



CASE STUDY: John Gray High School Basketball Facility in Grand Cayman

The Cayman Islands may be a Caribbean paradise, but they present some difficult challenges for hardwood maple sports floors.

The Action Floor Systems® maple athletic floors that Southeastern Surfaces & Equipment (SSE) installed at John Gray High School in Grand Cayman are part of the island's *first-and-only major* wood floor gymnasium. The gym at John Gray is now considered the territory's premier athletic facility, and it will be used as a model for future athletic projects. It will also be home to an NCAA tournament and even the NBA could make use of the facility.

"We've done other type of island work, but it's all been synthetic floors," says Harrell Rawlins, Director of Major Projects for SSE. "This is our first wood floor in the islands."

The Challenge

The biggest challenge for SSE was dealing with the island's humid climate. Moisture levels and the overall indoor environment needed to be controlled to ensure the longevity of the courts, which included 21,000 square feet of hardwood sports flooring.

A portion of the gymnasium is located over a 10,000-gallon cistern holding water that can be accessed if the facility needs to be used as a storm shelter.

The Process

Officials at John Gray High School made an investment in a heavy vapor barrier from Griffolyn®. Rawlins says the addition of the upgraded below the floor system vapor retarder is to mitigate problems moisture transfer from the cistern could potentially cause.

"With the upgraded vapor retarder we didn't anchor the floor because we didn't want to drill any holes through the vapor barrier," Rawlins explains. Even though the system configuration changed, Rawlins says the play response and performance attributes are very similar.

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facility that simulates
international standards.*

- Collin Aglin, Director of the Cayman Islands
Department of Sports

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Grand Cayman experiences humidity levels above 80% year-round, and inside the building you'll find 60% humidity. SSE made sure the hardwood maple had enough room to expand in the humid environment.

"We put extra expansion joints in the wood because of the high moisture in the building," Rawlins says. "It was recommended to add expansion joints every 12 to 14 boards, but we actually installed them every 10 boards."

Besides the moisture in the air, the sand on the ground also posed a threat to the facility's sports flooring.

"A lot of the sand down there is actually ground coral, so it's a lot rougher than other sand," Rawlins explains. "They're going to have to dust mop it on a very regular basis."

Rawlins and the team at SSE spent time explaining proper maintenance procedures and trained the staff at the school to care for the new courts.

The Results

The Action Floors system inside John Gray High School is the Action ChannelFlex Ultra NR. This premium option was chosen in part because it is FIBA certified, and the school plans to use the facility for national and international competition.

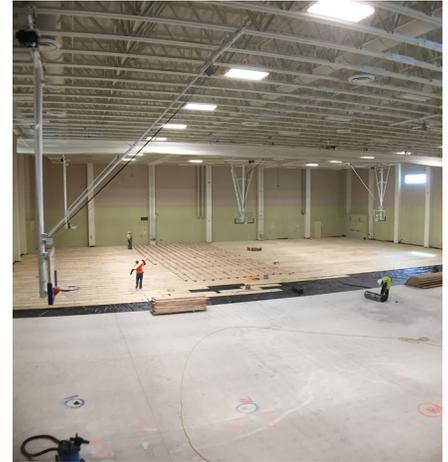
In November 2017, John Gray High School hosted the first Cayman Islands Classic, a preseason college basketball tournament featuring eight teams. Rawlins said he's also heard that some NBA teams are interested in using the gymnasium for training because it lets players escape media attention.

The islands' Director of the Department of Sports, Collin Anglin, believes it will boost sports programs in the nation while helping "foster school pride and patriotism."

"Now the national teams can have a training facility that simulates international standards," Agilin told CaymanSportsBuzz.com.

Action Floors is proud of the work our dealers complete, the challenges they take on and the solutions we help them provide. We manufacture hardwood maple sports floors and synthetic flooring systems that are ideal for many applications, from professional arenas to elementary schools.

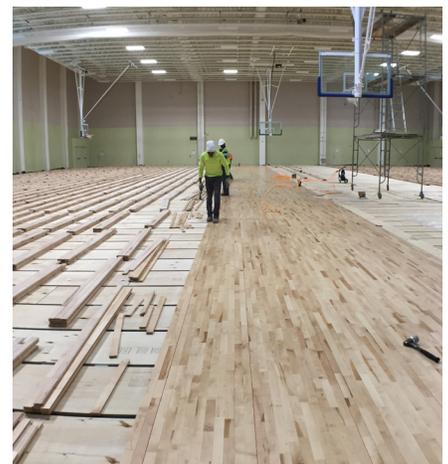
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Grand Cayman Humidity:

80%
year-round

60%
inside the facility



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