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## Media preview UMaine Athletic facility upgrades

Division of Marketing and Communications

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University of Maine Athletics Press Conference  
February 17, 2021  
00:36:00

<https://youtu.be/99oOgb9LIHM?t=130>

Machine-generated English-language transcript.

02:18

and then we'll open it for uh q

02:20

a uh at the end we have uh left to right

02:22

here the president ceo of the humane

02:24

foundation jeff mills

02:25

director of athletics chen ralph uh

02:28

president krini mundi

02:29

and chancellor molloy we'll start by

02:32

handing it to the president for

02:33

opening remarks thanks very much good

02:36

afternoon everybody and welcome thank

02:37

you so much for coming what an exciting

02:39

day this is for you mean

02:40

black bear athletics i should add that

02:43

the co-lead of the

02:44

alfond athletics component professor

02:46

judith rosenbaum andre is watching

02:48

virtually and will be available

02:50

via zoom today if you need to talk with

02:52

her a truly historic day for black bear

02:55

nation

02:55

we're all smiling you can't see with the

02:57

masks but we are

02:59

because we're going to share with you

03:00

today the details of how the 110 million

03:03

dollar investment

03:04

based on the alphon foundation's

03:05

extraordinary gift

03:07

we'll upgrade our athletics facilities

03:09

and allow us to make improvements

03:11

to the facilities in in ways that will

03:12

impact all 17 of our division 1

03:14

athletics programs

03:16

this is a first look at how we will

03:18

reshape athletics we're providing

03:20

renderings and project

03:21

details athletic director ken ralph will

03:23

tell you more about all of this he and

03:25

his team have worked very very hard to

03:26  
bring us to today and we're very  
03:28  
grateful  
03:28  
on behalf of the university for the work  
03:30  
that athletics has done in leading this  
03:32  
effort  
03:33  
we also celebrate the legacy of harold  
03:35  
alphon and his incredible record of  
03:37  
support to the university of maine to  
03:39  
athletics  
03:40  
and to his students it's a 90 million  
03:42  
dollar gift to athletics  
03:44  
there is a total of 240 million dollars  
03:46  
in a gift  
03:47  
the university of maine system and ums  
03:49  
transforms  
03:50  
the effort that we have the way we've  
03:53  
named this effort is going to lead our  
03:55  
engagement across  
03:56  
all of the work but today we want to  
03:58  
thank the harold alfond foundation for  
04:00  
their continued and incredible support  
04:02  
their partnership and helping to make a

04:03  
brighter future for maine and for its  
04:05  
people  
04:06  
their confidence in the university of  
04:07  
maine and the university of maine system  
04:09  
their vision for maine and their  
04:11  
generosity is truly transformational and  
04:13  
we can't wait to tell you our ideas  
04:15  
about how that's going to happen  
04:17  
tomorrow will be a brighter and better  
04:18  
day for everybody in our community and  
04:20  
our state  
04:21  
because as a part of this commitment we  
04:23  
are absolutely looking to pursue gender  
04:25  
equity and inclusive excellence  
04:27  
with this project and with the planning  
04:29  
and inclusion that will go on as we plan  
04:32  
a priority project is the university of  
04:33  
maine soccer stadium  
04:35  
you'll move from the outfield of the  
04:37  
mahini diamond and  
04:39  
have a soccer specific state-of-the-art  
04:41  
facility this is long overdue and

04:43  
soon we'll be done with this inclusive  
04:45  
excellence is a cornerstone of the  
04:47  
humane experience and i'm excited  
04:49  
that we're addressing these issues of  
04:50  
gender equity ada compliance and  
04:52  
community access  
04:54  
thanks to professor rosenbaum andre  
04:56  
director ken ralph and everybody's  
04:58  
involvement  
04:59  
we have several campus committees that  
05:00  
will be coming into place to work on  
05:02  
these activities to design the planning  
05:04  
implementation  
05:05  
we'll have statewide discussions about  
05:07  
use of the facilities ken will tell you  
05:09  
more we're very excited  
05:11  
to be able to be a go-to place again  
05:14  
for all kinds of organizations and  
05:16  
people from across the state of maine  
05:17  
high school athletes  
05:18  
persons with disabilities athletes of  
05:20  
all ages i always need to plug for

05:23  
robotics competitions and stem  
05:25  
activities marching band activities  
05:27  
and more i'd like to introduce  
05:29  
chancellor dan malloy whose leadership  
05:31  
and bold vision  
05:32  
have been just tremendous assets to the  
05:34  
university of maine system and  
05:35  
have been instrumental in our ability to  
05:37  
obtain this incredible gift  
05:39  
well thank you president it's great to  
05:41  
be with you and uh ken  
05:43  
congratulations on this great day uh  
05:46  
and uh mr mills at the end of the table  
05:48  
what are you doing here you should be  
05:49  
out raising money but  
05:52  
i i want to say that this is uh we are  
05:55  
first and foremost an educational  
05:57  
institution  
05:58  
but athletics have always been a major  
06:00  
part of that educational mission  
06:02  
particularly here at the university of  
06:04  
maine where

