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UW— Stadium Suites are more than just comfort

The University of Wyoming (UW) War Memorial Stadium host NCAA Division 1 Mountain West Conference College Football. The 2010 addition of Wildcatter luxury box suites allows some fans to view the games in the comfort of the indoors. But beyond just the creature comforts the project also improved the accessibility and energy efficiency. Designed and built to a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver equivalent standards the upgrades to the 60-year-old stadium include 10 luxury suites, 256 indoor club seats, a private lounge area, handicapped seating and other ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliance improvements.

The project objective was to improve the East Stadium to meet current ADAAG standards and building Codes. Adequate restroom facilities on the lower levels and multiple elevators were installed. Updated ticketing facilities were added to the east main entrance.

Facilities are the important elements to recruiting student-athletes and hiring and retaining coaches. Due to the remote location of the University and at an elevation of 7220 feet above sea level it is imperative that state-of-the-art facilities are the selling point when competing against other University's for talented individuals. This is a testament that good design pays for itself.

Some challenges that existed were structural improvements and repairs that had to be made to the upper and lower stands and the project had to be scheduled around athletic events.

Members of the project team representing the University, design and engineering consultants, and construction management will be on hand to discuss design and construction challenges, lessons learned, and how the building is performing.

Following the presentation will be tours of the facility where attendees can experience the features discussed in the presentation.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Describe how good design is important to the success of an athletic department.
2. List accessibility improvements.
3. List energy efficient design improvements.
4. Describe constructability challenges.

