Liu. “It’s a pity that this Universiade is being held in summer and won’t have ice hockey or

curling competitions, otherwise I could show you how it works.

“It can be turned into a venue for ping-pong or gymnastics,” he said, adding the idea was to build something not for the games alone, but also for the residents of Shenzhen.

“That’s why we ended up building a totally-enclosed gymnasium and paid special attention to the sound system,” he said. “So that after this sports gala for the youth around the world, Shenzhen people can still use it as a concert hall.”

“The Universiade Center comprises a stadium, a gymnasium and a natatorium and all three form a triangle,” said Liu. “They will be used from the second day — the day after the opening ceremony to the last day of the 12 days — and will be the most frequently used venues.”

Like its sister arenas, the nata-

torium, the smallest of the three, was built with the purpose of “for the people rather than for the games”.

“Apart from two indoor swimming pools, there’s a children’s pool outside. That’s something not necessary for the event, but totally attractive for the residents,” said Liu.

“One more thing to remember is that we saved unnecessary expenses — only 22 of the 63 venues are newly-built; the rest are stadia and sports fields from schools. And the accommodation for athletes will be used as a dormitory for a newly-built college.

The South China city of Shenzhen will host the Universiade from Aug 12-23, 10 years after Beijing held the 21st event in 2001. It will welcome more than 8,880 athletes and officials from more than 113 countries.