06:06  
championships have been won where  
06:07  
professional athletes have  
06:09  
left us and gone on to their careers uh  
06:12  
where  
06:13  
our student athletes have excelled in  
06:15  
their learning processes  
06:18  
and uh and and uh remained in the state  
06:20  
or gone to other states and done great  
06:22  
things  
06:23  
uh based on their experience here in  
06:25  
maine uh  
06:27  
we are again i'll say an educational  
06:29  
institution that's why as  
06:30  
happy as i am about the 90 million  
06:32  
dollars  
06:35  
that the harold alphond foundation has  
06:38  
dedicated  
06:39  
uh clearly in the name of harold alfond  
06:42  
uh who was a great benefactor  
06:44  
of division one athletics at the  
06:45  
university of maine when he was alive  
06:48  
uh and has done uh such uh



06:51  
his foresight is doing so much for us uh  
06:53  
on this day  
06:55  
but we also celebrate the 20 million  
06:57  
dollars for statewide student success  
06:59  
uh success initiatives to be to be added  
07:02  
to  
07:03  
by monies that we will raise and commit  
07:05  
uh  
07:06  
making sure that there are pathways to  
07:08  
college experiential  
07:09  
learning uh and uh and examining our  
07:12  
gateway courses we're very proud  
07:14  
of the 75 million dollars that will be  
07:18  
also devoted to enlarging our  
07:21  
engineering computing  
07:23  
and information technology college here  
07:26  
on a statewide basis  
07:28  
and very proud of the 55 million dollars  
07:30  
that have been committed by the alphond  
07:32  
foundation with respect to our mba  
07:35  
program  
07:35  
our law program and our muskie school uh

07:38

working together

07:39

at the professional center uh to be

07:41

located in the portland

07:42

area i want to say one other thing that

07:46

that this is a challenge

07:48

to all of us in the university of maine

07:51

family to rise to the occasion to seize

07:54

the moment to

07:55

have the best facilities that our

07:57

students so richly deserve

08:00

and be competitive on the fields

08:04

and in the sports that we want to do

08:08

and be part and win those championships

08:10

and also to make sure that

08:12

we are addressing issues of fairness and

08:14

gender equity uh

08:16

at the same time it's a great day

08:19

uh to be a black bear uh and with that i

08:22

wanna

08:22

turn it very quickly over uh to

08:26

kenral who's done such an outstanding

08:28

job and

08:29  
with whom i've enjoyed a strong working  
08:31  
relationship as we  
08:32  
uh address tight budgets um and  
08:36  
our desire to excel in programs this  
08:39  
these dollars are a blessing  
08:40  
and in uh no small part were brought  
08:43  
about as a result of ken's  
08:45  
uh vision uh and the hard work of can  
08:48  
and his team  
08:49  
turn it to you sir thank you chancellor  
08:51  
malloy and president freddie mundy  
08:53  
appreciate that and  
08:54  
you know it's hard to believe that for  
08:57  
the last  
08:58  
you know two and a half plus years this  
09:00  
is this has been a daily part of my life  
09:02  
is thinking about  
09:03  
about this exact day um about when we  
09:06  
get to go public with our  
09:08  
with our projects and and we we get to  
09:10  
show everybody what we're going to be  
09:12  
doing here going forward and um

09:15

you know it's part excitement part

09:16

relief but more than anything

09:18

it's it's just a very fulfilling feeling

09:20

that we've made this step and

09:23

i'm getting a little carpal tunnel from

09:24

all the all the texts we've had to

09:26

answer all the emails that have come in

09:29

but people have had a really emotional

09:30

response to this a very very emotional

09:33

response to

09:34

the to the plans and thank you to the

09:37

harold alphon foundation uh for

09:38

believing

09:39

in the university of maine believing in

09:41

university of maine leadership

09:42

um and making an investment in the

09:44

future not just of the university but in

09:46

the state of maine in the state of

09:47

maine's people

09:49

we wouldn't we wouldn't be here today

09:50

without without their vision and without

09:52

their

09:53

um without their confidence that we

09:55

could do this the right way

09:57

and that we could do it in a way that

09:58

encapsulates all of the passions that

10:00

harold alphon had for the university of

10:02

maine and the state of maine

10:04

um it feels great to be to be in this

10:06

particular spot

10:08

you know we've when i took this job you

10:10

know there's a couple of things that

10:11

really attracted me here

10:13

one of which was uh you main alums love

10:17

the university of maine

10:18

and you know they're passionate about

10:20

this place and it had so much to do with

10:22

the people

10:23

um but one of the things you always had

10:25

was there was always this resignation

10:27

that the athletic facilities were going

10:28

to be what they were it was never going

10:30

to take that next step

10:32

well i wasn't willing to live with that

10:33  
neither was the president neither was  
10:35  
the chancellor  
10:36  
we always thought we could do better we  
10:38  
always thought we could find a way to  
10:39  
give our students what they deserve  
10:41  
and to find ways to engage with our  
10:42  
community that we haven't been able to  
10:43  
do for many many years  
10:45  
and not only that but there's going to  
10:47  
be challenges coming down the road for  
10:49  
the university of name when it comes to  
10:50  
enrollment  
10:51  
so we wanted to find ways that we craft  
10:53  
facilities  
10:54  
that speak to the challenges that we're  
10:56  
going to face from an enrollment  
10:58  
management perspective  
10:59  
how do you turn orono into a destination  
11:01  
how do you leverage the platform that  
11:03  
division one athletics gives you  
11:05  
to provide an opportunity to grow  
11:08  
interest in your brand and in your

