

My objective...

It is my opinion that the Fort Wayne community does not understand the magnitude of what Spiece Fieldhouse brings to our city. While I am an insider of the facility, I am only invested in Spiece Fitness, and do not hold any interest in the building or Gym Rats basketball. I simply take this opportunity to educate you and others in the community, so that one day we may give Spiece Fieldhouse the recognition it deserves and ensure this fabulous asset remains in our city.



What Most People Don't Know about Spiece Fieldhouse...

Over half a million people come to the Gym Rats camps and tournaments in Fort Wayne annually.

Third party economic studies have reported Gym Rats, Inc to bring in over \$10 million per year to Fort Wayne.

The FWCVB has been a supportive ally to Gym Rats, but no other support has been give to Gym Rats by the City of Fort Wayne. The only requests made were sidewalks and interstate signage to better accommodate the out of town traffic.

Tom Spiece does not own Gym Rats, Inc. He owns the building (Spiece Fieldhouse), and is the Landlord. Tom lives in Wabash, IN and continues his retail business with one store and via www.denimexpress.com.

Gym Rats' lease is up in 2010. The owner, Todd Hensley, has opportunities with various partners to move their business to Indianapolis, and is considering these options. **Such consideration poses a legitimate threat to the \$10 million per year brought to our city.**

Spiece Fitness is also a tenant within Spiece Fieldhouse, and is dependent upon the duality of Gym Rats within the building.

Spiece Fitness was owned by a company out of CA, and was in jeopardy of closing in 2007. **Tom Spiece considered closing the doors, but instead, made up the necessary financial shortfalls to maintain the continuity of the project, because he cares about the city and the people who are positively affected by the programs at Spiece Fieldhouse.**

When the assets of Spiece Fitness were purchased by Tom Spiece and Anne Davis in May 2007, there were over \$200,000 in payables due to local vendors. Though no liabilities were included in the purchase, and legally did not have to be paid, Tom Spiece made sure these vendors were paid through the operations of the new business.

Spiece Fieldhouse contains more game-worn jerseys than the Sports Museum of America in New York.

More people pass through the doors of Spiece Fieldhouse annually than the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, the National Basketball Hall of Fame and the NCAA Hall of fame combined.

Spiece houses over 200 Hollywood autographed collectibles, 27 marble statues and portraitures, 13 pieces of antique furniture, 24 pieces of modern art, and over 300 framed authentic or autographed jerseys and sports collectibles, all in its museum like setting.

Many well-known athletes, coaches and celebrities have played at, partnered with or visited Spiece including: Michael Jordan, Bob Knight, Mohammed Ali, Greg Oden, Cazzie Russell, Keith Smart, Rik Smits, OJ Mayo, Mike Conley, Quinn Buckner, Steve Alford, Zach Randolph, Billionaire Marvin Herb, Kenny Trout, Matt Nover, Damon Bailey, Eric Gordon, Chris Benoit, Jimmy Walker, Kenny Chesney, Toby Keith, Cirque de Soleil, Billy Gillespie, Mike Davis, Rick Pitino, Thad Matta, Gene Keady, Tom Crean, Kelvin Sampson, and Bill Cower to name a few.

... Fort Wayne is a better place because of Spiece!

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The History of Spiece Fieldhouse...

(uncensored)

- 1999: Tom Spiece had vision of opening one of his retail stores (jeans, shoes, sporting goods) in a building that would house Gym Rats Basketball and a health club. Tom purchased the old Super Value Warehouse and began construction on Spiece Fieldhouse.
- April 2000: Gym Rats, Inc moved into Spiece Fieldhouse and offered its 1st basketball tournament, with the building still under construction. Owned by the late Bill Hensley & Gerald Hirschy, Gym Rats had been operating its camps and tournaments at various gyms in other cities* since 1993.
- January 2001: Spiece Fitness, LLC was opened by owners Aaron Shively and Anne Davis. Facility was 20,000 Sq Ft and occupied the north end of the building (where PT, Spa, and Admin are now).
- October 2002: Tom closed Spiece Retail to allow for Spiece Fitness expansion, which was in negotiation with Continuum Clubs Inc. out of Napa California. Tom changed his retail focus to internet sales (denimexpress.com) and his local store in Wabash, IN.
- May 1, 2003: Spiece Fitness LLC was officially sold to Continuum Clubs who was preparing to open the new medically based fitness facility.
- June 2003: Phase I: The newly renovated Spiece Lifestyle Medical Center opened on June 2nd, now offering pools, a deli/juice bar, family memberships, youth programs, and expanded locker rooms, services and amenities.
- March 2004: Phase II: Spiece Day Spa opened offering massage, skin care, nail care, body treatments.
- October 2004: Phase III: The Medical Center opened with mission to house physician tenants & nurse practitioner in a turn-key operation for satellite medical offices. Focus would eventually change to Physical Therapy and health-related tenants.
- 2004-2006 Continuum Clubs was not successful in financing Spiece LMC within the original business plan, and was not willing to change its direction in order to be financially viable.
- January 2007: Tower Bank acquired the assets of Spiece Fitness.
- May 2007: Tower Bank sold the assets of Spiece Fitness LLC to Ace Performance Team LLC, owned by Tom Spiece and Anne Davis, which continues operating Spiece Fitness and Spiece Day Spa. Essentially, Tom Spiece made financial sacrifices to ensure that the facility remained intact.
- Current Structure: Tom Spiece owns the building (landlord)... Gym Rats, Inc, now owned by Todd Hensley, is an independent business (tenant)... Ace Performance Team (d/b/a Spiece Fitness & Spiece Day Spa) is an independent business (tenant)... The other tenants within the building either lease directly from Tom Spiece or sublet from Ace Performance Team... Tom houses much of his sports memorabilia, Hollywood collectibles, antique furniture and modern art throughout the Fieldhouse to create a museum like environment for his tenants and their guests.

The details above are my unofficial recollection as an integral part of the facility since 2000, and are not an official documentation of facts or events. Anne Davis, 12/1/08.