



# Stadium Updates A Reigning Success

**The recent expansion and upgrade of S.B. Ballard Stadium proved to be a success as the sold-out, first home game drew in a crowd of nearly 22,000 fans and the night ending in a 24-21 win against Norfolk State.**

The \$67.5 million project to rebuild occurred over nine short months and in August 2019, the Monarch family welcomed the improved stadium and new Kornblau Field into the Monarch Community.

While catching a game this season, sitting in the new stadium makes it hard to visualize what was once Foreman Field. A quick look back, however, reminds us of how desperately it was due for restorations and an overall expansion.

The original stadium suffered from a lack of entrances, restrooms, and seating making the congested flow of fan traffic difficult to manage. The tight, uncomfortable seating arrangement made it hard to see the field and even harder to enjoy the game. Aside from the outdated amenities, food options were limited, and the stadium didn't have a shop for fans to grab their Monarch gear – apart from the sale tents pitched on the front lawn.

The condensed timeline and rush to meet the new season with a new stadium was a challenge that the ODU Design & Construction team, Architects Moseley & Populous, and SB Ballard Construction took on, and accomplished.

With the recent renovations, the students, fans,

and players alike are enjoying the new design as it offers upgrades to everyone. The comfortable seating puts fans about ten feet from the sidelines, where they can watch the ODU Monarchs compete on the new Kornblau Field turf. The additional entrances and restrooms allow for improved foot traffic and successfully accommodate the increasing number of students and fans. The stadium also received a major sports lighting and video board upgrade, including the addition of a state-of-the-art sound system that can be heard from the opposite end of Monarch Way.

Aside from the aesthetic changes, seven new concession stands allow several food options. So, whether you're a vegan, vegetarian, in the mood for some Mexican or Seafood – it's an all-inclusive experience, and there's something for everyone.

"These improvements have greatly enhanced the fan experience and ushered the University, athletic program, and stadium into a more contemporary age," said ODU's Executive Chef, Robert Patton. "The entire project took the proud traditions of the University and Foreman Field into a new era and allows the fans to have a better game experience at the stadium."

The new stadium ensures that spectators experience that one-of-a-kind feeling of being at a college football game. Be sure to check out the upcoming schedule and grab your tickets!

