

D-B Football Team to Cut Ribbon on Stadium Renovations

August 29, 2014 by Matthew Lane (Kingsport-Times News)

The expansion is essentially complete and fans will get their first look at the renovations tonight when Dobyns-Bennett hosts East Hamilton for the first home game of the 2014 football season.

"Everything is in place," said Ryan McReynolds, assistant city manager for operations. "For the typical fan, (the stadium) is going to feel like it's totally complete. There's still some wrap-up work, (crews) are going to be out there for the next few weeks doing some minor things.



"But for the public to watch the game, it is complete."

A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 7 p.m. today just before kickoff, according to the Kingsport City Schools' website.

Following the national anthem, a video on the history of D-B football will be shown on the new scoreboard — with photographs dating back to the 1920s, said KCS spokesman Andy True. Various dignitaries are scheduled to speak prior to kickoff, including Mayor Dennis Phillips, D-B Principal Chris Hampton and Pal's Sudden Service founder Pal Barger (who donated the funds for the new scoreboard).

True said the D-B football team will then hit the field and run through the ribbon, officially opening the facility.

Tim Whaley, spokesman for the city, said the fire marshal's office inspected the stadium this week and approved the facility for public use.

The new elevator is working, but is not yet integrated into all of the facility's systems, Whaley said, noting the elevator will be made available to those with physical challenges and operated by an assistant fire marshal.

The final integration of the elevator should be completed next week. Other remaining work includes "punch list" items, site cleanup and removing the construction equipment from the property, McReynolds said.

The stadium project began in the fall of 2013, and the contract calls for work to be completed by Oct. 31. Goins Rash Cain Inc. — the company performing the work — had assured Kingsport the work would be substantially complete by Aug. 22 and ready for business by Aug. 29, the first home football game.

The \$4.7 million renovation and expansion project adds approximately 1,000 seats to the 70-year-old grandstand, a new two-story press box, new rest- rooms and areas for concessions, improved handicapped accessibility, wider aisles with handrails, an elevator and covered concourses.