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**Action field trip
Production workers from Mercer flooring company get to see their work**



Employees from Action Floor systems in Mercer, WI, gather at center court on the new floor in the Neenah High School Fieldhouse on August 27. Action Floor provided both the hardwood floor for the basketball court and the synthetic flooring around the perimeter for track events.

Mercer – Production workers at Action Floor Systems took a field trip to Neenah last month to see the company’s first combination floor.

The Neenah High School fieldhouse has a hardwood floor in the center for sports such as basketball and volleyball and a synthetic floor on the perimeter for track and field events.

“This was our first combination, our first large combination in a fieldhouse,” Gary Stephenson, president of Action Floor, said.

Action Floor makes floor systems – which include a subfloor and the maple boards that are installed on top of the subfloor. The company makes many different subfloors with varying degrees of resiliency, Stephenson said.

He noted that Action Floor is one of the leading manufacturers of hardwood gym flooring. The company also makes hardwood floors for dance and aerobics use.

In 2001, to increase its product line, Stephenson said, Action Floor got into the synthetic side of the market. Its polyurethane flooring, called Herculan, is a chemical product imported from the Netherlands.

The product, a self-leveling liquid, is applied at the job site and sets up firm. It has a rubberized look and feel, Stephenson said.

Action Floor also has a rubber tile product called ReFlex. It is used in weight rooms and fitness areas.

“All this was designed so that we could be the sole provider of all the products in a new high school,” Stephenson said. “It gives us more products to offer, particularly into these brand new schools that are being built.”

The Neenah fieldhouse is not a new building. Stephenson said Action Floor’s combination floor replaced a 20-year-old floor.

Action Floor employs 105 people at the Mercer plant.

“The majority of our employees work very hard at producing individual boards. They don’t often see what the finished floor looks like,” Stephenson said.

Action Floor’s customers are the contractors who bid on the school and other jobs. The Mercer plant produces and ships the floor systems to the job site, where the contractor assembles the subfloor, nails hardwood maple boards over the floor system, then sands, seals, puts down the game lines and finishes the floor.

At Neenah, two busloads of Action Floor employees saw the finished combination hardwood and synthetic gym floor.

The maple floor with red “N” gleamed. White track lanes divided the synthetic floor, a beige shade similar to the maple wood.

The school principal thanked them for their efforts. Then they went to lunch at an area country club.