Largest in GCSU Athletics history: $2M gift launches E.R. Snell Family Stadium

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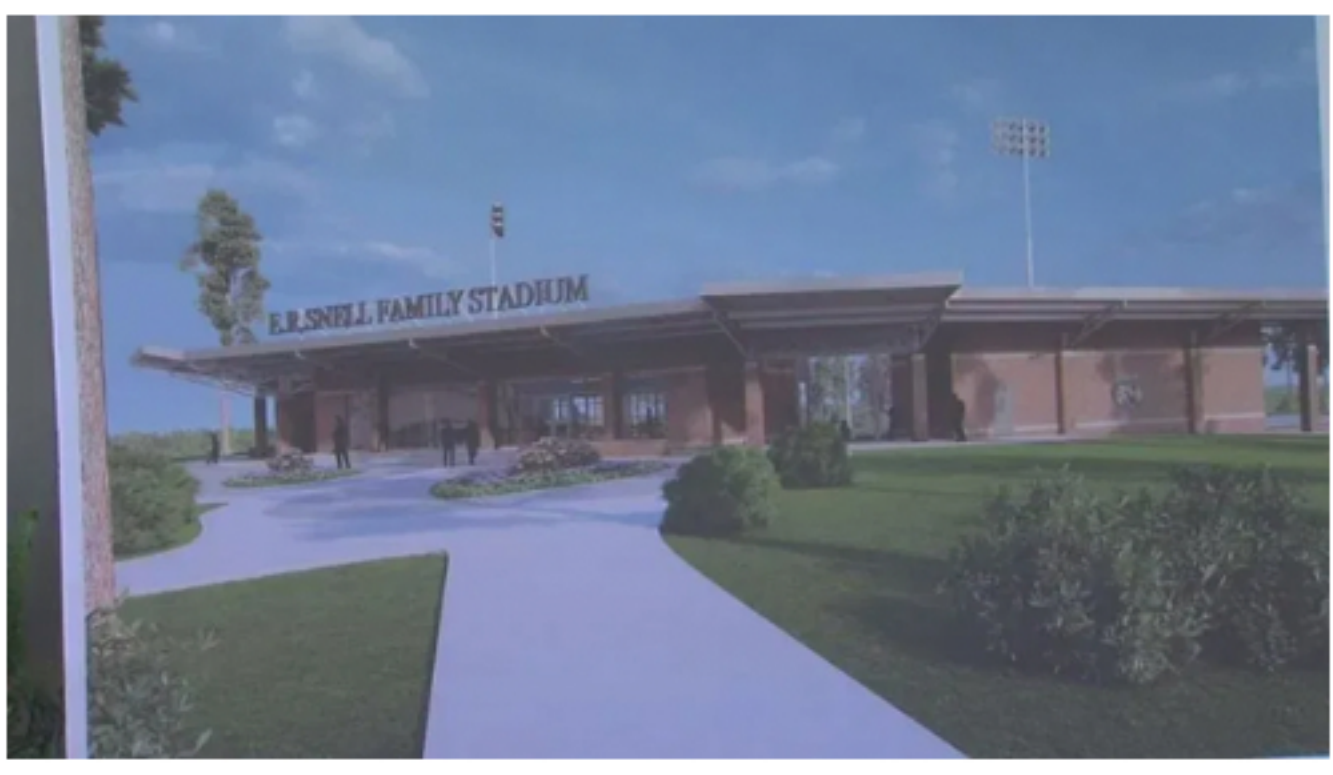
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MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. (WGXA) — Georgia College & State University (GCSU) Athletics celebrated a historic milestone on Friday, breaking ground on the new E.R. Snell Family Stadium at John Kurtz Field following a record-setting $2 million lead gift from E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc.

The ceremony took place at 120 West Campus Drive in Milledgeville, where the university, community, alumni, supporters and friends celebrated the $2 million lead gift from E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc., which is the largest gift in GCSU Athletics history.



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"It's just a fantastic day for our student-athletes, for our university. This is going to be a game changer for our community," Said Wendell Staton, Director of Athletics. "It's going to be a multi-purpose facility that's going to serve baseball, softball and the entire community. It's going to help the fan experience, it's going to help recruiting, it's just going to be a win-win for everybody and right off of 441, you're going to see it... It's going to be a showstopper."

Staton said the facility will provide new amenities while still upholding the integrity of the original facility. He said some of the new amenities will include low seating, full chair back seating, a press box, and a scoring tower, and it will seat around 100 people. He said they made the facility multi-purpose so that, when it is not being used for sports, it can be utilized for different community events, classes, and even banquets.

Organizers said the project will reimagine the university's current baseball facility by featuring a new multipurpose presidential suite, expanded fan engagement areas and modernized amenities designed to elevate the experience for student-athletes, alumni, recruits and fans.

"This is a historic moment for Georgia College and a testament to the extraordinary generosity of the Snell family," said Dr. Seth Walker, vice president for university advancement. "Their investment extends far beyond a facility. It represents a commitment to our student-athletes, our university and the generations of Bobcats who will call this stadium home. We are incredibly grateful for their vision, partnership and belief in Georgia College."

GCSU said that this facility will establish a lasting legacy that will benefit generations of Bobcat student-athletes and fans.

"This is an unbelievable opportunity for our baseball program and for our recruiting development. It's going to be an unbelievable experience for our families, our parents, our alumni. It just brings it all together, and having a stadium like this, it's got to be one of the best in the Southeast, if not the country, for Division II; it's going to be a spot where people will want to come back and be a part of our program for years to come," Said Head Baseball Coach Jeff Pelkey.

The project for the new E.R. Snell Family Stadium at John Kurtz Field is the first ground-up athletics facility construction at GCSU since the university's soccer complex was built in 2003, per a GCSU press release. Staton said that several members of the Snell Family have graduated from GCSU and have played on the baseball team.

"At E.R. Snell, we've always believed in investing in the communities that have supported us throughout the years," said Robin Snell, chairman of the board and former president of E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc. “Our family is proud to be part of this exciting chapter for Georgia College and Bobcat Baseball. We hope this stadium will be a place where student-athletes thrive, families come together and memories are made for generations to come."