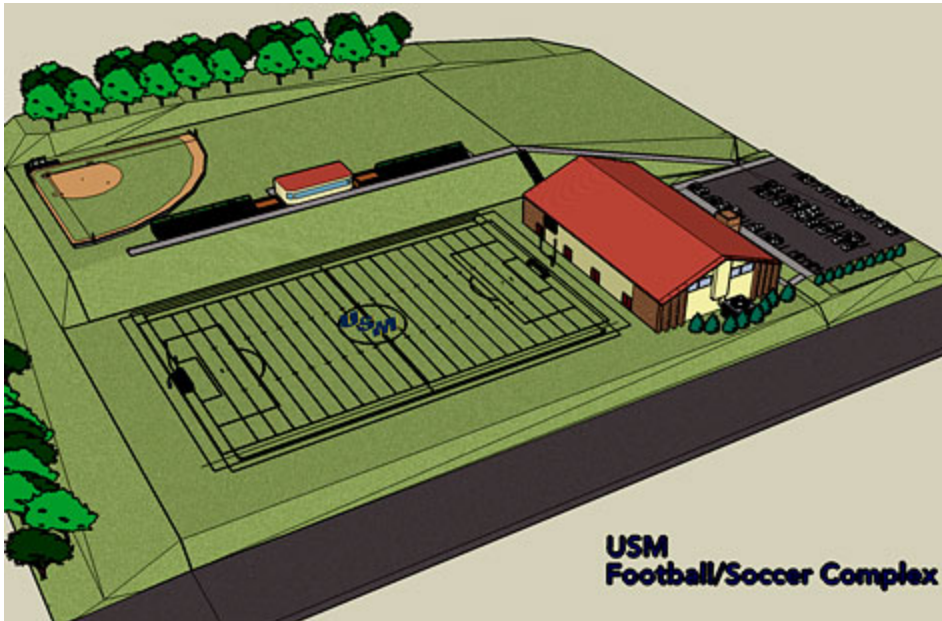


June 25, 2008

Saint Mary Spires Football to Play at Home Field for First Time in Team History



Artist rendering of the new USM Football/Soccer Complex

New USM Football/Soccer Complex to Be Completed this Fall

The college sports experience at the University of Saint Mary is about to get a lot more convenient and more enjoyable for Spire fans and athletes. The University of Saint Mary has announced plans to build a new football/soccer complex at the main campus in Leavenworth, Kan. Construction is scheduled to be complete in time for the men's and women's soccer alumni exhibition games on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008.

USM will build the complex north of McGilley Field House on the northwest side of campus, along Hughes Road. The project will utilize an existing incline to incorporate bleacher-style seats for 1,000 fans, two patios, goalposts, a new scoreboard, a climate controlled press box with seven rooms, and sidewalks from the parking lot to the bleacher section that are wheelchair accessible. The location will allow USM to use existing locker rooms in McGilley. McGilley Field House, which opened in the summer of 2004, was the last major construction project on campus.

The Spire football team has been playing at neighboring fields since the team was first established in 2000, playing the past two season home games at Platte City High School. The football team first played at Abeles Field in Leavenworth, moving to Lansing High School in 2004.

"We want to thank all the athletes who've ever played football at Saint Mary," said Head Football Coach Lance Hinson. "They built the reputation for quality athletics that is now allowing us to build this complex."

USM is inviting all its football alumni to a big tailgate party at 11 a.m. before the first home football game at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20, against Bethel College at the new football/soccer complex. All soccer

alumni are invited back for the soccer alumni exhibition games on Saturday, Aug. 23. The women's game is at 1 p.m., followed by the men's game at 3 p.m.

The Spires soccer teams have played home games on campus since their inception in 1990, playing home games in recent years on the field north of McGilley, minus the new amenities planned for the new complex. Soccer alumni events are scheduled for the soccer alumni exhibition games on Aug. 23.

"Our football players and soccer players, not to mention our coaches, fans, and our entire Saint Mary community, are very excited this new complex is coming to fruition. It's a thrilling time in Saint Mary athletics history and we know it will have a major impact on our ability to recruit new athletes," said Rob Miller, athletic director and head baseball coach.

The new football/soccer complex announcement coincides with the launch of "GoSpires.com," a new website devoted exclusively to the eight varsity sports teams at USM.

The site features information on all the teams, a video tour of the sports facilities, and audio messages from each of the coaches. You will also be able to watch construction progress of the football/soccer complex on the home page of GoSpires.com. Construction photos will be updated weekly.

Spires alumni-athletes are encouraged to update their information with the USM alumni office to receive the latest details about the first home game celebrations at the new complex. Call 913-758-6137 or email alumni@stmary.edu.