

# dynamic

## DUO SPARK DRIVE FOR FIELD HOUSE

*Dick "Coach" Small and Randy Buchman are playing vital roles in DC's drive for a new Field House*

*(Reprinted with permission from The Crescent-News, Defiance. This column first appeared on Feb. 11, 2010.)*

*by Jack Palmer, Columnist  
The Crescent-News*

**D**ick Small and Randy Buchman have played a vital role at Defiance College and its athletic programs for decades.

Though both are "retired" from the college, their influence is even greater than ever.

Thanks to the recent efforts of this dynamic duo, the college since December has received more than \$1.3 million in donations and pledges toward the fund drive for a new wellness and fitness center/field house.

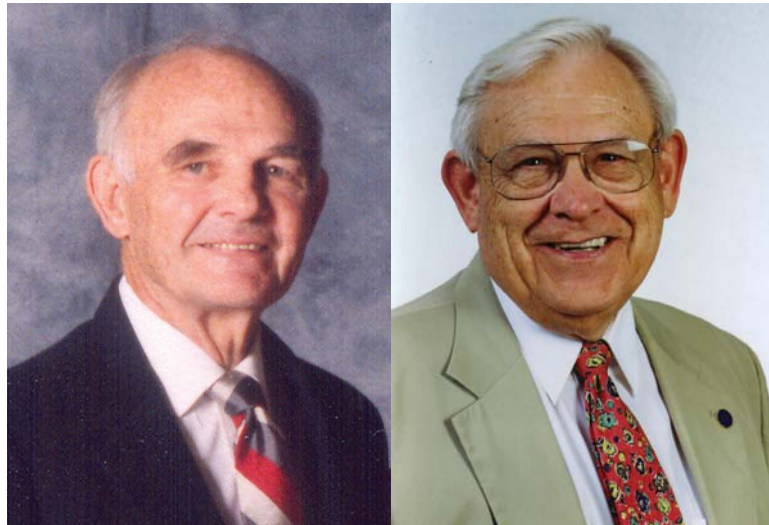
\*Note: current gifts and pledges stand at \$2,836,000.

"This facility will be a spectacular tool for recruiting student-athletes and offering numerous resources for all students interested in fitness and intramural opportunities," said Rich Pejeau, DC's vice president of institutional advancement. "The building will be a hub of student recreation and also offer an ideal venue for high school and NCAA track meets."

The wellness and fitness center/field house is part of the college's \$26 million comprehensive capital campaign launched in the fall of 2008. The overall project also includes \$6.8 million for the endowment fund (including \$5 million for scholarships); \$5.9 million for the college's annual fund; and improvements to Schomburg Auditorium, Tenzer Hall, Weaner Center/McMaster gymnasium and McReynolds and Whitney residence halls.

A poignant letter written by Small to several hundred alumni served as a catalyst for the recent influx of donations and pledges for the wellness and fitness center/field house.

"I can remember when Carolyn and I



*Richard "Coach" Small*

*Randy Buchman*

came to the college in 1954," wrote Small. "We were told then that the college was about to construct a field house. Fifty-six years later, it is time for us to get this done."

Buchman, Small's longtime sidekick, is in the process of following up the letter with personal contacts.

"The response has been overwhelming," said Buchman. "So far I've met with around 300 alums and only received four 'no's.' They all want to be a part of this because of their admiration for Coach Small. Their respect for him is tremendous. I can't tell you how many times I have heard that his counsel and guidance helped mold their careers."

President Mark Gordon added, "In fact, the alumni have tremendous admiration and respect for both Coach Small and Professor Buchman and their generosity is a reflection of their affection for both of them."

Gordon reported that the fund drive for the new wellness and fitness center/field house is within a million dollars of its goal. "We are closer now than we have ever been." Quoting a portion of Small's letter to alumni,

Gordon called the project "doable."

"We are very optimistic we can raise the rest of the money by this spring if alumni continue to react as they have over the last couple months," said Gordon. "If that happens, we will take the project to the board of trustees for approval, and construction could start this year."

The 80,000-plus-square-foot facility

includes a six-lane 200-meter indoor track, and a multi-purpose surface which will be able to be utilized by numerous college athletic teams including football, soccer, tennis, golf, baseball, softball, volleyball and others. It would benefit all students and all current intercollegiate athletic teams.

"This new field house will serve DC students for generations," said Small. "It won't just benefit student-athletes, it will enable a wide range of academic programs such as athletic training, sport management and wellness and fitness to achieve a new level of success."

Added Buchman, "This will also be a tremendous asset to northwest Ohio." For more information about making tax-deductible donations to the wellness and fitness center/field house, contact the office of institutional advancement at 419-783-2371 or visit the college web site at [www.defiance.edu](http://www.defiance.edu). Naming opportunities are still available. "I look forward to seeing the DC field house built soon," said Small. ♦