Date: Monday, September 21, 2015

To: NYU Alumni Members of the Coles Sports Center

From: NYU Exec. Vice President for Operations Alison Leary and Christopher Bledsoe, Asst. VP for Student Affairs and Director of Athletics

Re: Meeting Fitness and Athletic Needs During the Building of the New NYU Gym

Plans and preparations are moving forward for building a new, modern NYU athletic facility -- part of an important new building to be built on the site of Coles that will also provide new classroom space, specialized space for performing arts education and practice, student housing, and faculty housing.

The construction of a new principal athletic facility where the current one now stands will mean some disruption and inconveniences. Our goal is to minimize that. We are determined to sustain our student athletes’ ability to compete and to provide opportunities for other members of the community to exercise and have fun.

In that vein, we want to update our alumni/ae members of Coles on how the University will address fitness and athletic needs while it is under development.

Coles to Stay Open through at Least the End of the Fall Semester

Coles will remain in operation through at least the end of the fall semester. We will not close it until adequate interim replacement facilities (see below) are available. We will be able to provide a more detailed timetable later this fall.

Those wishing to purchase or renew Athletics memberships for the fall semester will only be charged through November 15 (as we indicated in prior communications), even though Coles remains in operation through the end of the fall semester. Users will not be subject to additional fees until the replacement facilities are up and running and a new pricing system as outlined below goes into effect. Please visit the information desk at Coles or Palladium, or submit inquiries here.

Replacement Fitness and Recreation Facilities

While the new gym is being built, fitness users will have access to three NYU-owned and operated facilities:

- A large, newly-renovated fitness facility at 404 Lafayette Street (currently under renovation)
- The Palladium Athletic Facility, and
- The Brooklyn Athletic Facility.

The fitness center on Lafayette Street, which previously housed a Crunch gym, will include a full array of strength training and cardio equipment, as well as studios for various recreation classes. Locker room and shower facilities will be available at all three locations. To view a rendering of the fitness center at 404 Lafayette Street, click here.
Membership Discounts and Non-NYU Facilities

The remaining pool (at Palladium) and basketball courts (at Palladium and in Brooklyn) will be made available to users as often as possible. Of course, while the new gym is being constructed, those courts and the Palladium pool will be less readily available; in addition, we will not be able to provide interim spaces on campus for tennis, racquetball, and squash courts, or a running track during the development of the new athletic center.

We know this will be a hardship for alums who use those facilities, so NYU will reduce the membership rate for its three facilities by 20% from the current price. All memberships effective following the closure of Coles will be prorated or renewed at the lower rate until the new athletic center opens.

For full information about memberships and rates, click here. In addition, please follow the links for lists of a list of nearby facilities with pools, tennis, racquetball, and squash courts.

FYI: Interim Arrangements for NYU Athletic Teams

To mitigate any interruption for NYU athletic teams, the University has entered into long-term agreements with CUNY-Hunter College, Pace University-Downtown, and other local colleges, for the use of their facilities for basketball and volleyball practices and competitions.

Palladium will be used to meet the various health, equipment, and training needs of NYU’s varsity teams when Coles closes. Existing auxiliary gymnasiums located within Palladium will also be reconfigured to accommodate wrestling and fencing, as well as some recreational classes.

CONCLUSION

We are grateful for the efforts of the Athletics Department’s Advisory Committee, comprised of faculty, students, staff, and alumni, for helping to shape this plan to accommodate the many users of NYU’s athletic facilities in as responsive a fashion as we can.

In the coming months, as we construct the new gym, we are determined to sustain our student athletes’ ability to compete and to provide opportunities for other members of the community to exercise and have fun. Although there may be some inconveniences in the interim and some facilities will not return in the same form (such as an outdoor running track and tennis courts), ultimately we will have a modern, air conditioned, state-of-the-art sports center that will serve the NYU community far better, one that will be part of a wonderful new facility that will serve important academic needs.

Please feel free to click here to contact the Athletics Department with any questions regarding the plans for fitness and athletics, and visit the Coles Redevelopment website for more information about the project.