Athletics

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Gainesville (GA) High School Football

Football Program Suits up for Success with Top-Tier Athletic Storage System

Gainesville High School, in Gainesville, GA, prides itself on providing a collegiate-like athletic experience. "We want the best of the best," said Football Coach Josh Niblett. Making that possible requires having the right people in the right place to build relationships from top to bottom. Having the best facilities helps too. So, when the school was building a new facility, the athletics department turned to Patterson Pope to customize sports equipment storage.

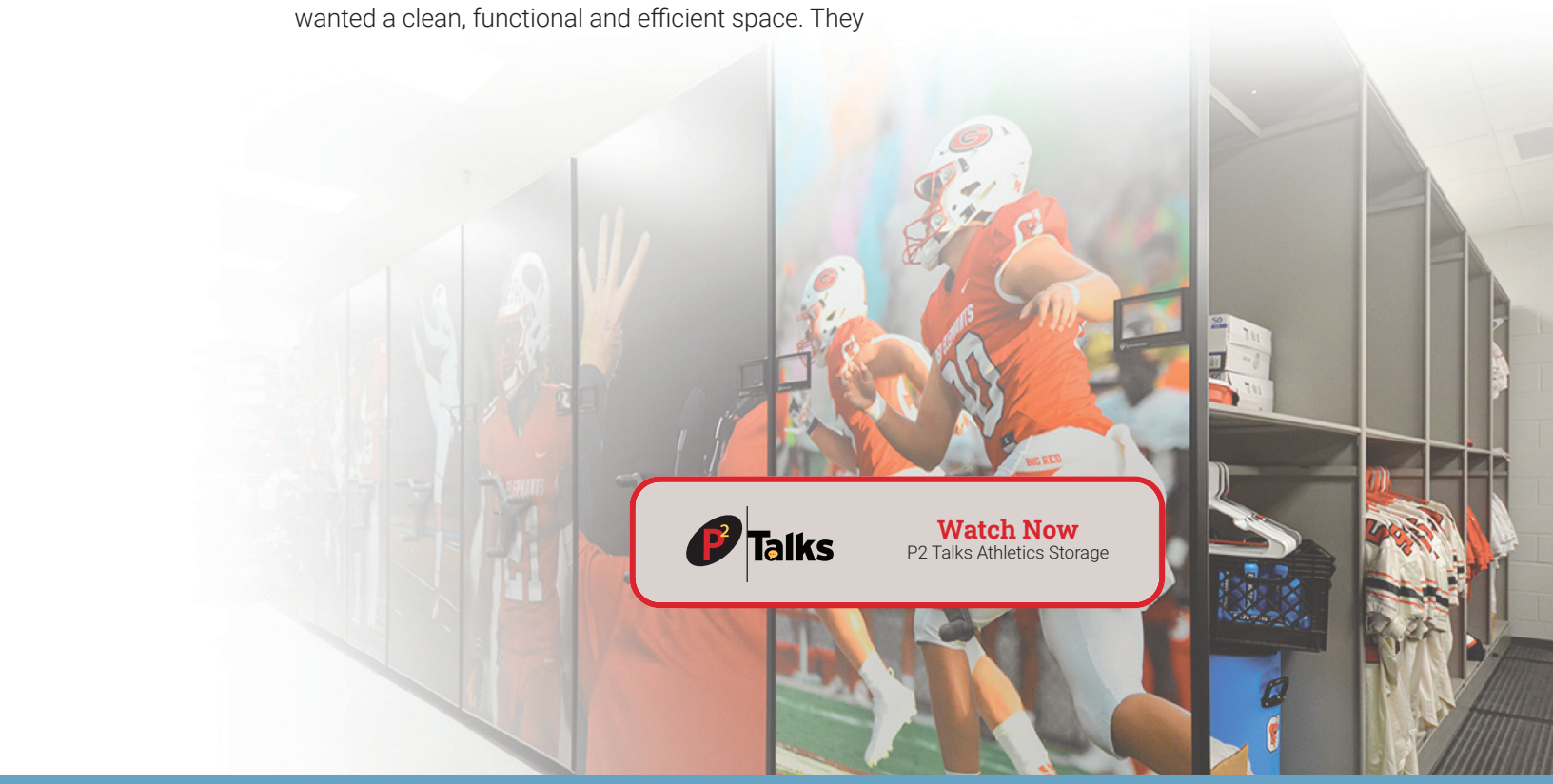
THE PROBLEM

For the past couple of years, Gainesville's football players were collecting their practice and game night gear from portable units. Uniforms were kept in plastic bags.

