



Football Operations Center

A Message From Coach Bobby Wilder



What an exciting time for Tennessee Tech University, our Athletics Department and Golden Eagle Football! I could not be more excited to be your new Head Football Coach. From the moment I arrived in Cookeville and on our beautiful campus, I could feel the pride and the passion. People love Tennessee Tech!

My job as your new coach is to put forth a vision and a philosophy for winning. We will Aim High in everything we do. We will recruit and develop great people, great students and great athletes.

President Phil Oldham and Athletic Director Mark Wilson have shared an impressive vision for success with our football program. Throughout the hiring process we discussed what must happen now. Here's the big one: The \$15 million Football Operations Center is critical in building a sustainable championship caliber program. All of the top F.C.S. programs have a standalone football facility. Not only is it important for current players, but it will also add tremendous value in recruiting. Lastly, it will be wonderful to have our proud Tech Alumni visit the facility they helped build.

Please join me as I work day and night to raise the funds for our Football Operations Center.

Wings Up.

Bobby Wilder
Head Football Coach



Motivation and Purpose

Tennessee Tech University is engaged in the most expansive building campaign in the school's history; however, no significant improvements in Tech's football facilities have been made in 50 years. Built in 1966, Tucker Stadium — the home of Golden Eagle football — is 58 years old.

A new football operations center will enhance the student-athlete experience. It will add to the university's appeal, create regional and national media coverage, raise awareness of the institution and expand the local economy. It will assist with recruiting, increase student enrollment and provide an exciting and affordable entertainment experience for the Upper Cumberland. The new facility will elevate fundraising and donor stewardship as well.

Once student-athletes arrive at Tech, the new facility will develop their talent and elevate them to their full potential. It will even the playing field among Big South - OVC peer institutions and beyond and strengthen both the team and the overall athletics program.

A winning football program benefits Tennessee Tech and the local communities, and a new football operations center will provide opportunities for fellowship among student-athletes. Some of the most important lessons of leadership and teamwork happen outside of the classroom. The center will foster a sense of brotherhood and culture and form unbreakable bonds that will last a lifetime. It will keep students engaged and motivated to finish their degree. In short, it is critical to their success.

Tradition and Reputation

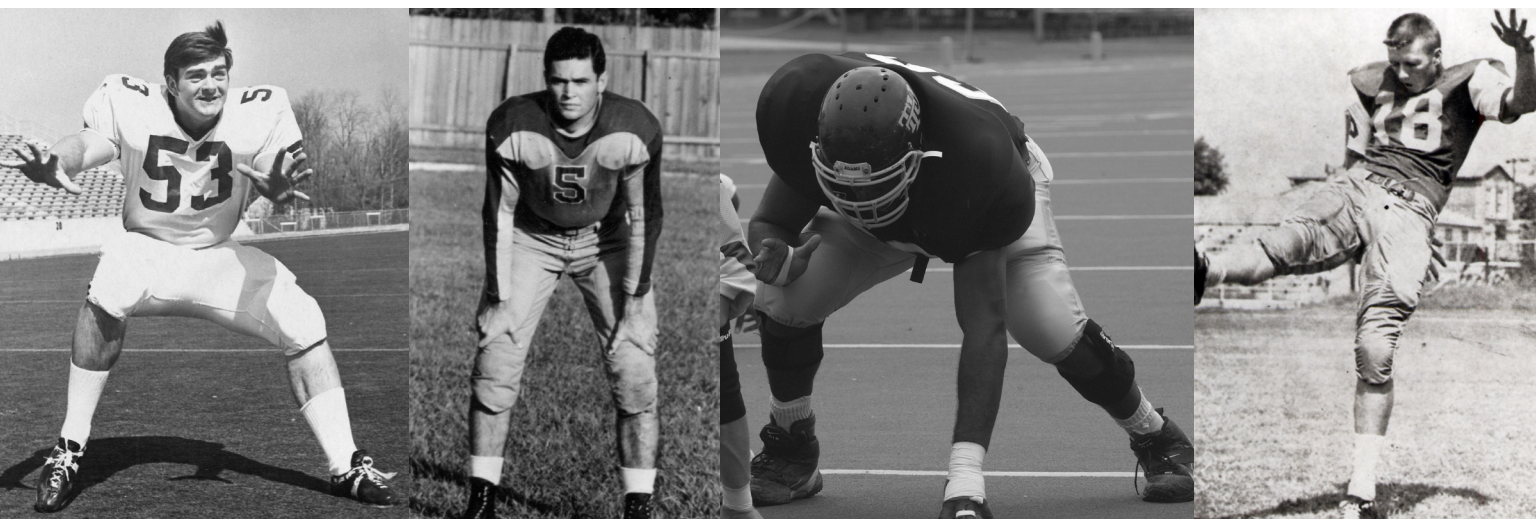
Tennessee Tech football has a long, proud tradition. Tech played its first football game, against Cumberland University, in fall 1922 and claimed its 100th football win in 1951 against Carson Newman.

