

LIGHTS OUT...

The End of a Legacy

Fate of Floyd Casey remains untold

By MALEESA JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

While the game against the University of Texas at Austin marks the last football game at Floyd Casey Stadium, the ultimate fate of the facility remains undetermined.

“Simply put, we have no plans for it right now, whether we are going to tear it down or keep it,” said Brian Nicholson, associate vice president of facility, planning and construction. “Ultimately we aren’t going to keep it, we’re going to sell it. We just haven’t decided.”

There have been multiple scenarios rumored as to what the future holds for The Case. One scenario was the possibility of the stadium being used by Waco Independent School District.

“Many years ago, before Waco ISD built a stadium, I’m sure that that may have happened,” said Nick Joos, executive associate athletics director. “Whenever we get into a situation with high schools and what we can give them, there are some NCAA rules that we also have to follow in that regard.”

Both Joos and Nicholson said Baylor’s

agreement with the City of Waco greatly impacts what will happen to Floyd Casey. Nicholson said they will try to come up with use for facility that best benefits Waco. For now, Nicholson said the construction of the new stadium takes precedence over the fate of Floyd Casey.

“Bottom line is we haven’t even evaluated it,” Nicholson said. “It is on the far backburner. All of our focus right now is to get the stadium done.”

Even though Saturday marks the last football game in the stadium, the facility will still be in use next semester. There are workout rooms on the north end zone side of the stadium that are used by track and field throughout both semesters. High school football playoffs will also take place at The Case.

Regardless of the fate of the stadium, pieces of it will still be present in honor of the time spent there.

“We’re going to be taking some of the parts out of Floyd Casey and making it part of the

“Simply put, we have no plans for it right now. Ultimately we aren’t going to keep it, we’re going to sell it.”

Brian Nicholson | Associate vice president for facility, planning and construction

new stadium,” Joos said. “The turf will come out and be part of Touchdown alley for the tailgating experience. Smaller furniture and things of

that nature will be repurposed at the new stadiums.”

There have not been

any definite decisions made, but Joos said he thinks it will most likely be demolished.

“I think that will certainly happen at some point in time,” Joos said. “But we will keep it up for right now just in case we should need it.”

As previously reported by the Lariat, three years ago Baylor officials considered the possibility of renovating Floyd Casey. Reagan Ramsower, senior vice president for operations and chief financial officer, said at that time the renovations would have cost an estimated \$80 million. Ramsower also said if a way to repurpose Floyd Casey was not found, the stadium would most likely be demolished.

Nicholson said the likelihood of Waco needing a venue the size of Floyd Casey in conjunction with the new Baylor Stadium was very little. He also said they had not spoken with any potential buyers or realtors yet.

Ultimately, the fate of Floyd Casey Stadium is currently undecided, but both Joos and Nicholson said that they doubt it will be needed for anything following the completion of the new stadium and track facility.




PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TEXAS COLLECTION



 **spencerseption**
3:39pm via Twitter for Android
@bulariat spontaneously ignites after torching UT for 100 & 1000 yds offense. Fire burns perpetually... becomes new immortal flame.




 **smills79**
Dec 04, 9:02am via Web
@bulariat #BestCase would be to keep Art Brile's new contract money in dollar bills so he can go swimming like Scrooge McDuck.


#BestCase

Twitter weighs in on the fate of the stadium

Comics by Asher Freeman (Murphy) | Cartoonist



 **DerBaylorBaer**
Dec 04, 10:25pm via Web
@bulariat Romanesque naval battles. #BestCase

 **jeffreyswindoll**
Dec 03, 6:22pm via Twitter for iPhone
@bulariat #BestCase usage would be having our own men's soccer team play there... oh wait, we don't have one...



1950

Baylor beat Houston 34-7 in the first game played in Floyd Casey, originally named Baylor Stadium.



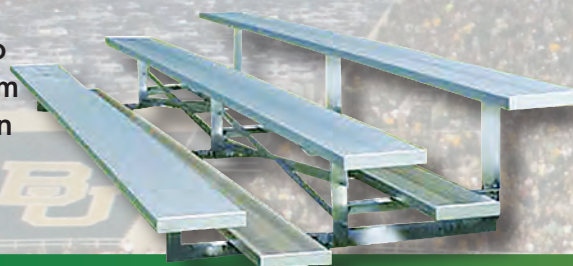
1978



dave sowders @page2guy · 4h
@bulariat Mine: Sitting on the student side with my homecoming date while my sisters on the other side checked her out with field glasses

1981

An eight-year project to upgrade worn wooden bleacher seats to modern aluminum was completed in 1981.



