



FEATURE RELEASE

AquaClimb Challenges Penn State Swimmers

Easy-To-Manage Poolside Climbing Wall Boosts Fitness to University Community

University Park, PA June 5, 2006. Pennsylvania State University (PSU) Intercollegiate Athletics and Pyramide USA, Inc., a leading manufacturer of climbing walls, announced today the full operation of the AquaClimb poolside climbing wall at the McCoy Natatorium Aquatics Center.

A diverse group of PSU swimmers and divers have climbed the wall. "Young and old alike appreciate and use the wall as well as highly trained athletes and the disabled" said Dr. Thomas Griffiths, aquatics director at Pennsylvania State University. "We have found the wall to be very safe and easy to manage."

The AquaClimb is an innovative modular wall system based on one meter by one meter, non-slip fiberglass panels and with moveable, resin-based handholds. The PSU McCoy Natatorium pool installed an AquaClimb that is three meters high by three meters wide between its two three-meter diving boards. The climbing wall extends into the pool to ease ascent by swimmers and sits at an angle over the water to ensure climbers safely fall back into the water from any height. The AquaClimb is installed in the deep end of the pool and all climbers must be swimmers to use the wall.

The AquaClimb provides a safe and healthy water fitness activity for college and university pools and recreation centers. "Competitive swimmers and divers are using the AquaClimb as a cross training activity to develop upper body and core strength," said Russell Moy, CEO Pyramide, Inc. "Recreational swimmers are having fun getting fit, learning to climb with a sense of security of the water to splash down into below."

The AquaClimb stainless steel frame extends 36 inches deep and easily mounts to any pool deck. "I was amazed how little space the AquaClimb takes", said Jolene Knowlton of Mount St. Mary's University on visiting the PSU pool. "It takes up less room than our starting blocks."

"The entire AquaClimb structure was installed and ready to use in two hours. Less than a dozen small holes in our pool deck did the trick and there was no mess," added Griffiths. "We are hoping to install an AquaClimb under our 5-meter tower in our outdoor pool next."

The PSU McCoy Natatorium Aquatics Center is located at the corner of Bigler and Curtin Roads.



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About PSU Intercollegiate Athletics and Aquatics

Pennsylvania State University Intercollegiate Athletics administers the Aquatics facilities as part of the Penn State Strength and Fitness programs. Penn State's aquatics facilities in State College, PA include McCoy Natatorium, which includes: a three-by-three meter poolside climbing wall; a six-lane 25-meter instructional pool; a six-lane 25-yard competition pool; a 14-foot diving well featuring two with 1-meter and one 3-meter springboards; and an outdoor 50-meter pool with four diving boards, and 5-, 7-, and 10-meter diving platforms. For more information, visit <http://www.psu.edu/dept/nat/Facilities.htm>

About Pyramide USA, Inc.

Headquartered in Leesburg, VA, AquaClimb® is manufactured by Pyramide USA, Inc. AquaClimb poolside climbing walls provide a fun, flexible and safe water fitness activity for kids of all ages. AquaClimb helps children develop core strength through a unique combination of climbing and swimming. Introduced in 2005, the AquaClimb modular wall system is suitable for homes, schools, recreation centers, swim clubs, water parks, resorts, camps, lakes and aqua therapy pool facilities. For pool contractors and designers, AquaClimb offers an opportunity to provide a product that is very much in demand. For more information, visit www.aquaclimb.com.

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