KARGES 12/14/2016 Z.DWYER

 After 56 years of continuous operation, Karges Center will host its final basketball game on the UW-River Falls campus later this season. Zach Dwyer has the story.

MP3 RUNS 0:43 Q: STANDARD

ZACH DWYER: KARGES CENTER WILL HOST ITS FINAL SEASON OF FALCON ATHLETICS AS THE VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL TEAMS MOVE TO THE NEWLY BUILT FALCON CENTER NEXT SEASON. VOLLEYBALL COACH PATTI FORD RECALLS HER FEELINGS AFTER COACHING HER LAST MATCH IN KARGES EARLIER THIS YEAR.

PATTI FORD: IT BECAME KIND OF NOSTALGIC BECAUSE IT’S BEEN A BUILDING THAT’S BEEN REALLY FUN TO HAVE AN ATMOSPHERE IN, SO IT REALLY HAS GIVEN A HOME COURT ADVANTAGE.

ZACH DWYER: THE TIGHT AND INTIMATE FEEL OF KARGES WILL BE REPLACED WITH THE NEWLY BUILT DON PAGE ARENA. THE ABILITY TO HOST TOURNAMENTS AND THE ADDED FACILITIES MAKE INTERIM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CRYSTAL LANNING SAY SHE BELIEVES PEOPLE WON’T STAY TOO NOSTALGIC.

CRYSTAL LANNING: I DON’T THINK ANYONE’S REALLY GONNA MISS THE OLD KARGES ARENA.

ZACH DWYER: WHILE PAGE ARENA WILL BE AN UPGRADE, KARGES CENTER WILL ALWAYS BE A KEY PART OF THE HISTORY OF UW-RIVER FALLS ATHLETICS. FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, THIS IS ZACH DWYER.

 The Falcon Center officially opens on January 23 and the construction will be complete by fall of 2017. The final phase of the project will include tearing down Karges sometime in 2018.

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