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The pool was built according to plans formulated nationally by Lt.-Comdr. Francis O. McDermott, Station Athletic Officer and Administrative Assistant to the Station Executive Officer, when Mr. McDermott (then a lieutenant) was on duty in Washington, D. C., in charge of building swimming pools and other Navy athletic facilities.

The athletic area surrounding Kinnick Hall includes five regulation fields, for football or soccer, six tennis courts, a regulation hardball diamond, and two additional diamonds for hardball or softball. Outdoor reviews are held on the field west of Kinnick Hall.