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Rededication of Brandenburg Field/Carnie Smith Stadium

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Rededication of Brandenburg Field/Carnie Smith Stadium

Dedication of Prentice Gudgen Track August and Helen Rua Press Box

Saturday, September 9, 1989

2 to 4 p.m.—Open House, August and Helen Rua Press Box

7:10 p.m.—Dedication Ceremony, Balloon Launch

7:30 p.m.—Kick-off, Pittsburg State vs. Missouri Western

Half-time Show—Pride of the Plains Marching Band, PSU Pom Pon Squad

Post-Game Show—Fireworks Display

The University's Special Guests

Harold Brandenburg, Cora Smith,
Prentice and Gretta Gudgen, August and Helen Rua

Capital Campaign Leaders

O. Gene Bicknell, Chairman, Campaign for Distinction; George Pitzer, Gene Irvin, Co-Chairs, Intercollegiate Athletics Capital Campaign; Eldon Danenhauer, Stadium Renovation Campaign; Ed Carter, Athletics Endowment Drive; Wayne Allai, Endowment for Excellence in Athletics.

Tonight's dedication activities have in part been made possible by the generous support of Menghini Brothers Distributing, and First State Bank of Pittsburg.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to all of you on this most important occasion. The rededication of the Brandenburg Field/Carnie Smith Stadium, as well as the dedication of the Prentice Gudgen Track and the August and Helen Rua Press Box is an excellent example of the partnership between the private sector and state government.

As we all know, it is essential to have private support to supplement state monies in order to ensure the continuing excellent quality of public higher education institutions in Kansas. Higher education is very important to the state of Kansas, and although we have been able to divert additional funds through the Margin of Excellence program, we still need the support of private industry and individuals. I appreciate what Pittsburg State and its supporters have done to refurbish and improve this outstanding sports arena.

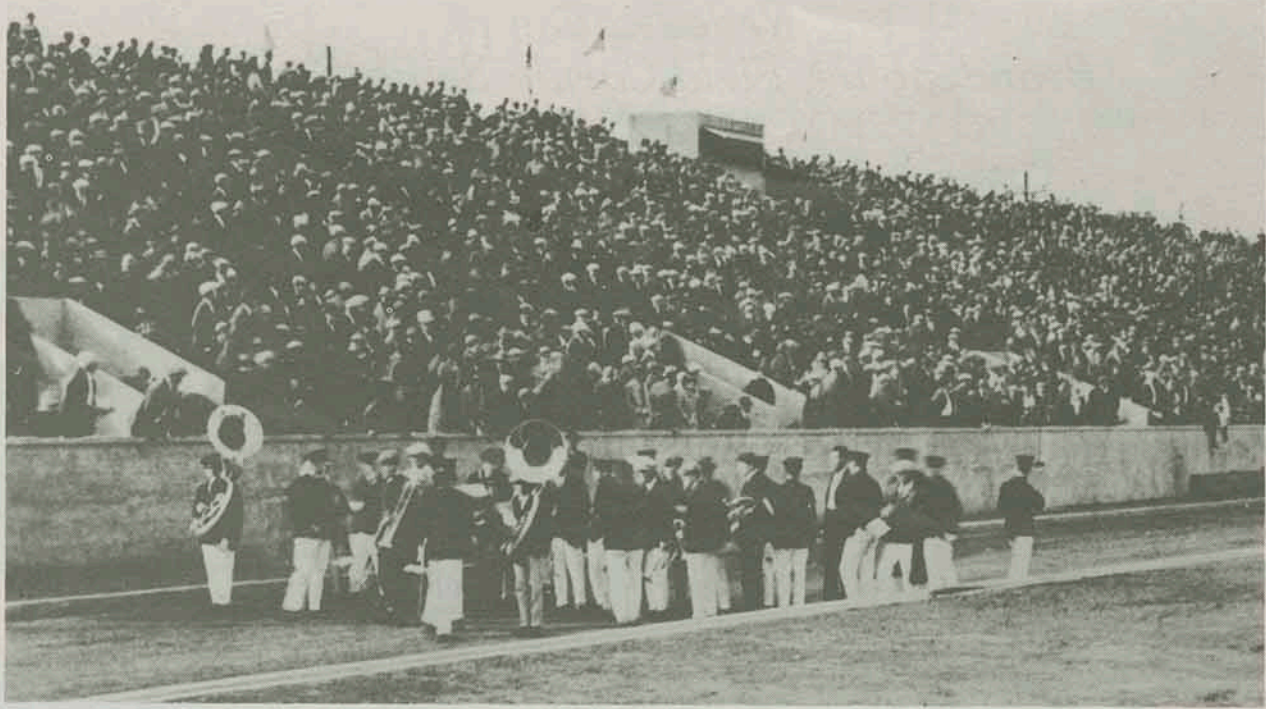
To all the contributors, including August and Helen Rua, Prentice Gudgen and the families of Harold Brandenburg and Carnie Smith, I say congratulations for the commitment which you have shown and continue to show to Pittsburg State. This beautiful complex is a testimony to all of you, and I hope that you will take great pride and satisfaction in what you and your family members have done to continue the tradition of excellence for which Pittsburg State University is noted, both academically and athletically.

