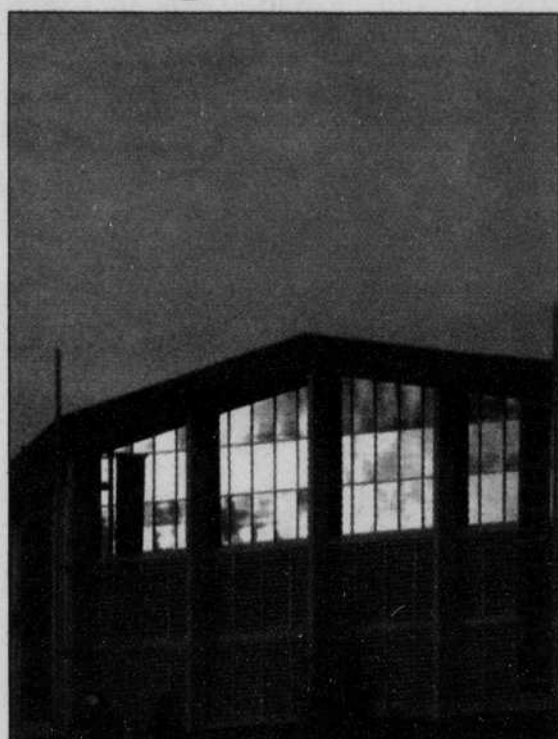


# Oregon State seeks more money to fund Reser



Jessica Waters Emerald

Improvements to Reser Stadium will add nearly 20,000 seats, but it will take \$80 million before it gets there.

The Oregon State University Athletic Department has struggled to raise proper funding for the expansion of Reser Stadium

By Jesse Thomas  
Sports Editor

Oregon State University has recently encountered problems with donations and pledges needed to complete the \$80 million Reser Stadium Expansion Project.

As of the middle of June, the project had attracted \$9 million in donations and pledges, which was on track to reach the fundraiser's goal of \$28 million.

"The challenge right now is to expand Beaver Nation and continue to talk with businesses about becoming a part of our program," Oregon State Athletic Director Bob De Carolis said. "We have a commitment from the student body for a total of \$1.3 million over four years, which is quite remarkable, considering the increases in fees and tuition."

The first phase of the Reser project includes expanding the seating capacity from 35,362 to 43,000. The timeline for the project, which will begin in the summer of 2004 and finish before the 2005 season, will eventually increase capacity to 55,000 seats.

Other new stadium amenities will include suites, lodges and club seating, all scheduled

for inclusion in the 85-percent-completed schematic designed by architectural firm HNTB. Oregon State's Web site asserts, "The new East Side (home side) promises to make Reser Stadium one of the best in the Pac-10 and the nation."

Donations for the project have come from the student body, anonymous sources and other private donations. The Beavers have also addressed the option of receiving money through business relations.

"We have received a sizable seven-figure gift from an anonymous source, and we are in talking stages with several other people about making large donations," De Carolis said. "We are also looking at some business opportunities that could add to our total."

Unlike Oregon State, the University of Oregon was able to avoid a lot of strife when receiving donations for expansions on Autzen Stadium.

The Autzen expansion, which began immediately after the Civil War game of 2001, was similar to the Reser Stadium expansion, with the addition of nearly 12,000 seats and several new or improved features.

The University Athletic Department, which had to find the money to flip the \$89.7 million bill, received the cash from both state bonds and private donations.

"To a certain extent it's apples and oranges because we've been on this track of bowl games since 1989," University of Oregon Director of Media Services Dave Williford said. "We didn't do it overnight. Since 1995 we've accelerated our success on the field as well as with fundraising."

Hunt-Wildish, the national contracting company undertaking the construction of the new Reser Stadium, has been included in other stadium renovations, including Valley Football Center. Hunt also was the leading force behind the Autzen stadium expansion.

"What we like about this formation is that these people have already done a somewhat similar project in this state and they understand how the state system works," De Carolis said. "They also have an understanding of the labor force in this state."

De Carolis is expecting momentum to increase in the next month. Oregon State has had its struggles in receiving donations and pledges, but Oregon State's Athletic Department remains confident that money will be raised.

"It's hard to comment on their situation," Williford said, "but (the University of Oregon wasn't) trying to catch up to somebody else."

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The above schematic shows what the renovated football locker room will look like.

## Locker room

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The locker rooms will also be implemented with photo cells attached to dimmers outside. The photo cells make the light intensity outside very comparable to that of inside the locker room. Brightness previously caused a problem when players entered the field because it can take up to 20 minutes for a person's eyes to adjust to different light intensities, Canfield said. He said the photo cells should eliminate such a problem.

And if the plasma screens and floor-to-ceiling mirrors between lockers aren't enough for amenities, the locker room offers motivational tools, too.

All of the bowl logos for games in which Oregon has competed will sit above the exit door, with plenty of open space for future bowl games. A long cement wall has also been added leading out of the locker room, which will have laser etchings of each of Oregon's athletes in

the NFL Hall of Fame. As with the logos, there will be enough space for future Oregon athletes to earn their spot.

"As players are exiting and going to the stadium they can see that, out of all the years of Oregon football, there are only five guys on the wall," architectural designer Rob Lamb said. "There is plenty of room for athletes to be on that wall."

With all the renovations to the new locker room, Oregon is continuing to follow suit by portraying the school and athletic department as having the best facilities in the nation. And it appeals to recruits, which was the bottom line.

"It's primarily a recruiting tool," Moos said. "Our football locker room was basically outdated. So to best service our players and to provide an environment that is welcoming and, most importantly, appeals to recruits, we continue to move forward in facilities."

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