

# Derby warms quickly to Sedgwick County's first smoke-free sports bar

The only smoke-free sports bar in Sedgwick County has been a hit with Derby residents in its first few weeks of operation.

**Madrocks** -- so named because it sits on the corner of Madison and Rock -- is a 4,700 square foot establishment in the new Spring Creek Center developed by **Occidental Management**. Occidental CEO Michael Monteferrante owns the bar with equal partners Chris Dennis, CFO of Occidental, Randy Brillhart, COO of **Vornado** and Charlie Wells, Madrocks' general manager.

"A lot of people are excited about it," Wells says. "One table told me they don't have to go to change clothes in their garage when they get home anymore."

Madrocks has a seating capacity of 150.

Thursday of last week saw another packed house -- not surprising, considering the **University of Kansas** was playing in the Orange Bowl. Among the patrons that night were Derby mayor Dion Avello and at least two city councilmen.

Derby does not have a smoking ban. Avello says the city plans to follow Wichita's lead on the issue.

"We felt Derby had a need, we feel it has a loyal following, and it is a great community," Monteferrante says.

According to the Web site **tobaccofreewichita.org**, there are just four smoke-free bars in Wichita: **Oeno Wine Bar**, **Hotel at Old Town Bar**, **Courtyard by Marriott** at Old Town Bar and **Black Angus Grill**. None are sports bars.

"This is my third time here and I love it, because I don't like to be in a smoky environment," says RelianzBank vice president and Derby native Shannon Lathrop. "I brought my kids (ages 12 and 9) the other night and they enjoyed it too."

For smokers, it has an outside patio area with two fire pits that have 300,000 BTUs apiece. That's good enough for Doug Brehm, a self-described occasional smoker who drove from Wichita to check out Madrocks.

"Not a problem at all, not with the fire pits outside, which makes (the patio area) really nice," Brehm says.

## ***Madrocks Sports Bar***

Address: 1821 E. Madison Ave., Ste. 100., Derby, Kan., 67037.

Phone: (316) 425-7632.

Web site: **[www.madrocksbar.com](http://www.madrocksbar.com)**