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Truman Sports Complex Renovation Newsletter

Keeping you in the game

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Ribbon Cutting at the "K"



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Kauffman Stadium, April 10th, 2009

Royals owner David Glass, U.S. Rep Emanuel Clever, Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders, and several other dignitaries celebrated the opening of the new Kauffman Stadium on opening Day, April 10, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The ceremony started four hours before game time and was moved from outside the stadium in front of Gate D to a concourse near the new Diamond Club. Some fans arrived early and listened to the speakers as they praised the ballclub and the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority for finishing the stadium renovations on time and on budget.

"I've looked forward to this day for a long time," Glass said. "I couldn't be more proud of this stadium." Glass said Kauffman Stadium has been regarded as one of the most beautiful Major League Baseball stadiums since it opened in 1973. The renovations, he said, make the stadium even better. Sanders recounted some of his Kaufman Stadium memories including the first game played there 36 years ago to the day of the renovated K's debut.

"The great thing is that I've had wonderful experience (here), you've had them, and now we get to pass those wonderful experiences on to our children, our grandchildren and future generations," he said. Clever, who was the mayor of Kansas City during the 1990's, said the renovation is a sign that Kansas City "is back on Front Street." "We take a backseat to no stadium," he said.

Mike Smith, chairman of the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority's board of directors, said the construction project was managed well and added that goals to include a substantial number of minority and women-owned contractors in the project were met. "We lived up to what we committed to the people of Jackson County," Smith said.

Ken Johnson, Vice President of Hunt Construction Group which oversaw the Kauffman Stadium renovations, concurred. "We were very proud to have had 32 percent MBE/WBE participation," Johnson said. "We exceeded the goals." That remark drew applause from the people in the audience. The ceremony was hosted by the Royals announcer Ryan Lefebvre who noted that Royals players were wowed by the new stadium when they arrived at the stadium the day before. "Normally, the players get off the bus, put their stuff away in their lockers and leave as quickly as possible," Lefebvre said. "But when they arrived here yesterday, it was like they were in Disneyland."

Arrowhead Construction Update:

Construction is continuing at a very rapid pace at Arrowhead, while things at Kauffman have reached completion, or near completion. Turner Construction is leading the effort at Arrowhead with a goal of 70% completion by the first preseason game on August 15, 2009 against the Houston Texans.

The exterior of Arrowhead has the most noticeable changes. The installation of metal panels nearly completed on both the east and west sides of Arrowhead have altered the look of the stadium.

Installation has begun on the north side of Arrowhead. Concrete work continues through out the stadium. New concession stands, plumbing fixtures and toilets are being installed. The suites have been framed in, utilities are roughed in and the sheetrock is in place. The support structures for the Horizon Level/Press Box is starting to rise above the seating bowl and the lights will be installed prior to the start of the 2009 season.



Arrowhead - Exterior - West Side

New York Times



An article, written by Tyler Kemper, recently appeared in *The New York Times* discussing "What a Gem" Kauffman stadium is. The article goes on praising Kauffman and those involved with the renovation. "It was far ahead of its time when it opened in 1973. Now one of baseball's best sites looks better than ever."

It continues discussing the new

amenities and even points out that the only other city in the world with more fountains than Kansas City is Rome. The article even sparked interest with New Yorkers, committing on how Kansas City and Jackson County got it right. To see the complete story and comments [Click Here.](#)

See you at the game,

Jim Rowland, Executive Director
Jackson County Sports Complex Authority

jrowland@jcsca.org
web: <http://www.jcsca.org/Home.aspx>



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