



Heldenfels Enterprises Inc. manufactured more than 1,500 precast concrete pieces for the renovation of Kyle Field.

Although not manufactured by Sherman-Dixie, the stadium will also include precast products in the seating areas. According to Justin Barton, P.E., S.E. and principal for Walter P Moore, using precast for these components is crucial to meeting project deadlines.

“We had a very aggressive design and construction schedule,” he said. “I think the precast concrete will help in terms of being able to make the project ready for opening day.”

Beyond speed of erection, Barton also said using precast helps boost the quality of installation. “By manufacturing the precast in a plant, you’re able to have tighter tolerances that you might not get if the product was just cast in the field,” Barton said.

The Sounds will play their first game at the new facility when the season begins in mid-April 2015.

A SIZEABLE UPGRADE: KYLE FIELD

Precaster: Heldenfels Enterprises Inc.

Products: Columns, Beams, Rakers, Risers, Vomitory Walls, Stairs

General Contractor: Manhattan/Vaughn JV

Architect: Populous

Engineer: Walter P Moore

Seats: 82,500 (Before Renovations), 102,500 (After Renovations)

Over the past several years, the college football program at Texas A&M University has exploded in popularity. In a 2013 poll, the Aggies supplanted the University of Texas as the football

program fans most identify with in the state.³ Now, thanks to a renovation project currently underway, Kyle Field will become the stadium with the largest seating capacity in the entire Southeastern Conference when work is completed later this year.⁴

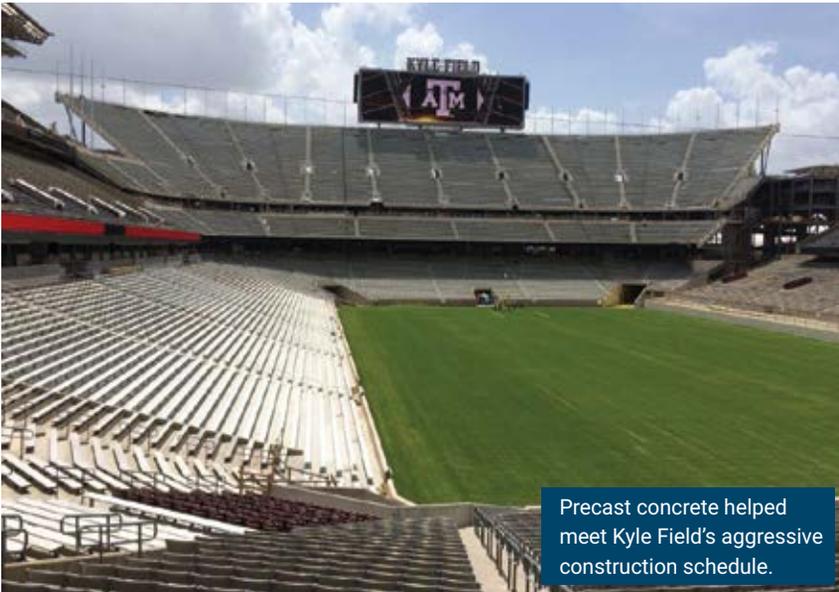
According to Gil Heldenfels, vice president and general manager of the building systems division at Heldenfels Enterprises Inc., the project is taking place between the team’s football seasons, which run from August to December each year. Due to the limited time available for construction teams to work, the renovation schedule is very aggressive.

“The university decided to go with a precast and steel structure for speed,” he said. “The lower deck – all the way around – is going to be all precast, including columns, beams, raker beams, risers, vomitory walls and stairs.”

Heldenfels added that the first phase, which was completed before the start of the 2014 season, contained more than 1,500 precast concrete pieces. On-site teams demoed the lower east side stands and rebuilt them. The south end of the stadium was also enclosed by adding a new seating complex with precast components in the area. In phase two, Heldenfels Enterprises will provide an additional 773 pieces of precast. Teams will demo the west side and rebuild it, completely closing in the stadium.

In addition to the major structural work, another producer – Enterprise Precast Concrete – will manufacture architectural cladding that will wrap around the exterior of the stadium. Heldenfels believes the work will give Kyle Field a bold new look.

“For the most part, before it was just an exposed structure with some metal panels,” he said. “The precast is going to really dress up the stadium.”



Precast concrete helped meet Kyle Field's aggressive construction schedule.

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Page 16-17 – Ben Tanner, Populous

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Page 20 – Bethlehem Precast Inc.

Page 21, Top – Populous

Page 21, Bottom – Sherman-Dixie Concrete Industries Inc.

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MOST VALUABLE PRECAST

With modern-day stadiums and arenas growing ever-larger and project schedules continuing to tighten, engineers and architects are in need of a construction material that is just as clutch as a last-second winning play. Precast concrete's strength, durability and speed have consistently come through, enabling the completion of some of the world's most awe-inspiring sports complexes. **PS**

Mason Nichols is the managing editor of Precast Solutions magazine and is NPCA's external communication and marketing manager.

(Endnotes)

¹ <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/super-bowl-2014-ratings-set-new-record/>

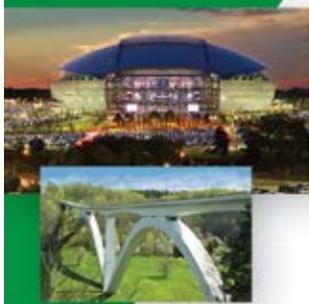
² http://articles.mcall.com/2012-11-29/news/mc-allentown-hockey-arena-groundbreaking-20121129_1_jim-and-rob-brooks-arena-construction-adirondack-phantoms

³ <http://collegesportsblog.dallasnews.com/2013/11/texas-am-overtakes-texas-longhorns-in-statewide-popularity-poll.html/>

⁴ <http://www.sbnation.com/college-football/2013/5/1/4291104/texas-am-football-stadium-expansion-kyle-field>



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