

What additions are needed to create a successful soccer stadium?

Greg Ausland from the Ausland Group has looked at this, and he's been involved in restoring over 30 of the historic covered bridges in the state. It turns out they are very similar to grandstands in construction. He did a thorough analysis of the structure of Civic Stadium and found only two out of 360 columns need to be replaced. The lower bleachers themselves have been exposed to the weather, so they need to be replaced, but the uppers are fine. The roof needs to be replaced as soon as possible, and Friends of Civic Stadium already has the money to do that in its escrow account. We'd need to replace half of the bleacher boards, give it new siding, a little bit of seismic retrofit, and then we're ready to use it again.

looking for nice places to live, and this would certainly fall in line as a good amenity.

In addition to that, the nice, central location of Eugene between Portland and Southern Oregon would make the stadium a perfect place to host high-school playoff games in addition to major tournaments. With the fields at Amazon Park and South Eugene High School so close, bringing Civic Stadium back online as a usable field means we could host really big soccer tournaments, which can bring thousands of visitors for long weekends. Right now, we don't have the ability to do that. Even smaller cities like Medford and Redding host huge tournaments. For Eugene to do that, bringing Civic back would be a huge factor.

the end of this month. Then we will be off to Spain for some tryouts, where we hope to find a handful of players to bring back, and we'll hold open tryouts here in town right around spring break. The season starts the first week of May.

What will the team look like?

We had a really good relationship with Oregon State University this past season, and that will continue. By league rules, we can only have a maximum of five players from any one university, so we plan on filling those spots from Oregon State. We'll also be recruiting nationally and internationally. As we did last season, we'll play a handful of players from local tryouts, as well.

What are the advantages of having a home soccer stadium in Eugene?

First off, I think Willamalane has been great to deal with as an organization. They've been really supportive and continue to be supportive going forward in trying to make the game-day experience that much better for the fans. That being said, their location is a little bit remote, and I know that hurts our attendance. People don't just go out there on a whim. They have to plan for it. In the Emeralds days, people would just go to a game because it was happening and happened to be close.

I think it would definitely help attendance, but I would still want to pull from all over the area and work with LTD to make it easily accessible to people all over. We certainly are not into it being a Eugene-versus-Springfield thing, but the Civic location has such good walkability to shops and bars, and right up Willamette is the university and downtown — it's really centrally located for all kinds of post-game activity.

I think it would create that neighborhood game-day experience, much like they have in Portland [Portland Timbers stadium Providence Park, formerly Jeld-Wen Field], where people flood the streets and walk around. That kind of experience isn't possible at Willamalane. But it's possible at Civic Stadium. ■

'I THINK IT WOULD CREATE THAT NEIGHBORHOOD GAME-DAY EXPERIENCE.'

— DAVE GALAS, LANE UNITED

It's ugly, I'll give you that. In its current state, it's an eyesore. But underneath all that, it's 95 percent structurally sound. So we'd do a whole bunch of cosmetic stuff to fix it, but only a tiny bit of structural work is needed.

Do you see this as a possible economic driver?

I think it could be an economic engine run. That game-day experience in particular is big, to have something of our own that's not related to the university. It would be a team people can get behind regardless of where they went to school — not just a Ducks thing. Soccer is really popular, especially for the younger demographic. Millennials are

How does Civic Stadium play a part in Lane United getting to the next professional level?

We're hoping to reach USL-Pro League, and right now we're USL PDL [Premier Development League], which is semi-pro. USL Pro has a seating capacity requirement of at least 5,000 seats. So, basically, we can't get there yet because there's currently nowhere for us to play.

What's coming up for Lane United this year?

We set our schedule for this coming season, which should be released in the next couple of weeks, and the season-ticket launch party at Oakshire Public House should be coming up at



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