Melissa Linstrom conducted an interview with the University of Utah Head Athletic Trainer for football, Eric Yochem, to discuss the new Spence and Cleone Eccles Football Center. The Spence and Cleone Eccles Football Center is a project that spans over 120,000 square feet and is equipped with offices for coaches and other staff, cafeteria and fueling stations, player locker room and lounge, and other terrific amenities. As an athletic trainer, the most impressive area is the 13,000 square foot sports medicine complex.

ML: “Tell us about the facility.”
EY: “The new facility is about three times as large as the Smith Athletic Training Room and has been a huge upgrade for the football program as well as the other sport programs. The wet room is equipped with an in-ground, cold and hot tub along with two Hydroworx 2000. We have used this a lot more than we anticipated. We also have brand new cardio equipment including an Alter-G treadmill. The new treatment tables and tape decks are all custom designed. Nothing is off the shelf in this facility and no stone was left unturned when considering attention to detail. The layout was designed by Trevor Jameson and Paul Silvestri, whom put a great amount of time into developing a floor plan that created great flow for football and all other sports utilizing the facility.”

ML: “How does this facility affect sports medicine education?”
EY: “The easy answer is that new meeting rooms allow us to close doors and have in-services with staff and students. The hydrotherapy area provides the newest opportunities for teaching points.”

ML: “What else is new and great?”
EY: “Everything. Equipment upgrades alone were $80,000. That includes new modalities and cardio equipment. The Alter-G treadmill is definitely our new favorite toy, which was only possible because of the generous donation from Zane Beadles. The whole room that is new and great.”
ML: “Do you miss anything from the Smith?”

EY: “Oddly enough, there are days when we miss the Smith. When you do not have the amenities we do now, it makes you be more creative. We hope to keep the creativity alive, but it is much easier to be creative when you do not have as much at your disposal.”

ML: “How is the new facility an asset?”

EY: “Clinically speaking it has created a multitude of opportunities. It has improved care for our student athletes and gives more opportunities for our undergraduate athletic training students to observe and participate in providing quality care. It is all well and good to have new space and new equipment, but the whole idea is to create new opportunities for our student athletes and athletic training students.”

ML: “Is there anything else you would like to say about the new Spence and Cleone Eccles Football Center?”

EY: “Just that it is great to have the new building, but we are fully aware of the time and energy spent making it all possible. We are forever grateful for those who came before us. They were the advocates in acquiring the space. Bill Bean, who was the Head Athletic Trainer and the Director of Sports Medicine for football, laid the foundation that made this possible. Trevor Jameson, still on staff at the university, brings support from administration and is responsible for the layout of the new facility. It took a lot to get here, and sitting in it, we are very aware and thankful to those that made it all possible.”

Melissa Linstrom is a senior student in the Athletic Training Program at the University of Utah. She is currently working with the football program but has also worked with the University’s softball team and at a local high school. She was born in Los Angeles, CA and moved to Utah for college. Her goal is to attend graduate school and receive a master’s degree in Athletic Training or related field while filling a graduate assistant position.

RECENT ATEP STUDENT: ANDREW CHERRINGTON

I am currently pursuing a Master’s degree at Auburn in their Warrior Athletic Training program and working as a graduate assistant for a high school team until the school year finishes. I will then move back to working at Ft. Benning with the basic training recruits. I will graduate with a MEd at the end of July, next year. I hope to eventually work in a collegiate or high school setting where I can also be involved with sports medicine education. I accomplished a great deal at the University of Utah including being awarded the ESS outstanding undergrad AT student, NASPE Major of the year, American Kinesiology Association Undergraduate Scholar award, I served as the Athletic Training Student Association secretary/treasurer, and I completed research with Dr. Hicks-Little and earned the Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation. The greatest reward however was being awarded the Undergraduate Scholar award, I served as the Athletic Training Student Association secretary/treasurer, and I completed research with Dr. Hicks-Little and earned the Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation. The greatest reward however was being awarded the Undergraduate Scholar award, I served as the Athletic Training Student Association secretary/treasurer, and I completed research with Dr. Hicks-Little and earned the Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation.
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