The Campaign for Sooner Sports

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

While Oklahoma Memorial Stadium dominates the athletic skyline at the University of Oklahoma, it does not stand alone as a venue for championship-quality intercollegiate sports.

Year after year Sooner fans trek to Lloyd Noble Center, L. Dale Mitchell Baseball Park, the Field House, John Jacobs Track & Field, and recently the new Softball Complex and Soccer Complex.

Dedicated student athletes live in the Sooner Housing Center, eat in Jefferson Dining Room, study in the Prentice Gautt Academic Center, work out in the Siegfried Strength and Conditioning Complex. They train in the Sam Viersen Gymnastics Center, the Port Robertson Wrestling Center, the Mosier Indoor Track and the Charlie Coe Golf Center, and compete on the Jimmie Austin University Golf Course and the University Tennis Courts.

Each of these facilities, which bear directly on the lives of approximately 500 OU athletes as they participate in 20 men’s and women’s sports and in the classroom, is involved in the $115 million “Great Expectations—Campaign for Sooner Sports,” approximately $63 million of which already is committed. Some projects have been completed since the campaign’s inception in 1995 or currently are under construction; others are in the architects’ hands, still others in the early planning stages. Athletic department officials hope to have all the new and/or improved facilities ready for the 2003-04 season.
Lloyd Noble Center expansion/renovation now under way is slated for late fall 2001 completion, adding 63,000 square feet to provide mirror-image facilities for the men’s and women’s basketball teams—two full-size practice courts, locker rooms, lounge areas, team film rooms, a conference room, and office facilities. A 4,500-square-foot rooftop banquet facility and two outdoor terraces will be constructed above the new coaches’ offices. Interior arena upgrades include seating reconfiguration with retractable seats coming down to court level, pushing basketball capacity above 12,000; roof repair and ceiling replacement; heat/air/lighting improvements; handrails; lower concourse rest rooms and concession areas; and an enhanced south entrance through a Legends’ Lobby.

Lester Wilkonson Football Locker Room expansion will allow the entire team to come together for pre-game and halftime meetings.

Soccer Complex opened for the fall 2000 season on the corner of Chautauqua and Imhoff, west of Lloyd Noble Center. The fully lighted, bermed field could add permanent seating and a press box at a later date.

Indoor Training Center will accommodate football practice in inclement weather and in the off-season, as well as practice and competition areas for other sports, sometimes in conjunction with the adjacent Mosier Indoor Track Facility.

Mosier Indoor Track Facility and John Jacobs Track and Field will be upgraded with the addition of rest rooms, locker rooms, and renovated bleachers.

Softball Complex locker rooms for the defending national champion OU women’s softball team will be constructed for the 2002 season.

Tennis Complex, consisting of 12 outdoor courts with lighting, fencing, spectator seating, and parking, will be located near the Soccer Complex in the Lloyd Noble Center area.

Prentice Gautt Academic Center and Administrative Offices will be renovated and expanded and a new north end zone entryway added.

Field House renovation will address structural concerns as well as heat and cooling, ADA and life safety needs of this venerable OU landmark. Attention will be paid to seating areas, lighting, sound system, rest rooms, and concessions.

Sooner Housing Center and Jefferson Dining Facility, where the student athletes spend a large part of their time, will receive needed updating and upgrading.

L. Dale Mitchell Baseball Park is scheduled for improvement to the press box, along with ADA code compliance and expanded uses for the facility.

Sam Viersen Gymnastics Center, born of pride in nationally ranked men and women gymnasts of the past, is in need of renovation and upgrading to meet the needs of the current #1 men’s team and top 20 women’s team.