Transitioning from a Synthetic Court to Hardwood Sports Flooring

When an opposing team visits your high school’s gymnasium, you want to be proud of your facility and the court on which competition takes place. Bret Harte High School in Calaveras County, California, knew it was overdue for a sports flooring upgrade, but school officials needed to find an expert who could handle a unique project.

The school’s old basketball court consisted of synthetic flooring. While that can be a suitable option for certain applications, hardwood courts are usually preferred in high schools.

“Synthetic sports floors can be a great product,” says Matt Allen, vice president of Geary Floors. “But, when it comes to a higher level of competitive play, most coaches and athletes prefer hardwood maple, and that’s what Bret Harte High School needed.”

The Challenge

To save time and budget, rather than tearing out the existing gym flooring, the experts at Geary Floors recommended installing a hardwood sports floor system on top of the synthetic material.

“We decided, why remove the floor that’s been there for so long if we can re-top it with hardwood and help save the client money, time, and the trouble of tearing it out and prepping the slab?” says Allen.

However, this strategy meant the new sports floor would sit higher up, meaning Geary Floors needed to address compliance issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Process

“We knew we’d have to do something different at the doorways to get the floor ramped down and meet ADA standards,” Allen recalls.

The first step in addressing this factor was choosing a sports floor system with a minimal height profile and the desired performance attributes. For that, Geary Floors identified Action AnchorFlex LP from Action Floor Systems®.
CASE STUDY: Bret Harte High School

“This sports floor system is FIBA-certified and has a low profile, making it ideal for the project,” explains Action Floors Western Regional Sales Rep Matt Lyman. “It’s made with MFMA northern hard maple, and the subfloor system includes a resilient foam layer, which provides uniformity and comfort for athletes.”

Despite the low profile, the new floor system resulted in an increased height of 1 ¾”. The ADA requires facilities with changes in surface level of that degree to use ramps at transitions and doorways. Those ramps may have a maximum slope of 1:12 or one foot of slope for every one inch of rise.

Geary Floors identified SafePath as another key partner. The company manufactures ADA-compliant recycled rubber ramps, which provided an ideal solution.

“We took measurements and mapped out what we were going to do at the doorways, and then they fabricated rubber ramps, which could drop right into the transitions,” says Allen.

The Results

Allen says the entire sports floor renovation project took about six weeks to complete. Geary Floors also completed the paint job, adding game lines and an attractive logo at center court.

Action Floors recommended Geary Floors to the school, and they were glad to find a sports flooring contractor who could work with them to find ways to comply with regulations and deliver an exceptional finished product that also fit within the budget.

“They’re very satisfied and say it turned out even better than they’d imagined,” says Allen. “They really like the third-grade maple and how it gave the floor a unique look.”

That was yet another way Geary Floors helped the school stay within budget. While grades of maple have no impact on the quality or performance of a hardwood court, third-grade maple has greater color variations than first or second. It also has a slightly lower cost.

“The school was happy to find it saved them a little bit of money while adding character to the gym,” says Allen.

View our complete line of hardwood maple sports floors as well as synthetic sports flooring and discover the right surface for your next project. Get specifications, data sheets, and detailed drawings in the Architects section of our website.

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FEATURED SYSTEM:
Action AnchorFlex LP from Action Floors