



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

NEW MEXICO MUTUAL CHAMPIONS TRAINING CENTER
 DIVISION I FBS | ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Since 2015-16, University of New Mexico's (UNM) Olympic sports teams had been weight training in a "temporary" tent that was intended to be an interim solution while plans for a new weight room were drawn up. Since that time, the promise of a "future weight room" was always present, but it was not until March 2023, after vigorous lobbying and fundraising efforts, under the leadership of Director of Athletics Eddie Nuñez, that the New Mexico Mutual Champions Training Center opened its doors.

Built at the South end of the playing surface of University Stadium, UNM's football venue, the New Mexico Mutual Champions Training Center boasts stunning views of the playing field from both the weight training floor and cardio mezzanine. The facility totals 11,312-square-feet with 9,774-square-feet on the weight training floor and 1,538 on the cardio mezzanine above.

The training space is utilized by all UNM athletics programs. The ground floor is the weight training space with both training equipment and free weights supplied by Sorinex. The mezzanine is intended for cardio use of treadmills, bikes, core work, and recovery. The glass facade was designed to preserve the expansive views of University Stadium and the Sandia Mountains to the east. The glass storefront has collapsible glass doors which can be opened in warmer weather or for indoor/outdoor workouts. The flat roof portion on the back building allows for a future "party deck" space in a Phase 2 project. The center "walkway" of the building was left intentionally open for UNM's football team to run out from the adjacent locker room on gamedays.

Forty Nine Degrees was selected for branding and design elements in the space. All of UNM's sponsored sports are reflected throughout the columns in the building, with a student-athlete from the past being represented. Each former student-athlete reflects a "champion" for their sport. The center walkway throughout the building features cherry and turquoise, (UNM's official alternate color) LED lighting designed for "game day" as the football

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team exits the locker room and heads toward the field. An animated LED wall in the space has also become a popular location for team and recruit photos alike. Other graphics in the space feature Albuquerque's skylines and vistas, as well as excerpts from UNM's fight song.

The \$5.6 million project was funded through money appropriated by the New Mexico State Legislature; a lead gift from New Mexico Mutual, an Albuquerque based workers comp and insurance firm; and other philanthropic donations. The architect was McClain & Yu and the contractor, Franken Construction; both of which are New Mexico based firms. ●