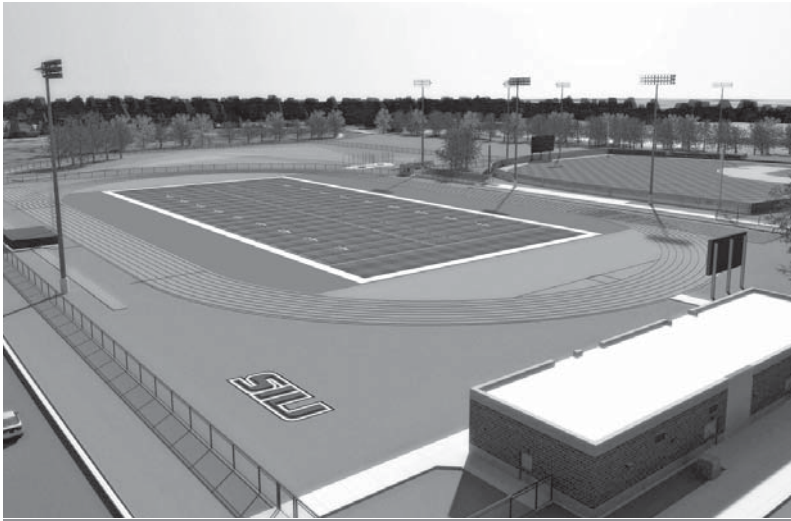


New Complex to Carry Forward Salukis' Track and Field Prowess

JUNE
1
2011



SIU'S NEW 9-ACRE, \$4 MILLION STAND-ALONE COMPLEX

Kansas City – In the world of collegiate track and field, not many schools have run as fast, jumped as far or thrown as well as Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The Saluki track and field program has produced 17 Olympians, 13 national champions and more than 120 all-Americans.

Now the program is getting the facilities to match its legacy of excellence.

Groundbreaking was May 23 on SIU's new \$4 million Saluki Track and Field Complex. In addition to a 400-meter track with a state-of-the-art running surface, a synthetic grass infield and a multi-event throws area, the complex will include a 4,500 square-foot support building with men's and women's locker rooms.

"This will be one of the finest track and field venues in the Midwest," said SIU Director of Athletics Mario Moccia.

SIU Chancellor Rita Cheng praised the track and field program during the groundbreaking ceremony, saying Saluki student-athletes, coaches and staff greatly deserved the new facilities, which were designed by 360 Architecture.

Scheduled for completion in December 2011, the complex will also provide:

- + Seating for 250 with the ability to expand capacity to 500 spectators in the future
- + A free-standing building for event operations and viewing
- + Pole-mounted track and field lighting

In addition, the state-of-the-art field can be set to accommodate an NCAA regulation soccer pitch. The facility could even be home to a women's soccer program at SIU in the future, Moccia said.

The project is an exciting milestone in the development of Saluki Way.

Saluki Way is a multi-phased, multimillion-dollar plan to redevelop of a large section of the Carbondale campus and revamp SIU's athletic facilities. The plan has been the driving force behind the new 15,000-seat Saluki Stadium, new 56,000 square-foot training and operations center, and \$30 million retrofit of SIU Arena. All were designed by 360 Architecture.

Moccia said savings from these previous Saluki Way projects were being used to fund the new 9-acre track and field complex.

Looking ahead, track and field coach Connie Price-Smith said the new complex will greatly assist with recruiting and ensuring that the Saluki track and field program continues to excel.

"It proves we're dedicated to being one of the best," Price-Smith said.

360 Architecture is an innovative architectural practice widely recognized for excellence in planning, design and execution across a wide range of project types, including corporate and commercial office buildings, sports arenas and stadiums, mixed-use districts, recreation centers, residences, restaurants and municipal facilities. 360 Architecture is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri and has offices in San Francisco and Columbus.