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Expansion of the ASUI Kibbie Dome will soon be under way with the initial contract, limited to site preparation, being awarded to Motley Inc., of Pullman. Completion of the Dome expansion is expected by late 2002 or early 2003.

Construction begins to enhance Vandal athletics at Kibbie Dome

BY GARY SMITH
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Future Vandal athletes get ready for state of the art improvements at the University of Idaho.

As for current athletes, be prepared for construction of the ASUI Kibbie Dome to possibly last until 2003.

The construction on the Dome is going to be a sequence of projects that will include additions to the north, south and east sides of the Kibbie.

The east-end expansion is expected to double the useable floor-space of the Kibbie while not interfering with the existing practice field that the football team and other athletes use.

Construction of the north and south ends of the Dome will be completed before the east-end renovation begins and will require closing the gravel parking lot (#31) east of the Kibbie Dome.

The first contract of many has been awarded to Motley Inc., of Pullman to prepare for the eastside ASUI-KIBBIE Activity Center expansion project.

This initial contract is limited to site preparation and site utilities work that signals the beginning of a state-of-the-art athletic facility.

"This expansion will benefit the entire UI athletic program and all 15 sports," Mike Bohn, director of athletics, said. "It's a win-win for everyone. We believe it will be a showcase not only for athletics, but for the whole institution."

The completion of the Vandal Athletic Facility will complement the new Student Recreation Center, as well as improve the academic development of students, recruitment, training and retention of student athletes.

The new facilities will include improved locker rooms, team rooms, a hall of fame, coaches' offices, strength and conditioning center, academic support center, classrooms, a conference center and Athletic Department offices.

As with most improvements that take place, the funding primarily comes through private contributions to the university. Completion is expected late 2002 or early 2003.