Tech has won 10 OVC Championships — more than any other school currently in the OVC. The program boasts 33 All Americans and 13 players who went on to actively play in the NFL.

Tech football alumni are talented both on and off the field. Everyone knows astronaut Barry Wilmore and singing sensation Jake Hoot, but many may not realize that these successful alumni got their start, like so many others, on the Tech football field. Tech football legends like Larry Schreiber, Jim Youngblood, Lonnie Warwick, Elois Grooms, Mike Hennigan and Frank Omiyale inspired future generations of players and paved the way for their success. These players left a legacy, and Tech hopes to create a legacy for future generations as well.

As Tech's 13th head football coach, Bobby Wilder believes strongly in the history and tradition of 100 years of Tech football, and Tech's football offices proudly display photos of former coaches, championship teams, helmets and retired jerseys.

In almost 100 years of football, nearly two million people have attended a Tech football game. Tech football extends far beyond just Tech alumni. Friends, family, local business owners and citizens from across the Upper Cumberland attend these games. As the university approaches the 100th anniversary of Tennessee Tech football, the time to invest in student-athletes is now.



“The legacy and tradition of a program is built in the hearts of student-athletes. Our facilities need to reflect Tech’s legacy, because it was built by the hard work of players, coaches and support staff.”

—President Phil Oldham



“There are many great American traditions, but none as exciting as college football, especially in the South. No sport can match a great tailgate with friends, pageantry of the Golden Eagle marching band, antics of our mascot Awesome Eagle, strategizing of coaches and the intensity of two football teams fighting it out on a crisp, fall Saturday afternoon. A dedicated football operations center will help our football program win championships by allowing us to recruit and retain talented football players and outstanding young men. This is a difference maker for Tennessee Tech!”

**—M. Dianne Murphy, '72 health and physical education, '73 M.A.
Tennessee Tech Foundation Board chair**

Esprit De Corp



What is esprit de corp? It's a feeling of pride, fellowship and common loyalty shared by the members of a particular group. It's a community who is proud of their local team. It's Purple Pride and Wings Up.

There's a reason Homecoming is centered around football. It's a tradition, a gathering place for alumni and an opportunity for Golden Eagles to come together with a common goal: to win. The Upper Cumberland community loves Tech football. And the players love the fans.

"Esprit de corp creates championship football programs, and this new facility will create esprit de corp among alumni, friends and the entire community."

—Mark Wilson, director of Athletics

"I was blessed to be a part of a time when there was a tremendous investment being made in football facilities at Tech. They put in new artificial turf while I was here, and at that time, Tech had the largest artificial surface in the southeast. When I look at the success of Tech football back then, the facilities played a huge part in that. Tech won two OVC championships between 1972 and 1975, and it was thanks to outstanding athletes, facilities and coaches."

