

PRESERVING THE HOOSIER GYM

Knightstown, IN

History

If you've ever seen the movie Hoosiers, then you know the story of the Milan High School Indians, who won the 1954 Indiana state basketball championship against all odds. Their amazing feat was immortalized in the 1986 film starring Gene Hackman. The movie was filmed in the Knightstown High School gym, which was built in 1921 and had been untouched and largely dormant since the team's final home game in 1966. A film crew was scouting rural gymnasiums for shooting locations, and discovered the gym, now affectionately referred to as "The Hoosier Gym". They immediately knew they had their spot; the movie was filmed and new life was breathed into the gymnasium. The Hoosier Gym is now open year-round, hosting weddings, political events, an after-school program for local youth, and an annual all-star game featuring Indiana's best high school senior ballplayers. With The Hoosier Gym becoming such an iconic and vibrant attraction, every effort had to be made to preserve and protect the original hardwood floor against water damage.

The Most Advanced Roofing System

While The Hoosier Gym is run entirely by volunteers, it is very well taken care of. When the roof began to leak in several spots, the volunteers noticed almost immediately. Thankfully and luckily, all of the leaks appeared over the bleachers, meaning the floor wasn't damaged. However, if the roof could leak over the bleachers, the operators knew it could leak over the floor too - possibly leading to irreparable damage. The roof, the leaks of which risked of ruining this iconic gym floor, had to be addressed immediately.

SOLUTION

Immediately, The Hoosier Gym operators contacted IRC to seek out a solution. IRC knew that budget constraints ruled out a complete replacement, making a Silicone Roof Coating Restoration (RCR) system from Progressive Materials (PM) attractive. A silicone restoration would be effective, affordable, and quick.

The Hoosier Gym was covered by an 8,700 square feet Modified Bitumen roof, which is a perfect fit for a silicone RCR system. The roof coating could be applied directly to the roof with no need for a primer. Applied in two thin coats, and the project could be completed in only 3 days.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Installed roof anchors at peak of roof to allow workers to remain tied-off at all times.
- Power-washed entire roof to remove any dirt or grease stains.
- Applied silicone coating to all damaged seams.
- Coated the entire field of the roof with two coats of 100% silicone roof coating.

BENEFITS

The most significant benefit the Silicone RCR system provided to The Hoosier Gym was its affordability. Operating almost entirely on donations, the gym needed a solution that wouldn't exhaust their budget. In addition to affordability, the silicone coating system provides the following benefits.

- A seamless membrane on the roof that will stop current leaks and prevent future leaks, protecting the iconic gym floor.
- The Hoosier Gym will experience reduced energy costs as the reflective white coating reflects UV 80-90% of rays, keeping the gym cooler in the summer.
- The Silicone RCR system is renewable and can be replaced in 15-20 years by simply applying another layer of coating. The simplicity of the coating means fewer repairs and maintenance, and minimal upkeep.

Bob Garner, a Hoosier Gym volunteer, said after the project was completed that the volunteers were able to use the money saved with the RCR system to replace the AC units in the gym that were beginning to fail. We were very thankful to be a part of preserving this piece of history and protecting the iconic facility for years to come.