

Stadium authority approves \$75M in Allegiant upgrades

BY MARK ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — The Las Vegas Stadium Authority approved \$75 million in public funds Wednesday toward a \$158 million upgrade to ease the path into the north entrance at Allegiant Stadium.

The Las Vegas Raiders will pay for the rest of the project at the 65,000-seat stadium, which opened in 2020 at a cost of \$2 billion.

“Allegiant Stadium is a critical community asset,” said Steve Hill, president and CEO of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. “It is driving tourism right now more than ever at a time we need to drive tourism. We all know that the tourism drives the economy. Keeping that stadium at its current level is a high priority for all of us. It is the requirement and the law, but it’s very important for our community.”

Raiders President Sandra Douglass Morgan attended the Stadium Authority meeting, but did not address the board. She also did not speak to The Associated Press afterward.

However, at the Aug. 20 Stadium Authority meeting, Douglass Morgan noted to the board the importance of improving access to the venue’s north side.

“The north side of the building has become one of the more



Las Vegas Raiders tight end Michael Mayer (87) celebrates his touchdown against the Arizona Cardinals with teammates, including wide receiver Jalen Nailor (9) and offensive tackle Kolton Miller (74), during the first half of a preseason NFL football game on Aug. 13 in Las Vegas.

pressure points in the guest experience,” Douglass Morgan said. “That infrastructure is stretched to capacity.”

Many fans walk over a nearby bridge from the Las Vegas Strip to attend Raiders games and other events. The new entry will create a more direct path to the venue by remaining on an ele-

vated walkway.

Construction isn’t expected to begin until after the Raiders’ season ends with the goal of it being completed in late 2028 or sometime before the 2029 Super Bowl at Allegiant Stadium.

Funds would go toward adding pedestrian and event decks, a plaza and transporta-

tion enhancements. The public money will come from surplus room tax revenue.

The stadium was built with \$750 million in public money. Hill said the extra revenue could not simply go into paying down the room tax and bonds that fund the stadium for legal and technical reasons.

“The Raiders now have the majority of cost-sharing in this project,” Hill said. “The Raiders will be responsible for the maintenance of that, and it frankly protects the \$750 million public investment that has already been made. I think our responsibility is to make sure this commitment would leave the Stadium Authority in a solid financial position.”

The stadium hosts more than just Raiders games. Allegiant also is home to UNLV football, other sporting events and major concerts.

Allegiant Stadium hosted the Super Bowl in 2024. This season’s college football national championship game will be played there, and the Final Four is scheduled for 2028.

Hill said that with the arrival of five new stadiums nationwide over the coming years, Allegiant needs to keep up with its potential competition. A new venue has opened in Buffalo, New York, and others are coming or expected to be built in the Chicago area, Denver, Washington, D.C., and Nashville, Tennessee.

“They are going to look to compete for events we have been very fortunate to have here,” Hill said. “While there is room for them to do some things and us to do some things, it will provide more options for those events.”

McCarthy takes over as Steelers run it back

BY WILL GRAVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH STEELERS (10-8)

EXPECTATIONS

The head coach may have changed in Pittsburgh, with Mike McCarthy taking over after Mike Tomlin stepped down in January following a 19-year run, but the standard remains the standard to borrow one of Tomlin’s pet phrases. The Steelers managed to win their first AFC North title since 2020 in Tomlin’s final year, but the season ended as so many have for the past decade: with a lopsided playoff loss. Yet rather than blow it up, the Steelers have opted to largely run it back. While most of the coaching staff is new, quarterback Aaron Rodgers has returned for his 22nd and — he says — final NFL season. Pittsburgh upgraded the wide receiver group, acquiring Michael Pittman and selecting Germie Bernard in the second round of the draft. Rico Dowdle joins Jaylen Warren in the backfield, though they will play behind an offensive line that didn’t exactly assert itself during the preseason. The team will be defined, once again, by a defense that includes seeming ageless defensive tackle Cam Heyward (37) and outside linebacker T.J. Watt. McCarthy, at 62, was not hired to build, but to win now. If he doesn’t, the good vibes from the Pittsburgh native’s homecoming will fade quickly.