**–The late Ottis Phillips, '74 mechanical engineering, '78 M.B.A.
Tennessee Tech Foundation Board chair
'69-'72 Golden Eagle Football**

Location



The new football operations center will be situated in close proximity to the Athletics Performance Center, located across from the Hooper Eblen Center, off 12th Street. This location will provide student-athletes with convenient access to the strength and conditioning room facilities and the indoor 10,000-square-foot practice turf at the APC.

Football Operations Center







Northwest Corner



Football Operations Center for:
Tennessee Technological University
04/19/21



“It’s astonishing how much has changed at Tech over the past few years: first a new jumbotron, then a new addition to the University Center, and now a new fitness and recreation center. A new football facility for the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles is another necessary piece of the puzzle as the university continues to grow. A new facility will attract recruits who are eager to be successful and dominate in their sport. Although I will not be an active member of the Golden Eagles when a new facility is built, I still want the best for my younger teammates and the future athletes who will attend Tech. I will always remember what it felt like to be a Golden Eagle, and I can confidently say there is no feeling like it.”

—Christopher Tucker, defensive lineman, senior biology major from Jackson, Tennessee



Northeast Corner



Football Operations Center for:
Tennessee Technological University
04/19/21



Southeast Corner



Football Operations Center for:
Tennessee Technological University
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Features

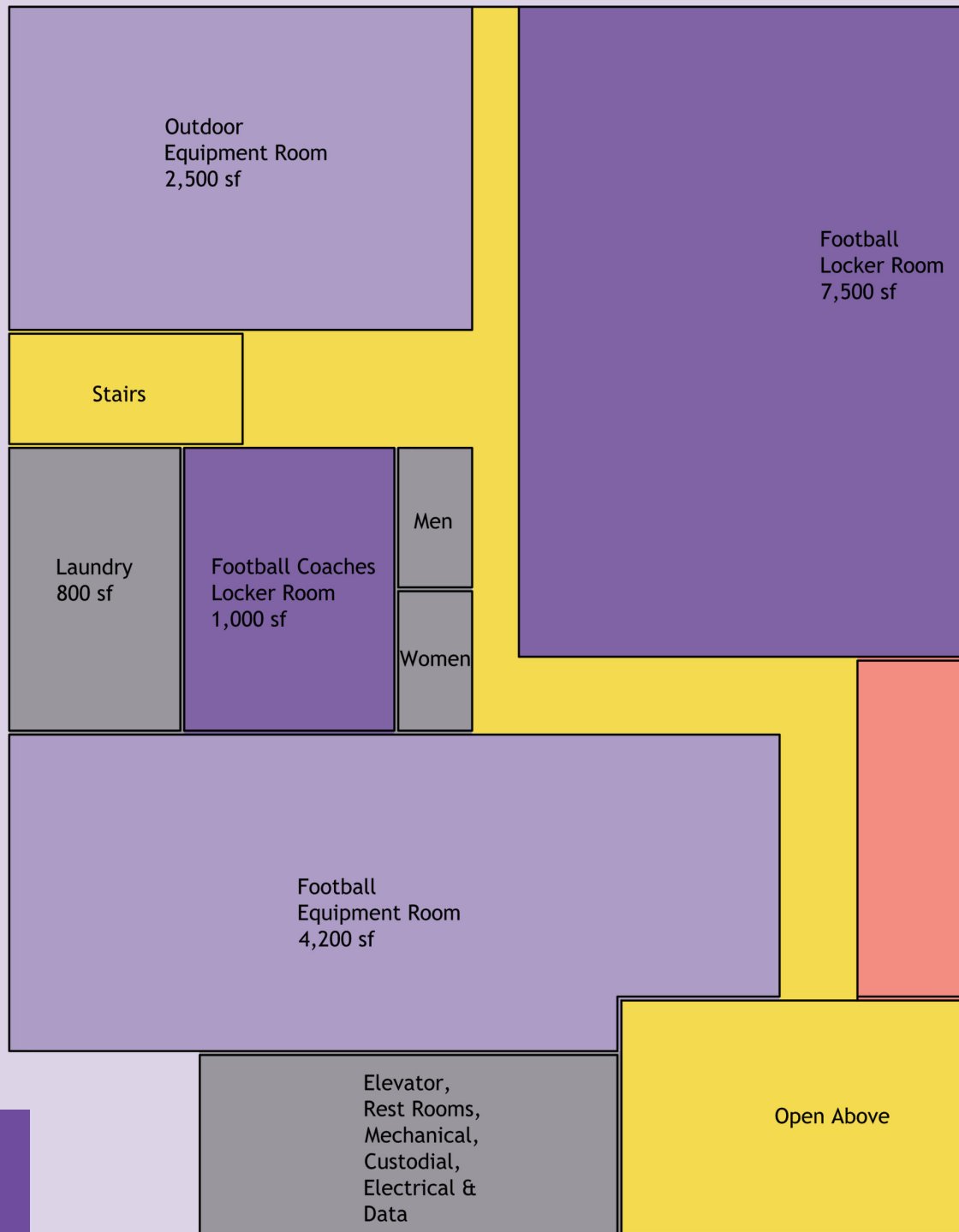
The new 40,000-square-foot facility is designed to provide a wow factor for football recruits and current student-athletes. The facility will place specific emphasis on technology, with touch screens and displays in the lobby. It will be a showplace for Tech's football program and will allow Tech Athletics to use technology in their recruiting. Photographs, jerseys, plaques and memorabilia of championship teams, All Americans, All Conference players and academic success will be displayed throughout the building, highlighting 100 years of Tennessee Tech football. Student-athletes and alumni will feel a sense of pride when they walk into the football operations center.

