



PROTECTING THE HOOSIER GYM PRESERVING A STATE TREASURE

Knightstown, Indiana

Project Profile

HISTORY

In 1954, a small high school in rural Indiana won the state basketball championship against all odds. This team, the Milan High School Indians, became legends when the movie Hoosiers was released in 1986. Hoosiers, dubbed by ESPN and Sports Illustrated as the greatest sports movie of all time, memorializes this small-town story. It was filmed in a gym in Knightstown, IN. This Knightstown gym was built in 1921 and expanded in 1936, but has been untouched since the filming of Hoosiers.

In 1966, the Knightstown Falcons played their last game in the gym. After that last game, the gym lay mostly dormant for nearly 20 years, and would have never been a noteworthy facility until a film crew discovered it as the perfect movie set. Anyone who visits Knightstown today can still see the locker rooms where Gene Hackman rallied the team, the clothes the players wore, and can walk on the court where Jimmy made that final shot.

With so much history behind it, the gym was renamed "The Hoosier Gym", and now hosts weddings, receptions, political events, commercial shoots, and more. The gym hosts an Indiana All-Star game each year for the most talented senior athletes. A state treasure like this has to be preserved, so the risk of water damage to the floor was a major concern.

PROBLEM

The Hoosier Gym is run entirely by volunteers, and they keep a pretty close eye on things. They began to notice that several spots in the roof were leaking. Thankfully, all of the leaks were above the bleachers, but something had to be done before leaks developed above the floor. The risk of damaging the iconic gym floor meant the roof needed to be fixed immediately.

SOLUTION

The operators of the Hoosier Gym reached out to Insulated Roofing Contractors (IRC) to seek out a solution. IRC began working with the gym operators, who were on a tight budget, to develop a solution. IRC knew that a complete roof replacement was out of the question due

to budget constraints, so IRC recommended the Silicone Roof Coating Restoration (RCR) system from Progressive Materials (PM). A silicone restoration would be effective and affordable.

The gym had an 8,700 square foot Modified Bitumen roof, which was a perfect candidate for the Silicone RCR system from PM. The silicone coating could be applied directly to the roof with no primer needed, would require only two thin coats, and would provide a seamless roofing membrane over top of the existing roof. The silicone RCR system was the fastest and most affordable solution available to The Hoosier Gym, and could be applied in just three days.

Project Profile (continued)



The roof was coated using a combination of spraying and rolling the coating to ensure all seams and crevices were completely filled and sealed. This also allowed the contractor to ensure the coating was applied at the correct thickness.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Installed anchors at the peak of the roof to tie off workers and ensure safety while working.
- Power washed the Modified Bitumen roof to remove all dirt and grease stains.
- Applied an extra layer of silicone coating to any damaged seams to ensure no leaks would appear.
- Coated the field of the roof with two coats of 100% silicone coating.
- Coated a curb on the west side of the building to completely encapsulate the roof.

BENEFITS

The greatest benefit for The Hoosier Gym on this project was the affordability of a quality roof system. The gym operates almost entirely on donations, so they needed an option that wouldn't exhaust their budget for the year. Other benefits of the coating are:

- The coating created a seamless membrane on the roof that is designed to stop current leaks and prevent future leaks, protecting the gym floor.
- The Hoosier Gym will see reduced energy costs as the reflective white coating does not absorb the sun's heat, but reflects it, keeping the gym cooler in the summer.
- The system is renewable, and can be replaced in 15-20 years by simply applying another layer of coating. This translates into minimal repairs and maintenance expenses, as well as no replacement costs for the gym.

Bob Garner, a volunteer who helps run The Hoosier Gym, said they were able to use the money they saved by avoiding a complete roof replacement to replace the AC units in the gym that were failing. We were proud to provide an innovative solution that saved this iconic facility money, and will keep the gym floor safe for years to come.