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GENERAL NEWS

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DOME MANAGER ARRIVES

by Randy Stapilus
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MOSCOW -- The new Kibbie Dome at the University of Idaho will hopefully become "something people can rally around, look up to and take pride in," according to dome manager Dennis Hedges, who arrived here Monday.

"I drove in on a beautiful Monday evening and one of the first things to strike my eye was the dome," he said. "I just had to go around and have a look at it."

By then, the roofing had been completed and work begun on the ends of the facility, which are nearly covered.

Construction is "moving well" and close to schedule, Hedges said, noting finishing activities come next such as coating the roof of the stadium.

Several layers of coating will cover the top, including a paint of "a neutral color. We don't need a brilliant color for the dome," Hedges said. "It stands out as it is."

Hedges, 36, former assistant athletic director at Oregon State University, is impressed not only with the dome itself, but also the university and the community. Soon after arriving he began attending a series of meetings with various university officials, bringing him up to date on the construction and other matters.

One of these is the fate of concessions in the new dome. Policy has yet to be decided on this matter, Hedges said.

Entertainment for next fall is also being worked out. Hedges said he'd like to bring in as many big name acts as "the people want and the area can support."

"Much in this area will depend on the response of the people toward the building," he said. "We should try to make it a good experience for them--there should be easy access in and out, easy parking, the seats should be comfortable, and so on.

"We just have to make the dome as enjoyable as possible, so people will want to come back to it," said Hedges who has worked in management at Memorial Coliseum and at Civic Stadium, both in Portland, Ore.

However, he warned against setting expectations too high, and expressed hope that anything short of that would not be a disappointment.

"For example," he said, "we could not become a major convention center for the Northwest, because the Moscow area just doesn't have the facilities--the hotels and so forth--

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DOMÉ MANAGER

necessary to back it up."

He also indicated that university personnel will work out of their present departments in running the stadium. "We aren't going to hire a lot of people," he said.

Hedges said he is impressed with the university people he'd met so far, with the community but most of all with the dome itself. "It's a very new facility, unique to my experience," he said. "It's very impressive."

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