

NEW STADIUM IS READY FOR THE MIAMI DOLPHINS

Joe Robbe, owner of the Miami Dolphins, has done what many thought was impossible, build a football-only stadium for his team with private financing. The new 73,000-seat, open-air stadium is situated on 70 acres in northern Dade County, FL, and will be used for the first time in August.

The Dolphins leave behind the 54-year-old Orange Bowl, but not the sand-based Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT) they played on there. Southern Turf Nurseries installed a new PAT field in Dolphin Stadium to match the one at the Orange Bowl at Robbe's request. Tifway bermudagrass sod has been

installed on top of a 14-inch bed of sand to help cushion the falls of tackled players. Calcined clay was mixed with the top few inches of sand to keep the field from drying out too rapidly. The PAT field has a closed moisture control system with pumps that can either add or remove water from the field. A Toro surface irrigation system was included at Dolphin Stadium.

HOK Sports Facilities Group in Kansas City designed the new stadium with 10,000 exclusive club-level seats behind the field-level seats and beneath the upper deck. Fans in these club seats will have access to specially-designed lounge spaces surrounding the entire stadium. More than 200 luxury suites on two levels also surround

the field. Although Dolphin Stadium is currently for football only, HOK made provisions for a baseball configuration.

The stadium is located on a 70-acre landscaped site with parking for thousands of cars. The grounds manager will be responsible for both the field and the surrounding grounds. Southern Turf Nurseries will maintain the stadium grounds until a grounds manager is selected.

OAKLAND MAY EXPAND SEATING TO ATTRACT NFL FRANCHISE

The Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum board of directors has engaged HOK Sports Facilities Architects to provide plans for the expansion of the stadium's seating capacity to 65,000 in order to accommodate an NFL franchise. The stadium has been a baseball-only facility since the Raiders moved to Los Angeles. Raiders owner Al Davis has recently been feuding with the Los Angeles Coliseum over a plan to add skyboxes.

HOK has been instructed to consider additional skyboxes, restrooms, press boxes, concession areas, team rooms, training facilities, lighting, advertising panels and scoreboards. HOK's Ron Labinski will coordinate the expansion plan. In more than 20 years of entertainment facility design, Labinski has been involved with the Pontiac Silverdome, Giants Stadium, Arrowhead Stadium, Anaheim Stadium, the Los Angeles Coliseum and the London (England) Docklands Events Center.

Coliseum President George Vukasin explains, "While we do not yet have an NFL franchise, we are confident that our efforts in that area will pay off." Labinski elaborated, saying, "We hope to affect some modifications that will not only make the facility more attractive to an NFL franchise, but also for the A's and other tenants."

MEMPHIS POSITIONS FOR NFL FRANCHISE

There may be a not-so-hidden reason why Memphis is hosting a pre-season contest between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Kansas City Chiefs this September, according to industry experts. Fred Smith, chairman of Memphis-based Federal Express Corp., has even launched a company called Mid-America Football to work full-time on securing a NFL franchise. The city currently has no professional football, baseball or basketball franchise.

At the same time, the Liberty Bowl has begun construction to increase its capacity to 65,000 seats, a number sought after by NFL team owners. Cardinal owner William Bidwell voiced serious doubts about the future of his team in St. Louis this past winter. If Memphis fills the Liberty Bowl in September, Smith may get his wish.



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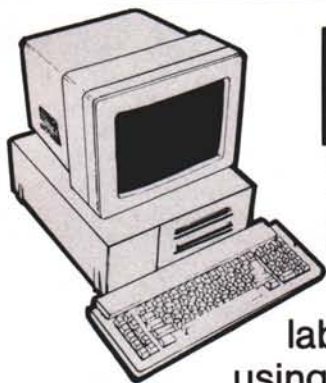
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