Coaches were building their own shelving to get equipment up off the ground. Mobility and efficiency suffered. Plus, mold, dry rot and water damage were ongoing problems which required reordering costly gear more often.

When the school invested in a new building with room for athletics, the football coaches knew that they wanted a clean, functional and efficient space. They wanted to go bigger and better knowing from the start they were positioned for future program growth.

"As a high school football coach, one of your top priorities is equipment," Coach Josh Niblett said. *"That is the most expensive thing that you've got in your facility. How we take care if it is going to affect how long it is going to last us."*



"This room houses everything that allows you to be successful in a practice or on a Friday night. This is where the uniforms are. This is where you represent yourself, your community."

Gainesville High School Football Coach Josh Niblett

THE SOLUTION

Gainesville's coaching staff knew they wanted something better, but they weren't sure of exactly what they needed. *"Our facility is elite,"* Niblett said. So, there was no reason not to make the equipment storage room elite too. *"With the amount of investment in other areas, we wanted to bring that same level of care into storage."*

The Red Elephants looked to mimic college football and NFL program storage systems. Working with Patterson Pope's storage experts, the high school gained a mobile shelving storage system built to fit perfectly in the space. The building also holds additional stand alone units for other athletic programs within the school.

Now, Red Elephant student-athletes have a setup unrivaled in high school sports. The weight rooms, locker rooms, meeting rooms as well as the indoor practice facility are all points of highlight and pride. That's along with the equipment room.

"This room houses everything that allows you to be successful in a practice or on a Friday night. This is where the uniforms are. This is where you represent yourself, your community," Niblett said. *"We are proud of it. We think it's impressive."* Anyone who walks through the door says *"Wow."*

With compact shelving on tracks, the coaches can enjoy access to one or two open aisles and still have space to work, Niblett said. Plus, there's the convenience of special racking to ventilate pads and drawer cabinets for athletic trainer equipment.

Adding graphics of team players and coaches in action to the outside of the storage system also helps get the kids excited. All in all, the equipment storage room is an *"incredible addition to our building."*







"This system is unbelievable. The amount of stuff that we can get in this square footage is crazy. If you're building a facility or you're looking to redo your equipment room, this is the way to go."

Gainesville High School Football Coach Josh Niblett

THE OUTCOME

Gainesville plans to grow its athletics program. With the addition of more student athletes comes equipment growth and greater space needs. Yet the school now has no doubts it can manage that future expansion. *"This system is unbelievable,"* Niblett said. *"The amount of stuff that we can get in this square footage is crazy."*

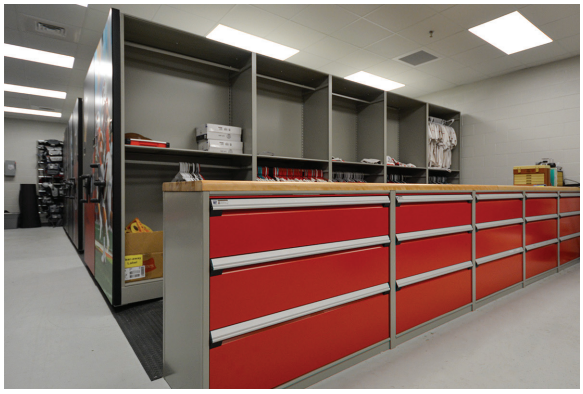
The facility *"is second to none in the state,"* Gainesville athletics director Adam Lindsey told The Gainesville Times. *"I've been in all the good ones, and there are really good ones out there. There's not one that touches what we have, and that's what we wanted to do."*

All the school's sports teams have benefited. For football in particular, coaches enjoy knowing everything is where they want it to be and where they can keep up with it, according to Niblett.

The upfront cost of the system is easily repaid in return on investment for Gainesville. With the new system offering improved climate control and accessibility, the equipment lasts longer. So, instead of having to order new gear every two to three years, they can just fill in where needed. When they do order, they're able to do so earlier and avoid added costs there, knowing that the versatile storage system has room to hold more.

Having coached for 25 years, Niblett is enthusiastic about the value of making the switch to this kind of athletic equipment storage. He said, *"If you're building a facility or you're looking to redo your equipment room, this is the way to go."*





ABOUT THE CLIENT

With 20 varsity and sub-varsity level sports, Gainesville High School has 80 combined individual and team state championships in 11 different sports, hundreds of region titles, podium placements, winning seasons, and individual awards and honors. Its newest facility, a $20-million, three-level Student Activities Center, opened in August 2022 with a gymnasium, running track, meeting spaces, offices, classrooms, a cafeteria and state-of-the-art equipment room.

