

DePauw University Announces an \$80 Million Gift to Build New Athletics Performance Center

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DePauw University →

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GREENCASTLE, Ind., Oct. 6, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- DePauw University proudly announces a landmark \$80 million philanthropic commitment from an anonymous donor, an alumnus of the university. This gift is one of the largest single gifts in the institution's nearly 200-year history and among the most significant in NCAA Division III athletics. The gift will enable the construction of a best-in-class 70,000 square-foot athletic stadium and sports performance center, including best-in-class facilities that will redefine student-athlete wellness, fan experience and community engagement in Division III athletics. The scale and ambition of this project reflect DePauw's vision to deliver an exemplary student experience and advance campus renewal under the **DePauw Bold and Gold 2027** strategic plan, while positioning the university as a leader in innovative and sustainable campus design.

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DePauw sports stadium.

DePauw University President Dr. Lori S. White recognized the incredible opportunity provided by this gift. "Generosity is at the foundation of the DePauw tradition across generations. At DePauw, every act of giving is an investment in the potential and promise of our students and our future. Through this extraordinary gift, we can reimagine what is possible for the university and our community. We are deeply grateful for this donor's trust and inspired by their belief that together, we can transform the D-III student-athlete and fan experience," said President White.

The new Blackstock Stadium and Performance Center will elevate DePauw athletics by providing advanced facilities for teams, coaches and sports medicine staff. Modern locker rooms, versatile meeting spaces and multi-purpose areas for coaching and collaboration are designed to foster team unity, leadership and peak performance. State-of-the-art spaces will support both competition and growth, benefiting DePauw Athletics and teams in the pursuit of excellence.

Student-athletes at DePauw will benefit from cutting-edge sports medicine facilities, dedicated recovery spaces and an advanced weight room, all of which will redefine approaches to wellness, injury prevention and sports performance. Dedicated meeting rooms, student-athlete social spaces and enrichment areas will nurture personal development, empowering students to excel and lead.

An enhanced fan experience for DePauw University and Greencastle community members and visitors will be a central element of the new stadium. The facility will feature upgraded seating for football and track and field fans, improved concessions and accessible amenities to ensure every event is welcoming and memorable. Blackstock Stadium and Performance Center will serve as a new hub for DePauw traditions and celebrations.

This gift advances DePauw's **Bold, Gold & You!** campaign, launched October 3, 2025. With a \$575 million goal, including this gift, the campaign has already raised \$365 million, reflecting strong early momentum.

"For generations, Blackstock Stadium has been the stage for unforgettable DePauw moments, building tradition and defining what it means to be a Tiger. Now with this extraordinary gift, the Blackstock Stadium and Performance Center will provide our student-athletes, athletics staff, families and fans a facility that reflects their deep passion, purpose and pride," said Stevie Baker-Watson, Associate Vice President for Student Wellness and Theodore Katula Director of Athletics and Recreational Sports.

DePauw's new Performance Center will run on next-generation sustainable energy. A 250-ton geothermal system will provide efficient, environmentally-friendly heating and cooling, reducing emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.

Populous, a global architecture and design firm specializing in sports and entertainment, has been selected to design the performance center at DePauw University. Populous brings unparalleled expertise in creating innovative, sustainable and human-centered environments that enhance experiences for athletes and fans.

Demolition of the existing Blackstock Stadium is scheduled for August 2026. The new facility is scheduled to open in Fall 2028. Updates and engagement opportunities will be shared via official university channels.

About DePauw

Founded in 1837, DePauw University is a nationally recognized liberal arts institution, renowned for its academic excellence, innovative curricula and vibrant campus community. Located in Greencastle, Indiana, DePauw prepares its students to be the leaders the world needs.

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