

## Fresno State athletics gets anonymous \$500,000 donation

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Fresno State's North Gym was the home for Bulldogs indoor sports for many years, and is still used as a practice facility. It has also hosted many community gatherings, including a visit by 2000 presidential candidate John McCain. Its annex houses many of the athletics department's offices. The "crow's nest," once a common sight in gyms as a workspace above the floor for announcers and media, is seen in the center of the photo.

BOB DURELL — Fresno Bee file photo | [Buy Photo](#)

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The Fresno State athletics program has received a \$500,000 gift from an anonymous donor, the school announced Tuesday.



Fresno State said the gift will help with costs in four key areas:

- A men's basketball European summer tour (details to to be announced this spring).
- Work in the North Gym including replacement and renovation of the court (late this spring or early summer), removal of the old-fashioned "crow's nest" high above the floor that was used for announcers and media during games and pay for the new scoreboards and padding that have already been installed.



- Work at Margie Wright Diamond softball stadium that will include an updated speaker system and backstop netting that attaches to the press box, eliminating the poles that block sight lines for fans.
- Work in the North Gym Annex that includes carpet replacement in all six locker rooms and hallways, graphics and logos and a new athlete lounge.

The North Gym will remain a practice facility for the basketball and volleyball programs, senior associate athletics director Paul Ladwig said. It will not go back to being used for public Fresno State athletic events.

The projects were selected by the donor from a “long list of things to start, renovate and finish,” Ladwig said.

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