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Senior Ed Cotton is ready to wreak havoc on the defensive line.

Field House Improvements Unveiled to the Team

On May 21, the team moved back into the Field House to begin their next phase of preparation for the 2006 season, but it was not the same place they left in November.

Head Coach Keith Grabowski acknowledged the outstanding facility that we have. "We knew we had a special facility, but we also felt we could make it even better. The changes we incorporated were designed to highlight everything we believe is important in our program. The ideas we incorporated were built around the themes of excellence, pride, tradition, and focus," said Grabowski.

The design of the changes began with Coach Grabowski's research of the designs of some of the top collegiate and pro facilities. "We wanted our locker room to have a visual impact and communicate to any player who walks through our doors that he is part of something bigger. Not only is he part of the team now, but he is connected to the past and the future," noted Grabowski.

The coaching staff, especially Coach Lima and his father worked hard to bring these changes about.

The "Excellence" wall of the Field House now displays the names of All-SWC, All-Lorain, and All-Ohio players. The wall also displays the names of team scholars who graduated with a 3.5 GPA or higher.

The "Tradition" wall is highlighted by the new Alumni Locker. This locker has the inscription "1 Our Alumni" on the name plate. Inside the locker are memorabilia donated by former players. Along the top of the wall is a shelf displaying the helmets of the past from 1963 until the present. On the wall are pictures with captions explaining the traditions that we have created and adopted in our program over the years.

The "Focus" wall displays the team's goal



charts. The team uses the charts as a visual measuring stick for their work each week.

The "Pride" area of the locker room is the short hallway leading out into the stadium. Plans are in place to install a trophy case. Also in the area will be pictures of Championship and Play-off teams, and college pictures of Comets who went on to complete four years of college football.

The improvements in the locker room also involve an update in coaching technology. The days of the chalk board are gone. Each row of lockers now has a 32" LCD Flat Panel TV mounted on the wall with a DVD. Each of these areas will be used for position meetings and film evaluations. Coaches will be using game film cut-ups on DVD and Power Point to teach technique, plays, and assignments.

"Last season the coaches distributed our playbook on a CD. Learning the plays became like playing a video game," said Grabowski. The coaches expanded on their use of technology in the off season, and will put that to use in their coaching in 2006.

The investment in the football program is now protected by a security system.

Coaches and players are excited about the new and improved Field House. The walls are now rich with tradition and history of the program. The 2006 team looks forward to be able to leave their mark also.