NEW FACES

WR Michael Pittman, RB Rico Dowdle, CB Jamel Dean, TE Robert Tonyan, S Jaquan Brisker, S Rayshawn Jenkins, LT Max Iheanachor, WR Germie Bernard, QB Drew Allar.

KEY LOSSES

RB Kenneth Gallowell, WR Calvin Austin III, LG Isaac Seumalo, LT Broderick Jones, TE Connor Heyward, WR Adam Thielen, S Chuck Clark, CB James Pierre.

STRENGTHS

The defensive line around Heyward is young and impressive. The Steelers signed Keanu Benton to an extension and



Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike McCarthy stands on the field in the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills in Orchard Park, NY. on Aug. 27.

are bullish on Derrick Harmon, who had his moments when healthy as a rookie last season. The edge-rushing group that includes Watt, Alex Highsmith and Nick Herbig is among the most disruptive in the league when they’re all available, and defensive coordinator Patrick Graham is eager to find ways to put all three on the field at the same time. The secondary, provided cornerback Joey Porter Jr. is healthy and/or under long-term contract, also has a chance to be excellent. Jalen Ramsey is a versatile pro who thrived last season when asked to move around. Kicker Chris Boswell remains one of the best in the business, which is a good thing for a team that is preternaturally disposed to playing tight games.

WEAKNESSES

The offensive line is a work in progress. While center Zach Frazier is establishing himself as one of the top players at his position and tackle Troy Fautanu looks as if he’ll be around for a good long while, around them things get dicey. Dylan Cook will start at the other tackle, with Spencer Anderson and Mason McCormick at guards. That group will need to come together quickly if Rodgers wants to have time to stretch the field, something he largely avoided last season while opting for quick passes that minimized the risk of him getting hit. McCarthy’s lengthy track record of success as a play-caller is cause for optimism that the offense can be more explosive, but

only if Rodgers can stay upright and effective. The wide receiver group is improved. Whether it will be better is anyone’s guess.

CAMP DEVELOPMENT

The vast majority of the attention during camp was given to young quarterbacks Drew Allar and Will Howard, both of whom showed signs of being quick studies at what McCarthy has dubbed “Quarterback U.” While both of them made the roster, the reality is if either of them sees the field in a meaningful situation this season, things will have taken a turn. Iheanachor, the club’s first-round pick, saw his development slowed by an injury early in camp, likely pushing back the timetable for when he might be ready to supplant Cook at tackle.

FANTASY PLAYERS TO WATCH

The Steelers paid tight end Pat Freiermuth high-profile money only to have him disappear for large stretches in former offensive coordinator Arthur Smith’s attack. Tight ends have always thrived under McCarthy, and expect Freiermuth to get plenty of looks over the middle as McCarthy schemes ways to get him open. Warren and Dowdle are in a 1A/1B situation in the backfield, so start one of them at your own risk. Expect McCarthy to try to find ways to get DK Metcalf open downfield, though whether that happens depends largely on how much time Rodgers has to chuck it deep.

Colts hope to end a 5-year playoff drought

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (8-9)

EXPECTATIONS

How long has it been since the Colts made the playoffs? The quarterback who last took them to the postseason in 2020, Philip Rivers, stayed out of football long enough to become Hall of Fame eligible and then came out of retirement late last season to see if he could make it back. While that gamble didn’t work out, general manager Chris Ballard and coach Shane Steichen are back for one more shot. They believe quarterback Daniel Jones can replicate his strong start from 2025 and hope he stays healthy enough to finish this season. Through the first nine games last year, Jones and running back Jonathan Taylor were the cornerstones in one of the league’s most dynamic offenses, and most of the pieces are in place to run it back. Defensively, the question is whether Indy can improve enough to emerge as a contender. Injuries prevented the Colts from seeing the full impact of assembling All-Pro cornerback Sauce Gardner, Pro Bowl cornerback Charvarius Ward and veteran safety Cam Bynum in the secondary. Pro Bowl defensive tackle DeForest Buckner (neck) finished the season on injured reserve. If the defense clicks, the Colts might not just be playoff-bound. They could win their first AFC South crown since 2014.

