

IMG ACADEMY INVESTS IN BEST-IN-CLASS SPORTS LAUNDRY SYSTEM TO SUPPORT STUDENT ATHLETES



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IMG Academy, in Bradenton, Fla., is a college preparatory school where rigorous academics combine with elite athletic training and development. While less than 2 percent of high school athletes go on to compete at the Division I level in college – at IMG Academy – more than 60 percent do.

IMG Academy's 500-acre campus not only touts world-class athletic facilities – where student-athletes train and compete – it also boasts a Sports Laundry System™ that's proven in clinical studies to kill 99.9 percent of bacteria and viruses, including staph and antibiotic-resistant MRSA, in the wash.

Equipment Manager Cortez Robinson worked closely with LaundryPro of Florida, Inc., in Lakeland, to select the right laundry solution.

Infection Prevention

The System isn't just used to clean athletic laundry, it's relied on to help prevent the spread of infection among student-athletes. It works by cleaning and disinfecting everything from loops, shorts, pants and sweats, to uniforms, towels, helmets and shoulder pads, according to Robinson. "Because it doesn't just clean, but truly

disinfects dirty laundry in the wash, the system helps prevent the spread of infection to student-athletes from contaminated laundry," said Robinson.

Superbugs like MRSA tend to spread easily in close-knit environments, including locker rooms, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC's "Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013" warns the public of a number of hard-to-treat pathogens, including MRSA. Staph bacteria, including MRSA, are among the most common causes of healthcare-associated infections, according to the CDC. Such infections can also harass athletic locker rooms, where athletes come into frequent contact with each other, as well as with contaminated laundry and surfaces. Once infected, athletes can't participate in practices or games until the infection is resolved.

The System— Washers/Ozone/Dryers

IMG's Sports Laundry System, which is located in its new Fieldhouse, teams two 55-pound capacity washer-extractors with a 90-pound capacity washer-extractor, ozone injection, two 75-pound capacity dryers and one 125-pound capacity dryer. "I really like the system because of the state-of-the-art ozone disinfection, programmability to clean a variety of items, and productivity," said Robinson. The process couldn't be simpler. He loads, selects a program number and presses start.

Programmable to Clean & Disinfect a Variety of Items

The Sports Laundry System washers are programmed by item type to properly combine ozone, chemicals, rotation action, water temperatures and levels,



2500 State Road 44 • Oshkosh, WI 54904
920-231-8550 • Fax 920-231-4666
800-256-1073 • www.sportslaundrysystems.com



IMG Academy's new Sports Laundry System cleans and disinfects athletic laundry, helmets and shoulder pads!

number of baths, and extract speeds for superior results. Once a load is started, ozone is introduced into the washer sump. The ozone works to break up organic matter, clean and disinfect.

At IMG, Robinson relies on 13 programs for cleaning helmets and shoulder pads, football and lacrosse uniforms, rags, white and colored baseball uniforms, practice uniforms, towels, loops, and coach's laundry, among others.

Disinfection of Helmets & Pads

The System's ability to wash and disinfect football helmets and pads is big perk, according to Robinson. "Washing helmets and shoulder pads is one part of the reconditioning process that I can do in-house," he said. "I put the helmets in

the washers programmed for a quarter-turn rotation. The washers combine the ozone and detergent to disinfect the helmets. Once washed, the helmets are air-dried."

Quick Wash/Dry Saves Time

Robinson, who served as an equipment manager on another campus with hard-mount washers, attests the Sports Laundry System saves him considerable time. Its high-speed soft-mount washers generate extract speeds of up to 354 G-force—considerably higher than typical hard-mount washers. In doing so, they remove more moisture from laundry, which cuts dry time and bolsters laundry productivity.

"Items removed from the washer are

nearly dry," said Robinson. Laundry, which took 45 minutes to dry where he used to work, now takes just 20 minutes. "Our system at IMG really speeds up the process," he said.

Less Time Doing Laundry

That's a good thing. It means Robinson can dedicate more time to his other responsibilities, including managing inventory, ordering uniforms, budgeting, and traveling with the football and baseball teams.

To find out more about IMG Academy, visit www.imgacademy.com. To discover more about Sports Laundry Systems, visit www.sportslaundrysystems.com or call 920-231-8550.



Equipment manager Cortez Robinson



IMG Academy boasts world-class facilities, including this fieldhouse locker room.