

ROOM TO GROW

Versatility key to funding university projects through tight budget times

by LISA WHITE

Although funds may be tight in the construction industry, building in the university sports venue segment continues to be strong.

“In particular, there is a big trend in training and practice facilities that can be used by both men’s and women’s athletics programs,” said Christopher Lamberth, architect and vice president of Sports Business Development at Dallas-based 360 Architecture.

For example, the firm recently completed a basketball training facility at The University of Kentucky in Louisville. The school decided to add a women’s lacrosse team, which also would utilize the new venue.

University sports construction projects are totaling close to \$1 billion this year, architects report. This year’s major openings include Sacramento (Calif.) State’s Recreation, Wellness and Events Center; The University of Minnesota’s TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis; and the

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LISTED BY OPENING DATE

New baseball stadium University of South Carolina, Columbia	OPENING DATE : Feb. 2008 TENANTS : Fighting Gamecocks baseball	COST IN MILLIONS : \$17.5 FEATURES : 6,800-seat ballpark featuring 30-foot high “victory tower,” backlit after victories and visible throughout downtown Columbia.	ARCHITECT : HOK Sport
Boshamer Stadium renovation University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	OPENING DATE : Feb. 2008 TENANTS : Tarheels football	COST IN MILLIONS : \$10 FEATURES : New upper deck area will include club-level suites, coaches’ offices and media center. Lower concourse will feature 4,000 new seats and a brand new Hall of Honor.	ARCHITECT : HOK Sport
St. Louis University Arena St. Louis University	OPENING DATE : March 2008 TENANTS : Billikins basketball	COST IN MILLIONS : \$80.5 FEATURES : 13,000-seat arena includes 20 suites.	ARCHITECT : Mackey Mitchell Assoc., Sinks Combs Dethlefs
Martin Stadium renovation Washington State University, Pullman	OPENING DATE : Aug. 2008 TENANTS : Cougars football	COST IN MILLIONS : \$17 FEATURES : Renovation includes added seating capacity, improved amenities and new press boxes and luxury suites.	ARCHITECT : HOK Sport
Powhatan Sports Facility Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va.	OPENING DATE : Aug. 2008 TENANTS : Monarchs women’s field hockey, lacrosse, football	COST IN MILLIONS : \$18 FEATURES : The venue will serve as a competition and administration facility as well as a practice facility and administration building for the football program.	ARCHITECT : Clark Nexsen in association with Ellerbe Becket
New basketball facility Indiana University, Bloomington	OPENING DATE : Aug. 2008 TENANTS : Hoosiers basketball	COST IN MILLIONS : \$15 FEATURES : The new venue will serve as a basketball practice facility for the Hoosiers.	ARCHITECT : HOK Sport
Bank of Kentucky Center Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights	OPENING DATE : Sept. 2008 TENANTS : University	COST IN MILLIONS : \$60 FEATURES : 10,000 seats, operated by SMG. Funded by state appropriation and \$6 million naming rights deal. To serve the greater Cincinnati region.	ARCHITECT : 360
Arena & Convocation Center Southeastern Oklahoma State, Durant	OPENING DATE : Sept. 2008 TENANTS : University events	COST IN MILLIONS : \$8 FEATURES : The 52,600-square-foot multi-purpose facility will feature 2,800 permanent seats with a total seating capacity of 3,300. It will be utilized for athletics, graduations and concerts.	ARCHITECT : AIP
Dunkin’ Donuts Center Providence College, Providence, R.I.	OPENING DATE : Oct. 2008 TENANTS : Friars basketball and hockey	COST IN MILLIONS : \$65 FEATURES : The new center will serve multiple purposes for the college’s basketball and hockey programs.	ARCHITECT : Ellerbe Becket
Football stadium renovation Florida International University, Coral Gables	OPENING DATE : Oct. 2008 TENANTS : Panther football	COST IN MILLIONS : \$31 FEATURES : Phase one includes 1,400 club seats, 18 suites, one presidential suite, a 6,500-square-foot Panther Club, media facility and a varsity football training facility. Phase two includes a new locker room and training facility, with additional seats expandable to 45,000.	ARCHITECT : Rossetti
P.E. athletics addition and renovation Fullerton (Calif.) College	OPENING DATE : Oct. 2008 TENANTS : Fullerton College Athletics	COST IN MILLIONS : \$20 FEATURES : The relocation of the football stadium with the addition of an artificial turf field, 1,500-seat home bleachers, 500-seat visitors bleachers and an eight-lane all-weather track.	ARCHITECT : Rossetti
Savage Hall Arena renovation University of Toledo, Ohio	OPENING DATE : Oct. 2008 TENANTS : Rockets basketball	COST IN MILLIONS : \$5 FEATURES : Renovation includes training facility, ticketing office, hall of fame and pro shop.	ARCHITECT : SSOE in association with Ellerbe Becket
Williams-Brice Stadium addition University of South Carolina, Columbia	OPENING DATE : Nov. 2008 TENANTS : Gamecocks football	COST IN MILLIONS : \$1 FEATURES : The 7,000-sq.-ft. renovation project will connect directly to the football locker room and include a hydrotherapy area, doctor’s office with exam rooms, training area and rehab area.	ARCHITECT : GMK
JQH Arena Missouri State University, Springfield	OPENING DATE : Nov. 2008 TENANTS : Bears basketball	COST IN MILLIONS : \$67 FEATURES : The 12,500-seat arena will include 22 private suites, more than 100 loge seats, 55 courtside spaces, a hall of fame, a team souvenir store, a ticket office, and a 4,500-square-foot club.	ARCHITECT : Ellerbe Becket

New Auburn Arena at Alabama's Auburn University.

