



Las Vegas City Councilwoman Victoria Seaman poses with A's President Marc Badain during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Athletics' \$1.75 billion Strip ballpark at the site of the former Tropicana Las Vegas on June 23.

COMMENTARY

Badain is key to A's Vegas ballpark being finished in 2028

BY ED GRANEY

Las Vegas Review-Journal

LAS VEGAS

John Fisher is convinced the Athletics' new ballpark on the Strip will open as scheduled for the 2028 MLB season.

The owner is sure funding will be there to complete the project and cover any cost overruns, of which there are sure to be many. He's certain this is all going to work out and the skeptics will be proven wrong.

If so, one man will be a main reason for such success: Marc Badain. He is key to all this.

The A's president, who held the same title for the Raiders, for the second time will be the point person on a structure to house a local major league professional sports franchise.

Badain was also the lead on the raising of Allegiant Stadium.

His work on that project spoke for itself.

BREAKING GROUND

"Marc is a jewel, such an incredible find for us to attract him to come in and run our franchise," Fisher said. "He's a great operator and has developed an incredible local connection and credibility within the community. You guys don't know me, but you know Marc.

"He built one of the great stadiums in the world in Allegiant. Having someone who has done this before, who knows the local community, who knows how to sell, was tremendously important to

us."

They officially broke ground on the stadium Monday with a ceremony that wouldn't surprise you in scope. I think everyone spoke except the A's mascot, because Stomper was too busy giving fist bumps and taking selfies.

It was a large show with a backdrop of the 9 acres on the 35-acre Tropicana Las Vegas site that will include the 33,000-seat stadium. Much of the celebration centered on youth baseball and softball players, with the idea of the A's growing a new generation of fans.

I'm just not sure any of the kids had an answer to possible tariffs on steel.

Badain was seemingly the only VIP who didn't offer words at the podium, but his importance to the project is unmatched.

And yet critical questions remain, more than dirt merely being moved from here to there:

Like, from where is the remainder of needed funding.

You can be sure the final price tag will come in above a projected \$1.75 billion. You can be sure even if Fisher sells the San Jose Earthquakes, a Major League Soccer team he owns recently valued at \$600 million, there is still much left to reach what is at this point an unknown final number.

There is \$380 million in public funding. There is a \$100 million investment from Aramark. There is a \$300 million construction loan from Goldman Sachs and U.S. Bank. There is the potential sale of the

Earthquakes. Still not enough.

Fisher has said he would contribute up to \$1.1 billion and might have to make good on that claim. But he's still looking for investors. Still hoping to collect from wallets other than his own by offering a piece of the franchise.

A FORMULA

"You want to see a vision of the ballpark and what they want to do in the community, and then you want to see their financing plan and make sure it all makes sense," said Badain, who resigned from the Raiders in 2021 after 30 years with the organization. "There is a formula to all this, and you want to make sure they've done all their work.

"I have no doubt this will be done in 2028. The work force is ready to go. They have the best team in the world in (joint venture contractor Mortenson-McCarthy) building this. "We've had a number of meetings over the last three months about (cost). You always run into unknowns with these projects, but you build contingency plans for that. They have."

They better. Those critical questions remain unanswered. But with Badain in charge, you figure this has a much better chance than not at making the proposed 2028 deadline.

But financing remains the elephant in the room.

And we're sure not talking about Stomper.

Son of Rockies' owner to lead struggling franchise

Field Level Media

Walker Monfort, the eldest son of Colorado Rockies owner and CEO Dick Monfort, is being put in charge of the struggling franchise.

The Rockies announced Thursday that president and chief operating officer Greg Feasel will step down after 30 years with the franchise. The younger Monfort was named executive vice president, effective immediately, and will run the team along with Feasel through the end of the year before assuming control in January.

"While we thank Greg for his impact and service, we are excited to turn the page into our next chapter with Walker," Dick Monfort said in a statement. "He brings a deep under-

standing of this organization -- earned through his 20 years of experience working both within and alongside every department of our operation.

"He offers a fresh, forward-looking mindset, and we're confident his perspective, experience and leadership will benefit the club in the months and years to come."

Walker Monfort, 38, most recently has served as vice president of corporate partnerships for the Rockies.

Feasel, 66, has been with the franchise since 1995, two years after the expansion club began play in Denver. He started as vice president of sales and marketing and worked his way through the ranks before being named club president in April 2021.

"Greg has been a pillar of this organization since

its earliest days," Dick Monfort said. "His leadership and vision helped shape not only the Colorado Rockies organization, but the entire baseball community throughout the Rocky Mountain region."

Colorado enters play Thursday with an 18-62 record, putting them on track to win just 36 games. That would break the record for most losses in a season set last year by the Chicago White Sox, who finished 41-121.

The Rockies are coming off back-to-back 100-loss seasons.

In an interview with The Denver Post and MLB.com, Walker Monfort declined to discuss the future of general manager Bill Schmidt or talk about any other front office decisions.

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Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

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Two Year Plan
October 1, 2025, through
September 30, 2027

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A copy of the preliminary plans regarding use of these funds is currently available for review and comment. To request a copy of the preliminary plan, please contact Nancy Rowland at (502) 564-3440 or nancy.rowland@kygov or submit a written request to the address provided herein. The deadline for receipt of written comments is the close of business on July 14, 2025. Please provide any written comment to the Community Services Block Grant to: Nancy Rowland, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services, Division of Family Support, 275 East Main Street, 3E-1, Frankfort, Kentucky 40621. IFL0249200
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