

Big Cat Stadium

Working as a team toward the same goal.

The University of Minnesota, Morris and the Morris Area School District have joined together in another cooperative partnership - Big Cat Stadium, a joint-use football facility that will be used by both schools for football practice and competition. The facility is located behind the Regional Fitness Center (RFC), between the campus and Morris Area High School; a fitting site, as the RFC represents another example of a partnership between the college, the school district and the community.

“The cooperation between the college and the community has offered us one state-of-the-art football facility instead of two mediocre ones. One of the rewards of working together is that we all benefit.”

Lowell Rasmussen, UMM associate vice chancellor for physical plant and planning

From Dirt to Turf

On May 15, 2006, ground was broken to mark the beginning of the construction process. The \$2.8 million project came to fruition thanks to \$1.8 million in legislative funding and University of Minnesota capital request, along with \$1 million from a school district referendum.

A Field of Green

The field is scheduled to be used six days a week by football athletes from ninth grade to college. Due to the intensity of its use, the field is topped by a soft green carpet of turf instead of grass.

A drainage system, topped by three feet of sand, eight inches of crushed granite and, finally, one million pounds of sand and rubber pebbles are added to make the upper layer of the field's surface. The turf is made of plastic fibers; the rubber pellets from recycled tires. The pellets, along with the sand make the field a safer, more natural surface on which to play.

Fans who attend football games toward the beginning of the 2006 season will notice that athletes appear to be running through a field of wet grass, as the rubber pellets “splash” upward from the surface. The more the field is played on, the more this effect will subside.

State-of-the-Art Facility

A quality public address speaker system, Internet capability and a remote camera located inside the Physical Education building, to comply with Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) rules for taking end-zone photos, are state-of-the-art amenities that the new stadium offers. Hydraulically collapsible goal posts are the most sophisticated in the state. In addition, the height of the goal posts and width between the uprights can be hydraulically adjusted to comply with both high school and UMAC rules.

Football competition will take place at UMM under the lights for the first time since the 1960s when UMM athletes played on Miller Field, located behind the campus' Science facility.

Contractors and Subcontractors

Contractors and subcontractors have contributed long hours and incredible skills and knowledge, all with close cooperation. The comparatively short timeline from May to September has been met due to the dedication and hard work of many people with a game-ready facility as the result.

Our thanks to more than 30 contractors and subcontractors who have worked on the Big Cat Stadium construction project:

Riley Bros Construction	Morris	FieldTurf Tarkett	Pearland, Texas
Kieffer Electric	Morris	American Fence Company	Sioux Falls, S.D.
Johnshoy Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning	Starbuck	Daktronics	Brookings, S.D.
Diversified Foundations Landscapes Design & Installation	Glenwood	Solid Design Consulting	Montevideo
Alex Glass	Alexandria	Hancock Concrete	Hancock
Lawn and Driveway	Morris	Construction Supply	Fargo, N.D.
Johnson-Nelson Masonry	Ashby	Northern Waterworks	Fargo, N.D.
B.G. Amundson Concrete	Benson	Central Door & Hardware	Fargo, N.D.
Otis Elevator Company	Fargo, N.D.	Fargo Tank & Steel	Fargo, N.D.
Starting Line Floor Coatings	Bloomington	Viking Garage Door	Alexandria
Anderson Painting	Morris	Seating and Athletic Facility	Ellendale
Melberg Construction	Chokio	Aaron Carlson Woodwork	Morris
Chris Athey Construction	Donnelly	Morris Lumber and Millwork	Morris
West Central Wiring	Donnelly	Bobcat of Morris	Morris
Molin Concrete	Lino Lakes	Paul's Welding and Repair	Hanley Falls
		Wente's Floor to Ceiling	Morris
		T&E Tow-a-Biff	Morris
		Re-New Sandblasting	Morris

To learn more about Cougar Athletics at the University of Minnesota, Morris visit morris.ummcougars.org

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