

## **Gill Athletics Expands Factory-- To Add Porter Athletic**

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CHAMPAIGN, IL—**For Immediate Release.** Gill Athletics, Inc. announced today that it intends to expand factory and office space in Champaign, Illinois and move Porter Athletic Equipment into the new location.

Gill Athletics, Inc. acquired Porter Athletic Equipment Company in 2006. This latest move allows both companies to realize exceptional benefits. The expansion will add over 120,000SF of factory and office space and consolidates all Gill Athletics and Porter operations into a single modern facility over 200,000SF. "The relocation of Gill and Porter into the new Champaign, IL facility allows us to improve our efficiencies through combining research & development, engineering, customer service, manufacturing, and distribution", said David Hodge, President and CEO of Gill Athletics.

The relocation will occur in stages not beginning until late First Quarter 2009 and not concluding before First Quarter 2010. "Our priority is to maintain the service and quality expectations of our customers and dealers throughout this transition, assures John Carlson, VP-Manufacturing. . We are confident in our people in both locations to execute a flawless move."

"We are very excited about bringing the two factories together, capitalizing on the synergies of our two companies," confirms Hodge. "These synergies will make us even more cost competitive and position us for future growth."

It should be noted the current 17 acre manufacturing and office campus has room to expand another 200,000SF. "We have experienced solid top line and bottom line growth since the early 1990's, notes Hodge. This move certainly puts us in a position to continue this trend."

"Our customers and dealers will benefit the most through this significant expansion, says Steve Vogelsang, VP-Sales & Marketing. The combination of these great brands in one location will allow for substantial sales and customer service center enhancements."

Gill and Porter complement each other in the athletic facility industry. Porter is the best known brand of gymnasium equipment, while Gill Athletics leads the market in outdoor athletic equipment, focusing in and around the track and athletic field. Together, the two provide the sports complex architect and contractor a single athletic equipment source for the entire project.

### **About Gill Athletics, Inc.**

Gill Athletics, founded in 1918, is the world's oldest and largest manufacturer of Track & Field equipment. Gill equipment is used all over the world including all levels of competition in America from colleges to high schools to masters' competitions. For more information about Gill Athletics, call 800-637-3090 or visit [www.gillathletics.com](http://www.gillathletics.com).

### **About Porter Athletic, Inc.**

Porter is recognized as the leader in the gymnasium equipment market. Porter basketball backstops have been used with confidence in countless competition games worldwide including NBA championships, The NBA All-Star Game, The NCAA Final Four Tournament, The Pan-Am Games, The Goodwill Games and The World Basketball Championship Games. Many top-ranked professional arenas and major universities, as well as countless local schools, park districts and YMCAs around the world have installed Porter backstops to provide only the finest equipment for the facilities.



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