

Prairie View A&M University to Break Ground for Multi-Million Dollar Football Stadium and Athletic Field House

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Prairie View, TX – November 10, 2014 In what can only be described as an historic moment at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), the \$60 million dollar Football Stadium & Athletic Field House project scope and budget were approved by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents. The 2-year project, slated to begin in December, includes the demolition of the existing Blackshear Field and the construction of a new state-of-the-art facility in the same location. The complex will feature a 15,000-seat stadium, with the capability of expansion to 30,000-seats.

Planned stadium amenities include:

- West side (home) grandstand capacity of 9,000 and east side grandstand capacity of 6,000
- Artificial turf playing surface
- Press level
- Covered concourse including concessions and merchandising space
- Premium seating and luxury seats
- The Athletic Field House immediately adjacent to the stadium will house a strength and conditioning area, sports medicine suite, team meeting rooms, academic support space and locker rooms.

“Indeed this is truly a momentous occasion for the entire Prairie View A&M University community,” said Dr. George C. Wright, President, Prairie View A&M University. “Alumni, students, faculty and staff wanted a state of the art, first class facility that was worthy of our beloved Panthers and we all worked together make the dream come to fruition. We are excited to be moving forward from the initial planning to the approval stage and we will be breaking ground in the coming month.”

About Blackshear Stadium

For 66 years, Blackshear Stadium, formally known as Blackshear Field, served as the home field for the Prairie View A&M University Panther football team as well as the track & field teams. The stadium is named after Edward L. Blackshear, a former principal of the university who served from 1897 to 1915. The 1948 Football team were the first team to play in Blackshear stadium and since then the team has brought home 11 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) titles and 5 national championships.

The new complex is scheduled to open for the 2016 football season.

For a look at the sports complex visit <http://www.panther-stadium.com/>

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Prairie View A&M University is a state-assisted, public, comprehensive land grant institution of higher education. The university was designated in a 1984 amendment to the Texas Constitution as an “institution of the first class.” It is dedicated to achieving excellence and relevance in teaching, research, and service.