
March/April 2010

2010

3-2010

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Recommended Citation

Liberty University, "Under Construction" (2010). *March/April 2010*. 22.
https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lj_2010_mar/22

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

April 12, 2010

If you drive by Williams Stadium this spring you will notice that a prominent part of the football team's home is missing — the two-story press and announcers box that once housed food vendors, media members and public restrooms. A closer look would reveal that several sections of bleachers, all the field's light poles and large portions of the paved blacktop have also been removed.

To the elation of everyone on campus, the missing stadium features will soon be replaced with an estimated \$22 million in renovations that will bring the stadium's seating capacity from 12,000 to 30,000.



Although the stadium renovations are scheduled to take place in three phases over the next five years, the first phase is on target to be completed by Liberty's 2010 season opener on Sept. 4, despite weather conditions that dumped several feet of snow, sleet and rain on Lynchburg this winter.

The Roanoke, Va. based construction company Branch & Associates Inc. has already made progress on the foundation for the new Jeffersonian-style press box and 6,600 new seats that will be installed on the west side of the facility.

Since Jan. 4, the foundation's for about 400 piers (holes extending nine to 19 feet) have been dug in the ground where the press box and bleachers will be built. These piers are filled with crushed stone in order to provide adequate support for the future structures. The site has also been leveled and graded, and a temporary road has been constructed to provide adequate access for construction crews.

Behind the football stadium, a new soccer and track operations center is being completed next to the outdoor track. Construction crews have already excavated an area for the facility and are in the process of putting up the first walls.

When completed, this structure will be 5,000 square-feet, three stories tall and will house offices for the track team and the men's and women's soccer programs. This new facility will complete renovations that began this fall with the installation of a new, 1,000-seat grandstand dubbed Osborne Stadium in honor of alumnus Richard Osborne ('80) and wife Karin who donated the lead gift for this new facility.

For daily updates, pictures and interviews on the Williams Stadium renovations and pictures of the partially-completed track and soccer complex go to www.libertyflames.com.