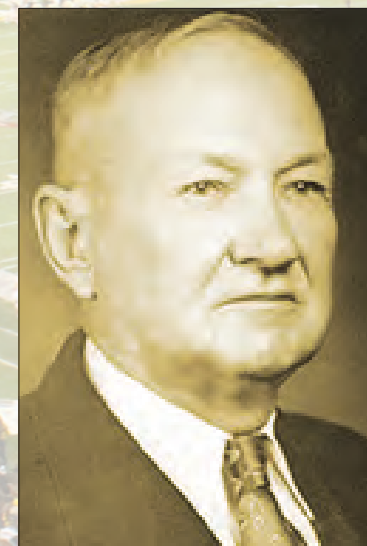
1997



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1974

The Bears won the first conference game in 50 years when they beat UT. The upset was known as the "Miracle on the Brazos."



1989

Baylor Stadium was renamed to Floyd Casey Stadium after Carl Casey donated \$5 million to honor his father.

200

The locker received a When the million fac completed the largest Big 12.

1972

The Letterman's Lounge was built on the stadium's west side with funds provided by former athletes.

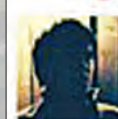
McCobb @melissabcobb 3h
 @bulariat 1997 game vs Texas.
 ly conference win that year. We
 e down the goalposts. My
 nature is on it somewhere.
 (class of 99)



2004

A new synthetic turf, called Prestige Turf, was installed after six seasons of play on the natural Sport Grass Turf. From 1972 through 1997, the stadium featured and AstroTurf playing surface.

2011



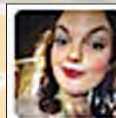
Jeffrey @jeffreyswindoll 4h
 @bulariat Rushing the field after beating OU a couple years back. I wasn't a student here yet. Definitive moment in my decision to enroll.

2002

A 23-by-31-foot LED video screen was added in the south end zone, as well as a state-of-the-art sound system and digital scoreboards.



2013



Amanda Hall @AmandaNHall 3h
 @bulariat my favorite Floyd Casey memory is getting engaged on the field last year!

2006

A recruiting center, located on the northwest patio, opened as a tribute to Baylor football. It was designed to enhance the Grant W. Plaza, which includes the Letterwinners Plaza and the 'I Believe' Walkway.

BAYLOR THEN NOW

1950	2013
TUITION: \$115	TUITION: \$16,287
ROOM RENT: \$25-54	ROOM RENT: \$2,656
TEXTBOOKS: \$15	TEXTBOOKS: \$900
MEALS: \$90	MEALS: \$2,164.33
CAP AND GOWN: \$2.50	CAP AND GOWN: \$48

Source: Baylor Bulletin

Source: Baylor University



Photos Courtesy of the Texas Collection

Highest Game Attendance

RANK	ATTENDANCE	OPPONENT
#1	51,385 10/28/06	ATM
#2	51,218 10/21/95	ATM
#3	51,200 10/26/74	ATM
#4	50,267 10/19/91	ATM
#5	50,537 11/8/13	OU
#6	50,000 11/5/60	UT
#7	49,500 10/27/56	ATM
#8	48,756 10/19/85	ATM
#9	48,500 9/15/79	ATM
	48,500 11/22/80	UT

50,000

Source: Baylor University

Graphics by Travis Taylor | Lariat Photo Editor



Baylor bears rushed the field the night they beat A&M for the first time in a long time. Twelve-year old me watched that good Ol' Baylor line surround the players, cheering and being happy, and then pull a goal post from the ground in their excitement. I was shocked.

I had no allegiances to either school at the time, though I confess, I still have a maroon ball cap from that night in a drawer somewhere. I'm graduating this spring. And every time I say it, I get a little nostalgic. So forgive me, but I think there is something to be said for recognizing the art of saying goodbye. Goodbyes are for people, not for things.

There is a time for being happy and there is a time for saying goodbye. This weekend will be the last Baylor game at Floyd Casey Stadium, an ideal time to practice both. A good goodbye has less to do with how much or how little you do or say, but that you're present and engaged and show the departed that for all his or her worth, they'll be missed.

But what's to miss about a building? Does it really care? Well, no. It doesn't have feelings.

Goodbyes are for those of us who have feelings. And we owe it to the stadium; it's 45,000 seats, our feelings and togetherness. That's what the place was about anyway. Our tailgates and our parties were pregame proof of the power of community. That good Ol' Baylor line never meant more than when we shared a goal and had fun. Together we made heroes there and defied low expectations.

But the goodbye is only as strange as the prospect of a very new day. The prospect is ours to maintain. Next year's season at the new stadium is full of hopeful thoughts. But our Baylor community and its actions will make good on them.

We were happy at Floyd Casey. We were sad there, too. This weekend, what ever our state, let's be honest with our memories and ourselves and enjoy one another.

So we'll fling our green and gold afar. In terms of time, it's ours to say goodbye.

And thanks,

Jordan Corona, Corpus Christi senior
Sic' Em



Photo Illustration by Matt Hellman | Lariat Multimedia Producer



#CASECLOSED

COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TEXAS COLLECTION AND ROBERT ROGERS