Still, the economic climate is having an effect on funding. According to Andrew Leeson, an associate at Rossetti, the depressed economy is placing a greater importance on fundraising ability. "We are being asked to produce collateral to sell the project and work in short bursts over a longer period of time until funds are in place for the project to move ahead. So a greater importance is for us as a firm to be able to react quickly with

dynamic materials as potential donors come forward," he said.

The influx of multi-use facilities can be attributed to the school's belt-tightening. Rossetti's most recent multi-use athletic facility is a stadium project at Florida International University in Miami. "The school made a late-stage addition to the project scope, adding locker rooms capable of accommodating an MLS soccer team," Leeson said.

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Skelly Field at H.A. Chapman Stadium renovation University of Tulsa, Okla.	OPENING DATE : Fall 2008	COST IN MILLIONS : \$25	ARCHITECT : 360
	TENANTS : Golden Hurricanes football	FEATURES : The 30,000-seat stadium will feature a new press box and facade, in addition to new seating, press box, club lounge, writing and broadcast media center, coaching rooms and lobby.	
Football complex renovation Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, Mich.	OPENING DATE : Late 2008	COST IN MILLIONS : NA	ARCHITECT : Rossetti
	TENANTS : Cardinal football, baseball and softball	FEATURES : The first phase will increase the football field capacity to 7,000 seats and create a new athletic campus entry and plaza. The second phase includes the development of a new football facility including locker rooms, rehabilitation facilities, concessions and merchandise points of sale.	
Weatherup Center Arizona State University, Tempe	OPENING DATE : April 2009	COST IN MILLIONS : \$13	ARCHITECT : HOK Sport
	TENANTS : Sun Devils basketball	FEATURES : The new venue will serve as a basketball practice facility for the ASU Sun Devils.	
Foreman Field renovation and expansion Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va.	OPENING DATE : Aug. 2009	COST IN MILLIONS : \$24.8	ARCHITECT : Clark Nexsen in association with Ellerbe Becket
	TENANTS : Monarchs football	FEATURES : The renovations and expansion will create game day facilities for football and append the campus parking inventory.	
TCF Bank Stadium University of Minnesota, Minneapolis	OPENING DATE : Aug. 2009	COST IN MILLIONS : \$248	ARCHITECT : HOK Sport
	TENANTS : Monarchs football	FEATURES : Minnesota Golden Gophers football/50,000-seat stadium designed in "horse-shoe" shape, eventually to expand to 80,000.	
Health Human Performance and Athletic Center Concordia University, Seward, Neb.	OPENING DATE : Fall 2009	COST IN MILLIONS : \$17	ARCHITECT : Sinclair Hille and Ellerbe Becket
	TENANTS : Basketball and volleyball	FEATURES : The project includes a new 2,500-seat arena for men's and women's basketball and volleyball; strength and conditioning area; athletic training center; locker facilities; Hall of Fame; Academic Center for Kinesiology; athletic department offices.	
Sacramento State Recreation, Wellness and Events Center (RWEC) Sacramento (Calif.)	OPENING DATE : 2009	COST IN MILLIONS : \$120	ARCHITECT : Ellerbe Becket, Hornberger + Worstell
	TENANTS :	FEATURES : Large fitness center, new Student Health Center, and a multi-use arena for events such as graduation ceremonies, concerts and intercollegiate basketball; paid for with non-state funds.	
Kovalchick Convention and Athletics Complex Indiana University of Pennsylvania	OPENING DATE : Spring 2010	COST IN MILLIONS : \$33	ARCHITECT : Ellerbe Becket and L. Robert Kimball
	TENANTS : University events	FEATURES : The project features a 5,000-seat arena for men's and women's basketball and volleyball; a 650-seat auditorium; the John P. Murtha Institute for Homeland Security; athletic department offices; and both conference and convention space.	
New arena Auburn (Ala.) University	OPENING DATE : Fall 2010	COST IN MILLIONS : \$92.5	ARCHITECT : 360
	TENANTS : Auburn Tigers basketball	FEATURES : Replaces the Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum. The new facility includes an attached two-court practice facility with a strength and conditioning center, men's and women's basketball lockers and lounge, a sports medicine facility, team meeting rooms and office suites.	
New arena University of Oregon, Eugene	OPENING DATE : 2010	COST IN MILLIONS : \$200	ARCHITECT : Ellerbe Becket and TVA Architects
	TENANTS : Ducks Basketball	FEATURES : State-of-the-art arena, 12,500-seat facility financed with 30-year state revenue bonds.	
Basketball Player Development Facility West Virginia University, Morgantown	OPENING DATE : TBD	COST IN MILLIONS : TBD	ARCHITECT : Ellerbe Becket
	TENANTS : Mountaineer men's baseball and women's softball	FEATURES : The new venue will serve as a headquarters and practice facility for WVU's men's baseball and women's softball programs.	
New Saluki Football Stadium Southern Illinois University, Carbondale	OPENING DATE : TBD	COST IN MILLIONS : TBD	ARCHITECT : 360
	TENANTS : Salukis football	FEATURES : The new on-campus facility features a horseshoe-shaped seating bowl, lawn seating at the open end, a press box tower with club lounge, suites, and media and coaching areas.	

SOURCE: Venues Today Research