Patti and I wish we could have been here in person to join in the festivities. Please accept our most sincere good wishes for an excellent event, as well as a victory!

Sincerely,



MIKE HAYDEN
Governor



The Pittsburgh State University football stadium is shown during the original dedication ceremony on November 11, 1924.

PSU Stadium Marks 65th Year

The history of Pittsburgh State University's athletics field began in 1917 when the Kansas Legislature appropriated \$1,500 for its construction. For a few years, the school's football teams played on an open field that was normally lined with parked cars and standing spectators. However, the construction of Carney Hall, the gymnasium and cafeteria made it necessary to relocate the athletics field and to tear down the wooden bleachers that stood on the oval southeast of the present Jack H. Overman Student Center building.

In 1921, discussion began in earnest about the need to have a permanent stadium. In 1922, a motion was passed at a meeting in the College's chapel to proceed with the \$100,000 subscription campaign to build a new stadium. The campaign was designed to raise \$30,00 from the students (about \$30 per student), \$30,000 from alumni, \$12,000 from faculty and staff and the remaining \$25,000 from the community.

The fund drive was successful and in the summer of 1923 grading began on an athletics field. The first concrete for the west stadium was poured on March 3, 1924, and construction proceeded rapidly through the summer. One aid to the construction was the requirement that all male faculty members contribute up to eight hours of labor each week on the new facility. The work was supervised by faculty member S.O. Householder.

The first football scrimmage on the new bermuda grass field was played on September 26, 1924. The first football contest in the stadium on Oct. 11, 1924, saw the Gorillas beat Baker University 6-0. The *Collegio* estimated 4,000 fans watched the game from the west stands.

The new stadium was officially dedicated with appropriate pomp and circumstance on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 1924. The Gorillas made it a perfect day, defeating Friends University 12-2. Lavonne Cranston Monroe, a freshman from McCune, was crowned the first Stadium Queen.

The first phase of the construction including the field, west stadium and track, cost \$60,000. It would take another 15 years for the remaining parts of the project to get underway.

In the spring of 1939, using funds from the WPA, construction began on a native sandstone wall to encircle the field. The federal government allotted \$25,398 for the project and the remaining \$13,000 was to be taken from athletics fund savings. The wall replaced many yards of canvas that had been stretched around the ends of the stadium.

Construction plans for the second phase also included a new press box on the west side and the long awaited east stadium.

Following a delay because of funding problems, the construction on the second phase was nearly complete in September, 1940. Although work was still going on in the press box, the first home game of the season was played in the expanded facility on September 27, 1940.

The Renovation of Brandenburg Field/ Carnie Smith Stadium

In the spring of 1986, Pittsburg State University launched the Campaign for Distinction, a five-year \$9.8 million capital gifts and endowment effort. One component of the University-wide campaign includes the \$1.6 million Intercollegiate Athletics fund-raising effort. Money raised through the campaign has funded the first two phases of the Brandenburg Field/Carnie Smith Stadium Renovation.

O. Gene Bicknell is Chairman of the Campaign for Distinction. George Pitzer, Pittsburg, and Gene Irvin, Adrian, Mo., are Co-Chairs of the Intercollegiate Athletics Capital Campaign. Eldon Danenhauer, Topeka, is assisting with the stadium renovation drive, and Ed Carter, Overland Park, is assisting with the scholarship drive. Wayne Allai is coordinator of the Endowment for Excellence in Athletics.

The first year renovation work included the installation of new lights, an electronic scoreboard and message center, a sound system, bermuda turf and seatbacks in the gold section. The second year renovation work has involved the installation of the Prentice Gudgen track and the construction of the August and Helen Rua Press Box.

All of this field/stadium renovation work has been funded through private donations to the University provided by alumni, area residents, businesses and other supporters of Pittsburg State University. The cost of renovation work to date has totaled more than \$800,000.

Future renovation plans for the stadium include refinishing the exterior walls of the stadium and remodeling the restrooms, concessions area and locker rooms.

