

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Athletics Pavilion construction commences with a groundbreaking ceremony at Raider Field

(From Rivier Today, Fall 2018)



New athletic facilities will transform the game-day experience. *From left to right – Joanne Merrill, Athletic Director; Dianne Mercier, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, Rivier's President; Megan Hamel '19, Women's Soccer Team Captain; Collin Deyarmin '20, Men's Soccer Team Captain; and Kurt Stimeling, Vice President for Student Affairs*

Athletics Pavilion construction commences with a groundbreaking ceremony at Raider Field

On an 80°, sunlit day in mid-October, the Rivier community gathered at Raider Field to celebrate the start of construction on the new Athletics Pavilion and enhancements to Raider Diamond. These upgrades promise to transform the game-day experience for Raider student-athletes and fans. Members of Rivier's Board of Trustees, administration, athletic coaches, and students donned construction hats and joined **President Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM**, in digging the first shovelfuls of earth at the Pavilion construction site.

With an estimated investment of \$5 million, the Athletics Pavilion will provide stadium seating, team rooms, and conference space for pre- and post-game gatherings, a training room, locker rooms, and a press box with an enhanced sound system. A renovation of Raider Diamond will complete the outdoor facilities, adding seating, a press box, team dugouts, and field lighting for nighttime play.

The ceremony included a blessing by Chaplain **Brother Paul Demers** and remarks by **Sister Paula**, Vice President for Student Affairs **Kurt Stimeling**, Athletic Director **Joanne Merrill**, and Rivier Women's Soccer Captain **Megan Hamel '19**.

A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY AT RAIDER FIELD

“This is an exceptional day for Rivier and Raider Athletics,” said Sister Paula. “The new facilities will contribute to the growth of the University and transform the student-athlete and fan experience, ultimately raising Rivier’s level of play in athletic competition, recruitment, and community engagement.”



“The new Athletics Pavilion and Raider Diamond upgrades show the commitment Rivier has to you, our student-athletes, and all the passion and dedication you bring to your athletics participation and the community,” said **Joanne Merrill**. “The University is putting its faith in you to build Rivier’s future by being the best you can be in all parts of your college career—in the classroom, on the field, and in the community.”

These facilities will support the University’s NCAA Division III athletic programs for men’s and women’s soccer and lacrosse, as well as field hockey and softball. They also will provide an updated venue for the many groups that utilize the University fields for sporting events and summer camps, and for the city’s youth who use the space through local schools and community organizations. Enhancements are anticipated to be completed by late spring 2019.

In addition to enhancements to key academic facilities and resources, *Vision 2020* takes into account the education of the whole student with a critical focus on athletics, leadership, and personal development.

Every day Rivier athletes strive to reach higher and better and to excel both on and off the playing fields and courts. Athletics are a key piece of a bigger picture, serving to enhance academic achievement and the overall student experience. Participating in intercollegiate athletics provides students with the significant experiences of competition, commitment, achievement, and goal attainment.



A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY AT RAIDER FIELD

ATHLETICS PAVILION

The construction of an Athletics Pavilion will turn the University's athletics field into a stadium, having a transformational impact on the game-day experience for Raider athletes and fans. The Pavilion will provide stadium seating, team rooms and conference space for pre- and post-game gatherings, a training room, locker rooms, and a press box with an enhanced sound system.



Front view of Athletics Pavilion



Field view of Athletics Pavilion and stadium seating

SOFTBALL FIELD

A renovation of the existing softball field will complete the outdoor facilities, adding stadium seating, a press box, team dugouts, and field lighting for nighttime play.

Construction of the Athletics Pavilion and softball field, are anticipated to begin in the fall 2018.



Enhancement of athletic facilities to support new Sport Management degree



Concurrent with construction of the Athletics Pavilion and recognizing the need for talented and trained management professionals, Rivier is launching a new bachelor's degree in Sport Management for fall 2019. The degree will focus on sport administration and management, marketing, accounting, finance, and communications. Graduates will be prepared to pursue positions as event and travel coordinators, athletic administrators, sport marketing directors, facility operations managers, financial and contract analysts, corporate partnership managers, and others.



In addition to the exceptional opportunities for internships throughout the region, the new Raider athletic facilities will provide experiential opportunities in game-day and facility management for Rivier Sport Management majors. ■