

LIGHT

Football field lighting is something that many high schools aspire to have, yet can be a project that requires a concerted effort to achieve. Prairie Ridge High School in Crystal Lake, IL recently acquired a football field lighting system. Dave Burg, treasurer of the Prairie Ridge Booster Club, recently spoke with *SPORTSTURF* magazine about the efforts that went into planning and developing the Prairie Ridge High School football field lighting system.

ST: Who first proposed the idea of filling the need for a lighting system?

Burg: Stadium lighting installation was actually a component of a larger capital improvements project, which includes additional improvements to the Prairie Ridge High School campus. The project components are based on need and practicality.

ST: How long ago did the process/discussions begin?

Burg: The initial discussions began nearly three years ago, but in a less formal fashion. The capital improvements committee was formed about a year ago, and after that point, momentum was quickly built.

ST: Who was involved in the decision-making process?

Burg: The decision and planning process involved many people, including Prairie Ridge High School administration, High School District #155, the City of Crystal Lake, and McHenry County.

**INVOLVE AS MANY PEOPLE
AS YOU CAN, INCLUDING
FUND RAISING, AND ALLOW
AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE**

ST: Please summarize the discussions regarding funding and the resulting decisions as well as other factors that came into play.

Burg: Several factors were considered and discussed as the project was established. The installation of lights allows for Friday night football games as well as track and other events. Since funds raised by the booster club are distributed to many programs throughout the school, increased income from night football games and other events will benefit every student in every organization served by the booster club—from fine arts to the library to athletics. The higher revenues generated by these events will benefit the Prairie Ridge community for many years to come.

ST: How was the project ultimately funded?

Burg: The project was funded through a combination of private donations, donated services and, most importantly, money raised by various groups throughout the high school. Nearly 40 percent of the funds were raised through the efforts of students and faculty at Prairie Ridge.

ST: Who made the determination on the type of lighting system to use, and how was that determination made?

Burg: The lighting system was purchased from Musco Sports Lighting, Muscatine, IA, based on experience several members of the committee had with Musco on similar pro-

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jects. Musco has a solid reputation for installing a quality product that delivers a system that is energy efficient. Since the football stadium is located adjacent to a neighborhood, we also sought a design that would direct the light on the field rather than across the neighborhood. Musco satisfied that requirement as well. Other systems were evaluated, but Musco was chosen.

ST: How was the electrical contractor chosen?

Burg: The electrical contractor was an active member of the booster club, and also has a solid reputation for quality work and the ability to deliver the project on a tight deadline. The booster club was under a tight deadline to have the installation completed by the first home football game.

ST: What advice would you give to other schools who might be considering a field lighting system?

Burg: Involve as many people as you possibly can in the project, including fund raising. Also, allow for as much time as possible for the project.

ST



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