

ATHLETIC BUSINESS

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Good-Looking Uniforms at Jesuit High School

The laundry at Jesuit High School in New Orleans is geared for two goals: speed of operation and longer-lasting, better-looking varsity uniforms. With it, Jesuit can launder and finish the 110 football jerseys generated by a game in just two hours.

On-premises laundering is less expensive than sending uniforms out, and far superior to the only other option—letting students take uniforms home to wash, says Jay Keller, assistant football coach, who also supervises the laundry. Keller cites the need to replace at least 15 uniforms annually when the latter option was attempted. “Pants came back faded, and the blue color of the jerseys would fade onto white numbers and trim,” he says.

The new laundry has resulted in uniforms that look better and wear longer. The flexibility of Jesuit’s two 50-pound washer-extractors is the key, says Keller. The machines are programmed with specific formulas designed for a professional wash that is consistent from load to load. All functions of the machines are automatic, enabling the operator to simply load, select the formula and then unload. Other byproducts of the laundry are fewer losses and the ability of having clean uniforms on hand at all times.



Clean uniforms keep the dressing room smelling better as well. “Keeping unwashed uniforms for two or three days is a bad practice. Besides the deterioration of the uniforms and the smell, it can lead to rashes and infections that spread from player to player,” says Keller.

The 625-square-foot laundry is located in Jesuit’s new 45,000-square-foot physical education building. It is equipped with two Milnor 50-pound, chart-operated washer-extractors, two 100-pound Cissell dryers and folding tables. Uniforms go straight from the folding tables into the players’ two-way storage lockers, which feature loading sides located in the laundry room.

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