

# ArgusLeader

## Jackrabbits' vision for future could be 'state changing'

February 11, 2010

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South Dakota State officials have, in hand, their sports facilities master plan for the next 20 years.

A revamped Coughlin-Alumni Stadium with more than 22,000 seats and 25 luxury suites is the central piece, but it's not the entirety of the bold vision. The conceptual drawings recently completed by Crawford Architects of Kansas City, Mo., also include a towering fieldhouse, game arena for volleyball and wrestling and practice gyms for the basketball teams, among other facilities.

If these plans come to fruition - and that's going to require gigantic donations from private interests during maybe two decades - they will dramatically impact 20 varsity programs at SDSU. That's everything other than equestrian, which opened a \$3 million facility in 2008.

"There's some program changing, university changing, and I could argue even state changing, facilities that we have the opportunity to take a look at," Jackrabbits athletic director Justin Sell said. "I feel like we're at a point in our history that we're going to be able to lay the groundwork for the next 40 or 50 years if we do it right."

The idea for this mass renovation has been in the public arena since 2008 when SDSU president David Chicoine presented an incomplete list of potential building projects to the Board of Regents.

But the conceptual drawings, even though they could change to reflect funding and need, give a more detailed outline of what the athletic department has in mind.

An indoor fieldhouse, attached to the north side of the recently finished Dykhouse Student-Athlete Center, would feature a 300-meter track, a 100-yard football surface and three batting cages. It also would house

all the offices, training needs, lockers and meeting spaces for every outdoor team along with a human performance center that would have tie-ins to academic programs and the Brookings community.

Frost Arena could be upgraded to create more season ticket-quality seats plus a dozen luxury suites. On the south and east side, there would be a three-court practice gym for the basketball teams, more practice space for the wrestlers and a 2,000-seat game facility for use by wrestling and volleyball.

Outside and without disrupting the new softball and baseball fields, room is reserved for game and practice fields for the soccer team, three football practice fields - one made of artificial turf - and an indoor golf range.

Perhaps the most important feature of the concept: It's designed to be built in pieces and without disrupting the sports seasons. The lead architect, David Murphy, was instrumental in a \$295 million project that rebuilt the Green Bay Packers' Lambeau Field without forcing the team to relocate.

"It's a beautiful campus," Murphy said. "We want to create a master plan that allows incremental growth as projects become possible so that at any particular stage, it looks complete."

As for when any of this will get started, Sell ideally would have funding in place for any or all pieces before the Board of Regents meet in October. Ultimately, that's up to the potential donors and corporate partners. But a vision of the future is available now.

"Just because there are pictures, doesn't mean it's going to look like that - we are very up front in telling people that," said Mike Burgers, SDSU's associate athletic director for development. "But having those pictures is a big step in telling the story visually." //