Health and safety have always been a priority for Tech Athletics, but never has this been more important than right now. The new center will be the primary sports medicine, athletics training and physical therapy facility for the entire athletics department, servicing all 15 teams and approximately 325 student-athletes. The physical health and well-being of student-athletes are critical to meeting goals and developing championship-level programs.



Some of the new features:

- Turf practice field with lights
- Spacious and comfortable meeting spaces where student-athletes and coaches can review video
- State-of-the-art video screens and video editing technology
- Contemporary locker room
- Football Academic Enrichment Center
- Film room
- Theatre-style auditorium
- Hospitality Suite to host recruits, luncheons and other events
- Offices for coaching staff
- Conference room
- Player lounge
- Hydrotherapy room with the latest technologies for cold and hot water treatments
- Physical therapy center for injury treatments and post-operative rehabilitation
- Treatment areas for all modalities
- Exam rooms
- Taping areas
- Sports medicine staff offices

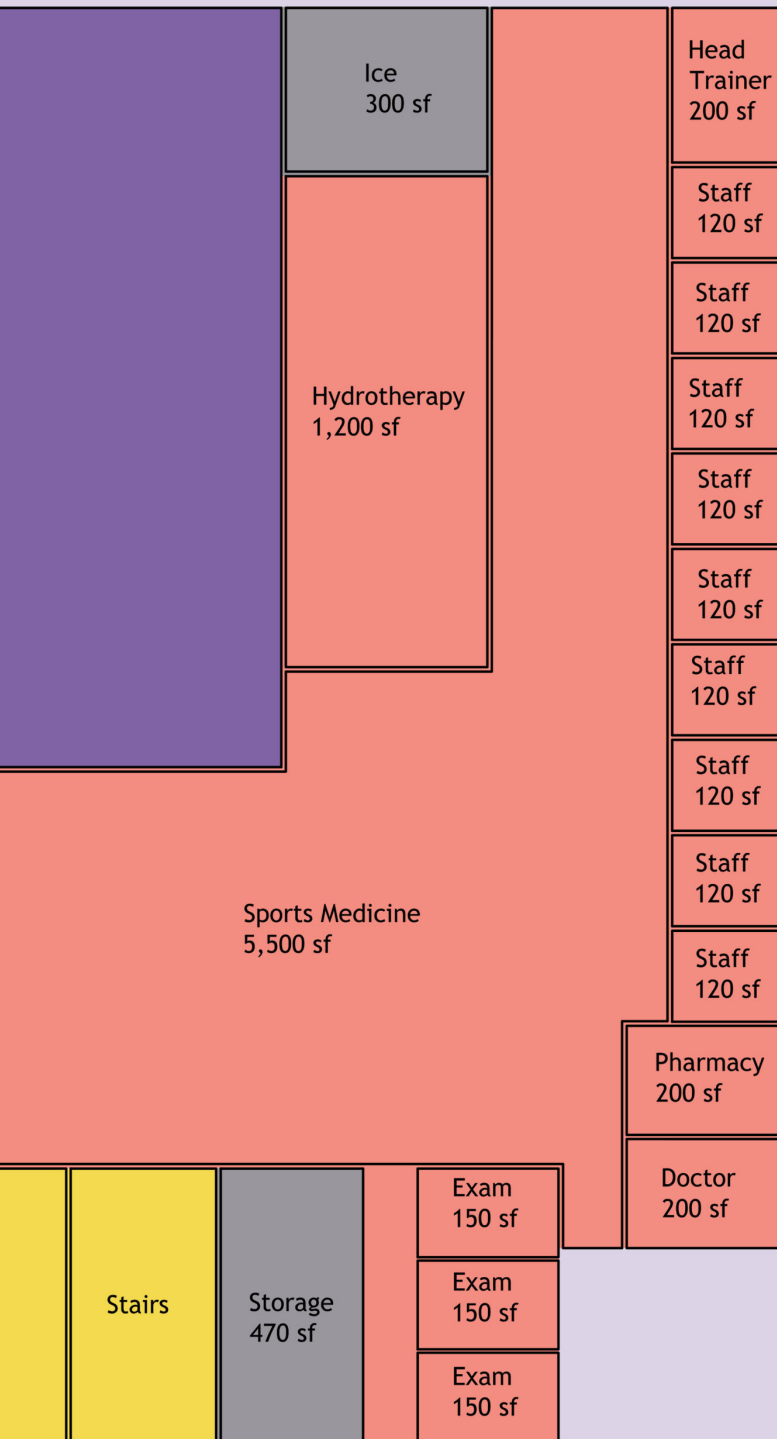


