

Media Advisory
November 2, 1999

Groundbreaking for on-campus Recreation and Fitness Center
scheduled at USI on Thursday, November 4

USI President H. Ray Hoops and Student Government Association President Brian Pauley will preside at the groundbreaking ceremony of an on-campus Recreation and Fitness Center at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 4 at the University of Southern Indiana.

Members of the USI Board of Trustees, student leaders, and other University officials will break ground by swinging golf clubs creating divots on the turf. The ceremony will take place in the open field south of the Physical Activities Center (PAC), the location of the new building.

An outline of the building will be drawn on the ground to show the site. At 12:45 p.m. before the ceremony begins, USI student groups and intramural teams will be playing a sport or performing an activity inside the outline where the activity will take place once the building is completed. Students will be running track, playing volleyball, lifting weights, and participating in a variety of other activities that will be available in the new building.

The \$4.1 million building will have two basketball courts, an area for weight lifting and exercise, a suspended track above the courts and aerobics area, showers, lockers, and office space. Offices of Intramural and Recreational Sports, Wellness, and the Fitness Center will be located in the building. It will have 45,045 square feet and will be located between the PAC and Fred C. Newman Residence Hall.

Funding for the building will come from bonds that will be paid from student fees. Last spring USI students through the Student Government Association supported an increase in fees to have a fitness facility on campus. The current Fitness Center is located about three miles west of campus in a shopping area. Because of space constraints, activities at that facility are limited to weight training and small aerobic classes. The 1.5 percent fee increase that went into effect this fall will be used to fund the debt service and operating expenses for the facility.

Jack R. Kinkel and Son in collaboration with William Merci are architects for the building. The general contractor is Peyronnin Construction. The facility is expected to be completed in 2001.