

# Sigma Chi Athletics' Facilities Tour



Athletics' Tour

## STADIUM HISTORY:

Ross-Ade Stadium was built in 1924 with a seating capacity of 13,000 at a cost of less than \$250,000.

Named after two Purdue alums, David Ross and George Ade, who donated the money for the land. Ade was a Sigma Chi, a former Grand Consul of Sigma Chi, and a member of the Purdue Board of Trustees. Ade wrote the Sigma Chi Creed.

The stadium has been expanded and renovated nine times, including the most-recent project in 2022-24 at a cost of \$45 million that saw the enclosure of the south end of the stadium with new seating wrapped around the huge video board plus the completion of the Tiller Tunnel on the north end of the stadium. Tunnel leads under Wooden Drive to the football locker room. Current stadium capacity is 61,441.

## SIGS IN PURDUE ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Sigma Chis have played a large role in Purdue athletics. Eleven Sigs are among the 126 members of Purdue's Athletics Hall of Fame.

- Football players or coaches Drew Brees, Jim Everett, Mark Herrmann, Bob Griese, Hank Stram and Bob DeMoss
- Basketball All-Americans Dave Schellhase and Paul Hoffman
- NCAA Champion and Olympic Silver Medalist swimmer Keith Carter
- Major league baseball player Joe McCabe
- NCAA golf champion Fred Wampler

## Other Prominent Sig Athletes

- **Bob Friend '53** played for 15 years with the Pittsburgh Pirates, making four All-Star appearances and fronting the rotation on the World Series-winning 1960 team that defeated the New York Yankees in seven games.
- **George Faerber '71** started all three years for the Boilermaker basketball team from 1969-1971. In 1969 the Purdue team went undefeated inside Mackey, finishing 23-5 for the season, 13-1 in the Big Ten. The Boilermakers, led by Rick Mount, lost the NCAA championship game against John Wooden's UCLA and Lew Alcindor.
- **Bart Burrell '81** ended his career with 140 receptions for 2,126 yards and 14 touchdowns. He finished his career ranked second in school history in receiving yards and receiving touchdowns and third in receptions.
- **Chalmers "Bump" Elliott '47** went on to great success as a player and coach at Michigan and athletics director at Iowa.
- **Doug Schrieber '86** served as Purdue's head baseball coach for 18 seasons (1998 – 2016). Schrieber posted a 485-511 overall record and a 227-260 Big Ten mark. Both win

totals rank first in Purdue history. Schreiber was named the Big Ten Coach of the Year in 2012 after leading the Boilermakers to the most wins by a Big Ten team since 2008. Schreiber was a four-year starter (1983-86) at second base for the Boilermakers and his senior season was a Second Team All-Big Ten selection.

### **BOILERMAKER STATUE**

The Boilermaker Statue was donated in honor of Carl Christian Grotnes (a Kappa Sig) whose grandson arranged for the construction of this statue in his grandfather's honor. He is Carl Christian Grotnes III, a Delta Delta Sig. Somewhere on the statue are etched the Greek letters KEX in recognition of the joint Kappa Sigma and Sigma Chi contributions to this Boilermaker landmark.

### **DREW AND BRITTANY BRES ACADEMIC CENTER**

The Drew & Brittany Brees Student-Athlete Academic Center was established in 2012. The Brees Center was recently renovated and is located above Holloway Gymnasium and offers several academic support services for Purdue student-athletes.

Drew Brees '01 set virtually every Purdue and Big Ten passing record and led the Boilermakers to four straight bowl games including the Rose Bowl his senior year. He went on to set multiple NFL passing records and finished as the highest paid player in the league, having led the New Orleans Saints to a Super Bowl Championship in 2010.

### **CRADLE OF QUARTERBACKS**

Five of the 12 quarterbacks who are honored as members of Purdue's "Cradle of Quarterbacks" are Sigs. They include Bob DeMoss '49, Bob Griese '67, Mark Herrmann '81, Jim Everett '86 and Drew Brees '01.

### **PURDUE QBS**

Purdue graduates have excelled in the NFL at the quarterback position, at one time starting more games and throwing for more yardage than quarterbacks from any other university. Three Purdue QB's have won Super Bowls – Bob Griese, Len Dawson and Drew Brees. No school has four Super Bowl QB's. Former Purdue QBs have thrown more touchdown passes (1401) in the NFL than QBs from any other university.

In NCAA rankings if Delta Delta was a university football team, it would rank fifth in the nation in touchdown passes (982 including, 571 by Brees, 203 by Everett, 192 by Griese and 16 by Mark Herrmann).

## **MACKEY ARENA MEMORIES**

While there have been numerous Delta Delta Sigma Chis with strong connections to Mackey Arena and Purdue's great traditions in basketball and athletics administration, two Delta Delta Sigs actually have their banners permanently hung in the arena.

- Three-time All-American **Paul Hoffman** who was the No. 1 professional draft choice in 1947 and went on to become the unanimous rookie of the year for the Baltimore Bullets.
- Two-time All-American **Dave Schellhase** who led the NCAA in scoring with 32.5 points per game in 1966 and went on to become a first-round draft pick of the Chicago Bulls.

## **MOLLENKOPF ATHLETIC CENTER**

The football facility contains office space, meeting rooms, a strength and conditioning center and a huge indoor practice field that is used primarily during bad weather by several Purdue teams. When it was built in 1990, the Mollenkopf Center was the largest indoor practice facility in the country (pro or college), with more than 100,000 square feet of turfed practice space. The building is named for Hall of Fame football coach Jack Mollenkopf who coached here in the 1950's and 1960's and was Purdue's most successful football coach until Joe Tiller passed him up in 2009. Significant Sig **Jack P. Mollenkopf, Jr. '95**, is a grandson of Jack Mollenkopf.

## **KAMPEN-COSLER GOLF COUSE**

One of Purdue's Pete Dye designed golf courses is named in recognition of **Steve Cosler '77** for his generous support of Purdue athletics and the John Purdue Club. As an undergraduate Cosler was a member of the Purdue Men's golf team.

## **OMHOLT FAMILY DUG OUT – ALEXANDER FIELD**

The Purdue dugout along the third base line is named the Omholt Family Dugout, honoring the support of former Purdue Baseball players Glenn E. Omholt (1946-50) and **David E. Omholt '92**, a standout player for the Boilers from 1988-1992.

## **BIG TEN CONFERENCE**

Purdue is not only a charter member of the Big Ten Conference but is the primary reason the conference formed. In 1896, realizing that regulations and rules were needed, **Purdue President James H. Smart (Sigma Chi/DePauw 1876)** called together a meeting of midwestern university presidents in Chicago to discuss the state of college athletics in this part of the country. The results were the official formation of the Midwestern Conference of Faculty Representatives ... which later became known as the Big Ten Conference and now features 18 of the largest and most-prominent universities in the United States, stretching for coast to coast (New Jersey and Maryland to Washington and California.)