

The University Daily Kansan

Alumnus donates \$10 million for new football facility

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Kansas football coach Mark Mangino's goal to have a new practice facility built next to Memorial Stadium received a significant boost yesterday.

Former Kansas basketball player Tom Kivisto donated \$2 million to the athletics department and pledged another \$8 million. The money is scheduled to go toward paying for the facility.

The facility would be a one or two story structure and include meeting rooms, a weight facility and locker rooms near the stadium as well as practice fields.

"I believe a successful football program helps a university at every level, Kivisto said. "By making the football program stronger, the entire University and all of its sports programs are the beneficiaries. I am happy to do what I can to support the university, especially its athletics programs."

According to Jim Marchiony, Associate Athletics Director, the donation put the total pledges for the facility at about \$18 million. The cost of the facility is now being envisioned at \$40 million.

Marchiony said that construction on the facility would not begin until all of the money was collected.

Construction plans have previously been a source of controversy. Faculty and students were concerned with the facility blocking the view of the Campanile and disrupting the tradition of graduates walking down the hill into the stadium.

Lew Perkins, Athletics Director, previously ensured the facility would not affect graduation traditions.

Perkins said when the facility was built, it would help the other athletic teams at the University as well.

"The entire KU athletics family is indebted to Tom for his generosity," Perkins said. "By consolidating all football activities into one area, the facility will free up space needed for other sports. In addition, this football facility will help KU football be more competitive with other Big 12 programs."

Mangino brought up the idea for the new facility after a practice last season.

"Our coaching staff and players are all committed to making the KU football program a perennial power in the Big 12, and Tom's generosity will help us achieve that goal," Mangino said.

The Anderson family of Los Angeles donated \$3.15 million and the Kimbell family of Hutchinson, Kan., donated three million last year to contribute to the facility.

Kivisto, originally from Chicago, graduated from the University in 1974 with a degree in pre-medicine and psychology. He received his masters degree in urban planning from the University.

Kivisto is currently president and CEO of SemGroup L.P. of Tulsa, Okla., a midstream energy service company. Last year, his company was ranked 14th in earnings among private companies by Forbes Magazine with \$1.4 billion.

Kivisto started for three seasons on the Jayhawk basketball team in the early '70s and averaged 8.3 points per game during his career. Kivisto is also a member of the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame.

"Athletics was a huge part of my life at KU, and I respect and appreciate what Lew Perkins is doing for athletics and for KU," Kivisto said.

In recent years, numerous schools in the Big 12 Conference made improvements to their practice facilities, similar to those proposed at Kansas. In the last five years, Oklahoma built a new locker room, training area, and weight room. Texas Tech completed an \$84 million improvement to its stadium and practice facilities.

Missouri will undergo a \$16 million improvement of its facilities, which will include a new weight room, dining hall, larger offices and meeting rooms.

— *Edited by Erick R. Schmidt*