

April 2021

Hi Everyone.

This is Beda Dondi with your April 2021 update of the Aquatic Center rebuild.

I wanted to start this month's blog with a little motivational/historic poster I came upon at the Hall of Fame Museum (temporarily closed). While in the museum it just struck me how many great athletes have come through the Hall of Fame and once completed, will come to the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center.



Besides this cool poster from 1932, I took so many pictures of the pool's construction progress. My impression was OMG!!! So much has happened.

I will start with the tease of a concrete feature that was still in the forming and steel phase last month.



Well, that morphed into.....





Looks like this from underneath.



..... and looks like this looking East. What a great view to watch people jump, dive, and flip off of the diving platform, which leads us to these progress pictures. I will explain the purpose of the sunken roof in a later installment but it is an interesting design feature.

You obviously can see the very large yellow crane in the previous two pictures. Well, they are putting together some very massive precast components of the diving tower.







By the way, there is no elevator to the top of the 27-meter platform. The divers will have plenty of time to think while climbing those many treads to the top.

I wanted to revisit the gutters in both the competition vs the training pool.

The competition side gutters look like this...they drain over the rim of the perimeter, downward. Very fast pool as a result!!!!



The training pool gutters look like this.....



These perimeter fully recessed gutters are used in serious competition facilities requiring a fully vertical gutter face to capture big waves of water. Both versions equally impressive, nice and new.

An aspect of the complex that gets little attention but very important is the filtration and chillers/heaters.

Each pool has two 30 horse power pumps. There are 20 geothermal heating/cooling units to maintain the pool water temperature levels for the Training Pool, Competition Pool and Dive Well.





Those of you that have worked at a large pool facility will appreciate this picture in that the filters no longer use diatomaceous earth as a filter medium.



The pool will have regenerative media filters (RMF), the best in the industry. RMFs trap particles on the surface of flexible tubes coated with perlite media. When the perlite becomes loaded, RMFs regenerate by bumping, a process in which no water is lost. In addition to providing superior 1 micron particulate removal, RMFs significantly reduce the amount of water sent down the drain.

In closing I wanted to respond to the biggest question asked of me all the time. “When can we come back to the pool?” Well there is no hard and fast answer, just rumor that, if all goes well then maybe in August, **2022**. There is still very much to do (locker room building) and many other things to happen. Let’s just hope that the contractor and City administrators have compassion for our strong desire to come back to the Aquatic Center soon.

That is it for this month

Thanks for reading and think “swimming”.

Beda