

October 6, 1975



University of Idaho

Moscow, Idaho/83843

GENERAL NEWS

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FOR GENERAL NEWS OR SPORTS PAGE

DOME DEDICATION OCT. 11 IS CULMINATION
OF SPORTS COMPLEX REBUILDING

MOSCOW -- The dedication of the William H. Kibbie-ASUI Activity Center on Oct. 11 will culminate an eight-year program of modernizing sports and physical education facilities at the University of Idaho.

BOISE The dedication will be at half-time of the UI-Boise State University
LEWISTON football game which is slated for kick-off at 1:30 p.m. at the Kibbie-
LEWISTON ASUI Dome. Expected to participate in the ceremonies are Gov. Cecil Andrus,
LEWISTON UI President Ernest Hartung, Regent A.L. Alford Jr. of Lewiston, student
LEWISTON body president David Warnick, Vandal Booster president Robert White of
SALT LAKE CITY Lewiston and William Kibbie, the Salt Lake businessman whose gift of
\$300,000 made it possible to start construction of the stadium roof.

The covered stadium has been described by Hartung as "the keystone in the arch" to a modernization plan that had its origin in 1965, Hartung's first year on the Moscow campus. At that time, old Neal football stadium was very near to condemnation, the track did not drain properly so track meets could not be scheduled until May and the 1928 swimming pool was useable only with overdoses of chlorine. In addition, the varsity baseball field needed to be moved, the 1903 "University Gym" used by the women was overcrowded and Memorial Gymnasium was inadequate to meet the needs of the intramural program plus the varsity basketball program.

The completed Kibbie-ASUI Dome culminates construction of new facilities for sports and physical education, and in addition offers a center for student and community activities such as concerts, festivals, conferences, UI commencement as well as events such as statewide basketball tournaments. The center currently seats 18,000 in the permanent stands, with optional seating arrangements for events such as basketball.

Since the modernization program was started in 1967, six major projects have been completed. The university now has a modern swimming center which has been the site for the National Women's Swimming and Diving Championships as well as regional swim events.

A new physical education facility for women--the Women's Health Education Building--has been constructed with two gymnasiums, a dance studio, classrooms and offices. The golf course has been expanded to 18 holes, the varsity baseball program has been moved to a new

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DOMED DEDICATION

facility named Wicks Field and an all-weather-surface outdoor track has been completed, allowing the university to host regional high school track and field meets.

The sixth project is the Kibbie-ASUI Dome which has already been used for a football game--UI versus Idaho State University--attended by some 14,000 people and for a concert by the Edgar Winter Group attended by approximately 4,000 people.

Activities in the Kibbie-ASUI Dome during Sports Week preceding the dedication include a square dance on Wednesday (Oct. 8) and competitive events such as a tug of war, toilet paper roll and four-legged race on Thursday (Oct. 9). Both events begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.

The activity center has been constructed in three phases--stadium shell, artificial playing surface and dome--beginning in 1969. The first football game was played in the facility in 1971, also against ISU.

Construction of the roof--the first of its type in the world--was started in January of this year. The roof contains more than one million board feet of lumber and covers 4.1 acres. The ceiling towers 150 feet above the floor, the equivalent of a 14-story building.

Architect for the \$7.8 million project was Cline, Smull, Hamill Associates, Boise. General contractor was Emerick Construction Co., Portland, while the structural erection subcontractor was MacGregor Triangle Construction Co., Boise. Designers and suppliers of the unique roof arches was Trus-Joist Corp., also of Boise.

bp--10/6/75