Major Donors to the Intercollegiate Athletics Capital Campaign

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Gene Bicknell
August Rua

UNIVERSITY'S CIRCLE

First Federal Savings & Loan
Miller's Prof. Color Service

CHAMPION'S CIRCLE

Bank IV Pittsburg
Eldon Danenhauer
Gene Irvin
Menghini Bros. Distr.
C.L. Farabi (Pepsi)
Bob Terlip

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Lavonne Monroe

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Wayne Allai
Dan J. Farrell
Reg Lyerla
George Pitzer
Fred Spigarelli
Donald C. Widner

COACH'S CIRCLE

Barto's Enterprises
Ed Carter
Homer and Evelyn Cole
First State Bank
David and Bette Fowler
William R. Hagman
Holiday Inn Pittsburg
PSU Joq-A-Thon
Mike and Shirley Loy
Yvonne Robertson
J. B. Towner
David Utermoehlen
Vera Vinze
Paul L. Wilbert

PLAYER'S CIRCLE

Robert Allen
Dorothy Bethel
City National Bank of Pittsburg
Merle Clark
Coors Valley Distributors
William L. Dillon, M.D.
Gordon Elliott
George Gadwo
Rick Gallagher

Robert Hill
Mark Hittner & father
Bill Hollenbeck
Andy Hornbaker
Ted Kyle
John Lance, Jr.
Tom Lester
John Levra
Thomas J. Miller
Maureen Murphy
National Pizza Co.
Roy Norris
Doug Potts
William Rinehart
Marcelle Schmidt
Mrs. Cora Smith
J. G. Smoot
Gary Snadon
David Suenram
Jack Templin
Mrs. John J. Towner
Greg A. Wells
Alan Whetzel

President's Circle—\$100,000
University Circle—\$50,000-99,000

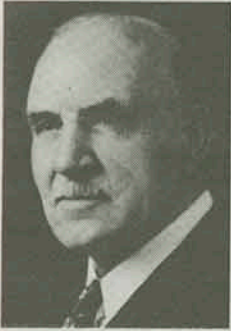
Champion's Circle—\$25,000-49,999
Winner's Circle—\$15,000-24,999
Director's Circle—\$10,000-14,999

Coach's Circle—\$5,000-9,999
Player's Circle—\$1,000-4,999

Many other individuals and businesses have generously contributed to the effort to renovate the stadium with private funds. The University appreciates the support of all donors who made the first two phases of the stadium renovation possible.

In Tribute

Pittsburg State University takes great pride in naming athletic facilities after the following individuals who have done so much for the University.



Brandenburg Field

W.A. Brandenburg, PSU President 1913-1940.

William Aaron Brandenburg served as the Third Executive Officer and First President of Pittsburg State University, then known as Kansas State Manual Training Normal School. When he came to the Pittsburg, there were only two buildings on the campus. A year later following the Russ Hall fire, President Brandenburg was one of the leaders in the campaign that raised funds within 48 hours to rebuild the administration building. During President Brandenburg's administration, more than ten buildings were added to the campus, the institution was raised to the rank of a Teachers College, and the graduate division was established. Brandenburg also played a prominent role in the development of public education in Kansas.



Carnie Smith Stadium

Carnie Smith, PSU Head Football Coach 1949-66.

Coach Carnie Smith led the Gorillas to the NAIA national title in 1957 and 1961 and to the conference championships six times. His teams had an overall record of 116-52-6. Numerous players under Coach Smith's guidance received All-American and All Conference honors. Coach Smith received many personal honors throughout his career, including: member of the NAIA Hall of Fame, NAIA Coach of the Year, the Greater Kansas Area Byline Club Sports Award and the Knute Rockne Award for sportsmanship. Coach Smith was well-known for expecting his players to achieve academically, as well as performing well on the playing field. Coach Smith retired in 1976 and died in 1979.



August and Helen Rua Press Box

August and Helen Rua, Pittsburg.

August and Helen Rua have long been involved with and supported many University programs. Their involvement with the University includes having four PSU graduates in the family. Mr. Rua received degrees from PSU in 1949 and 1955. He is a Co-Founder and Past President of the PSU Alumni Foundation. He served as Treasurer of the PSU Alumni Foundation for 15 years and is Past President of the PSU Alumni Association. Mr. Rua is President of the August Rua Insurance Agency and Century 21 Broadway Realty of Pittsburg. He also has many other business interests in the Pittsburg area.

In addition to making it possible for the University to construct the new press box, the Ruas have generously supported numerous scholarship programs at PSU.



Prentice Gudgen Track

Prentice Gudgen, PSU Head Track Coach 1951-67.

For almost a 50-year span, Prentice Gudgen was involved in Pittsburg State athletics programs. Under his 16-year leadership as Head Track Coach, Pittsburg State track and field teams dominated many competitions in the Midwest and won five Conference Championships in a span of six years. He joined the PSU physical education staff in 1938. After serving in the military, he returned to the University to serve as a teacher, coach and administrator. He served as both Chairman of the Department of Physical Education and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Mr. Gudgen retired from the PSU faculty in 1975.