First Floor



Football Operations Center for:
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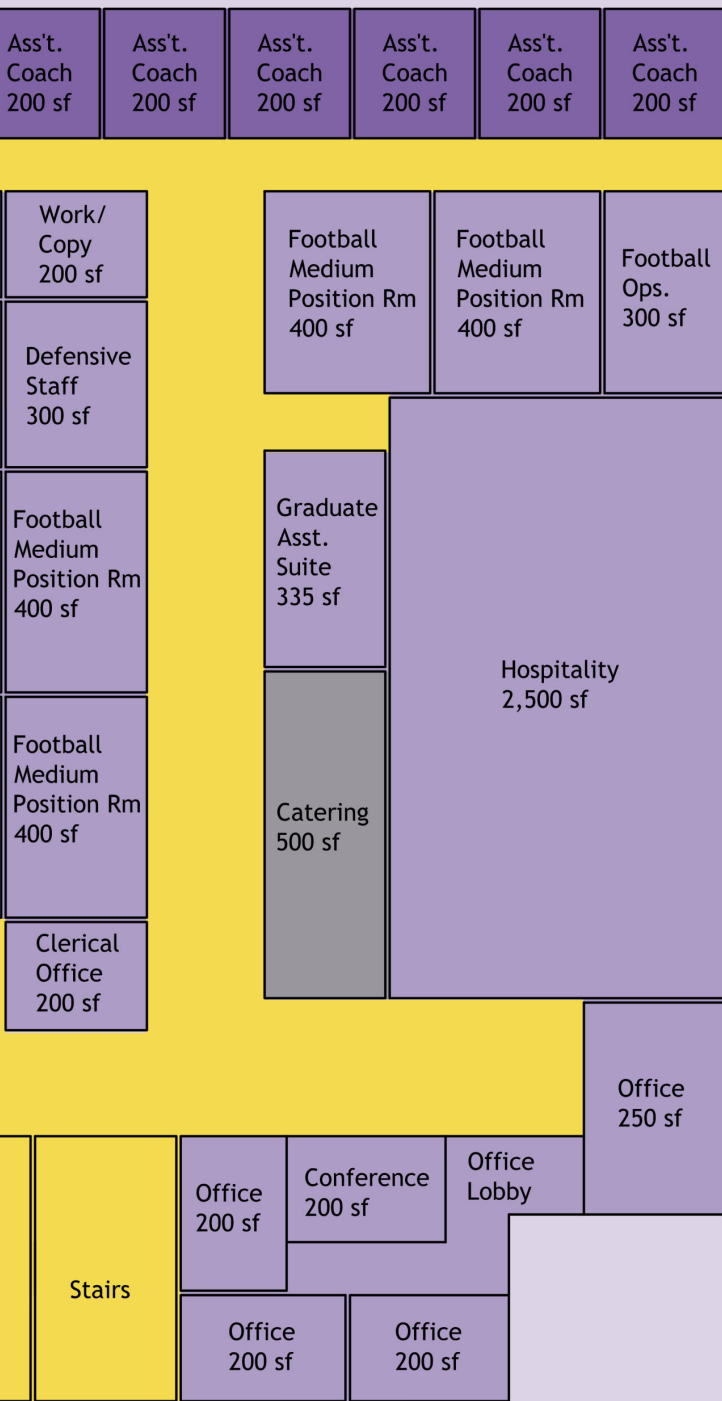
-  Locker Rooms
-  Football Support
-  Building Support
-  Circulation / Public
-  Sports Medicine Suite



Second Floor



Football Operations Center for:
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-  Football Office Suite
-  Football Support
-  Building Support
-  Circulation / Public

Economic Impact

Tennessee Tech contributes \$765 million annually to the Upper Cumberland region, and the football program alone supports more than 140 student-athletes, coaches and support staff.



“At one time, approximately 70% of the university’s budget came from the state. That’s not the case anymore. Today it’s closer to 30%, and the state does not support building or maintenance expenses for athletic facilities. Private funding for projects like this must fill the gap, and the investment will pay off. Fans who come to games eat in restaurants in the area. They shop at local businesses. Tennessee Tech football touches every part of this community.”

**—The late Ottis Phillips, '74 mechanical engineering, '78 M.B.A.
Tennessee Tech Foundation Board chair
'69-'72 Golden Eagle Football**

“Tech student-athletes past and present say they are proud of their time here, and that lifts us all up. It is time to show a reinvigorated commitment to do all we can to give our football players a competitive edge.”

—President Phil Oldham

Future Expansion



The Football Operations Center is just one part of a comprehensive upgrade and expansion plan for Tennessee Tech Football which also includes a reimagined, reinvigorated and reinvented Tucker Stadium that will provide significant upgrades to both the player and fan experience.

Make a Gift. Leave a Legacy.



Your investment will make the vision of the new Football Operations Center a reality for future generations of Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles.

Whether you choose to invest \$25,000 or \$5 million, there is an opportunity for you to make a real and impactful difference. You will receive next-level visibility at the athletics complex, on social media and in print publications.

Multi-year pledge opportunities are available, and we can guide you through the options to help you decide what and how to give.

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