NEW FACES

LB CJ Allen, WR Keenan Allen, LB Bryce Boettcher, S Cam Taylor-Britt, DT Micheal Clemons, DE Caden Curry, S A.J. Haulcy, WR Nick Westbrook-Ikhine, DE Arden Key, S Jonathan Owens, DT Colby Wooden.

KEY LOSSES

WR Michael Pittman Jr., RT Braden Smith, DE Kwity Paye, CB Kenny Moore II, S Nick Cross, LB Zaire Franklin, OL Danny Pinter, DL Tyquan Lewis.

STRENGTHS

Indianapolis returns nine of 11 starters from an offense that was on a historically productive pace



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Daniel Jones (17) throws during a joint practice with the Atlanta Falcons at the team’s NFL football training camp in Westfield, Ind. on Aug. 19.

until Jones’ season was cut short by injuries. The Colts believe Jalen Travis is ready to replace departed RT Braden Smith, and that Alec Pierce will be more than capable of replacing Pittman as the No. 1 receiver. The addition of Allen gives Jones three proven wideouts, and TE Tyler Warren is likely to play an expanded role in his second season. If Gardner and Ward are healthy, the secondary could be far better — especially with CB Justin Walley and S Hunter Wohler back after they suffered season-ending injuries in 2025 preseason games.

WEAKNESSES

The top concern is generating a consistent pass rush. Laiatu Latu saw his sacks total increase from four in 2024 to 8 ½ last year, but with Paye’s departure in free agency, there’s no clear successor on the opposite side. Indy expects Key and second-year DE Jaylahn Tuimoloau to help free up Latu. The Colts added depth with Clemons and two draft picks, Curry and George Gumbs Jr. Indy also is young at linebacker with two rookies — CJ Allen and Boettcher — projected as starters. Boettcher has been impressive, but Allen was limited by hamstringing and calf injuries at camp. The Colts have started multiple rookie linebackers before, but Allen’s missed time could prove costly.

CAMP DEVELOPMENT

Anthony Richardson, the No. 4 overall draft pick in 2023, and second-year QB Riley Leonard have been battling to become Jones’ backup. The injury-prone Richardson, who has a

standing trade request, lost a fumble and threw an interception in Indy’s preseason opener. He then went 3 of 9 for 24 yards and was sacked twice in Indy’s second preseason game. Leonard hasn’t been much better. He was under heavy pressure in Week 1 and struggled to sustain drives in Week 2. Neither Spencer Shrader nor Blake Grupe has separated himself in the kicking competition, either.

FANTASY PLAYERS TO WATCH

Taylor and Warren. Taylor remains a big-play threat every time he touches the ball and finished last season with a league-best 18 TD runs. Indy tried to exploit some of Warren’s versatility early in his rookie season, asking him to run and throw the ball in addition to his other duties. He could be asked to do more of that this year, meaning he could score in ways other tight ends cannot.

Notice is hereby given that **Damian Clark of 2933 Yosemite Drive, Owensboro, KY 42303** has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a **Post-Frame residence , slab on grade. 2400 SQF.** The property is located approximately **-86.906728 W°, 37.711602 N° 7103 Joe Haynes Road, Go towards Whitesville on Highway 54 , turn left onto Windy Hill Road. A little less than a mile and you will take a right or to Joe Haynes Road and it is the 2nd drive on the left.** Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to : **DOWFloodplain@ky.gov**, Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section , 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Ky 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.