11:09

product and

11:10

it's one of the reasons we really took a

11:12

very comprehensive look at these

11:13

facilities

11:14

rather than building one very large

11:16

overdone facility that might serve a

11:17

very small population

11:19

we really looked at this as

11:20

comprehensive excellence comprehensive

11:22

excellence for athletics

11:24

comprehensive excellence for the

11:25

university of maine and the university

11:26

of maine system

11:28

and i'm really pleased that we're going

11:29

to be able to do that i think that

11:31

that's important

11:32

i i think it's a responsibility that

11:34

when you have a

11:35

state flagship institution you should

11:37

take on that uh

11:38

you know take on that burden and move

11:40

forward with it in a positive way

11:42

and this is going to pay dividends far

11:44

beyond what we're going to see in wins

11:45

and losses

11:46

um on the field yes we we expect

11:49

competitive excellence to be an outcome

11:51

but as you can see from our release and

11:52

from the video we have so many other

11:54

expected outcomes from this whether it's

11:56

you know gender equity you've heard us

11:57

use the term inclusive excellence you've

11:59

heard us

12:00

you know talk a lot about in you know

12:01

community engagement

12:03

these are not empty platitudes these are

12:05

this is what we believe in and this is

12:06

what we're moving forward to accomplish

12:08

um it's been a lot of fun today walking

12:10

around the building and seeing our

12:12

our students and how upbeat they are

12:14

it's been a tough go this semester in

12:16

in this year in general dealing with the

12:18

covet 19 dealing with the testing



12:20  
dealing with the challenges dealing with  
12:21  
the social isolation  
12:23  
in order to compete um but today  
12:26  
there was some celebrations going on  
12:28  
there and one one student ran up to me  
12:29  
and hugged me because i know it's  
12:30  
against protocol but i had to say thank  
12:32  
you  
12:32  
and it just felt wonderful and um  
12:35  
you know i feel really good about where  
12:37  
we are but the work is now is just  
12:38  
beginning and i'm hoping everybody's  
12:40  
excited about that i'm hoping  
12:41  
everybody's bought in  
12:43  
uh you know we've made it pretty public  
12:45  
that we're going to be raising 20  
12:46  
million dollars in support of these  
12:48  
facilities but i hope everybody  
12:49  
understands that  
12:50  
20 million dollars is just the four  
12:52  
right chancellor  
12:53  
yes all right only the floor make sure

12:56  
everybody understands  
12:57  
we have we have high aspirations and  
12:58  
just on the release alone we're already  
13:00  
getting owners coming forward  
13:02  
and uh it's been a pretty exciting  
13:03  
morning for that so with that i really  
13:06  
want to pass it off to jeff mills who's  
13:07  
president ceo of the umaine foundation  
13:10  
jeff's a great partner for athletics and  
13:13  
we're going to be working hand in hand  
13:14  
as as we go now remember a lot of the  
13:17  
a lot of the funding that's coming in is  
13:19  
additive we're looking at what we're  
13:20  
doing here is just baseline  
13:22  
and and we're going to do this bigger  
13:23  
and better and that's what's so exciting  
13:25  
about this  
13:26  
is is we're going to over deliver on  
13:28  
this project and we're excited about  
13:29  
that  
13:30  
thank you ken uh first off  
13:34  
i'd like to thank also the alphon

13:35  
foundation and i'd like to  
13:37  
particularly thank the three people that  
13:39  
are here at the table today they're the  
13:41  
ones who uh  
13:42  
took the lead on getting the gift with  
13:44  
the alphon foundation  
13:45  
so appreciate all their hard work it is  
13:49  
a historic  
13:49  
gift uh the entire gift of the 240  
13:53  
million and this piece which is the  
13:55  
first piece that we're going public with  
13:57  
which is the athletic piece uh as was  
14:00  
mentioned  
14:00  
today it is a a  
14:03  
gift in the form of a challenge grant so  
14:07  
90 million will be coming from the alpha  
14:09  
foundation and we as a challenge grant  
14:12  
need to raise  
14:12  
at least 20 million dollars for us to  
14:15  
get the entire  
14:16  
funding for the athletic piece that you  
14:18  
see here today

14:20

i want to mention the case for support

14:22

which we have copies of in the back

14:24

there

14:25

uh this talks about the case for support

14:28

for people that are thinking of giving

14:29

to the

14:31

capitals fund for the 20 million dollars

14:34

i want to thank uh particularly uh seth

14:38

koch who's sitting over here and also

14:40

from the foundation joe carr

14:42

many people have worked with them they

14:43

will be the people that are the point

14:45

people working through the foundation

14:47

to help raise the 20 million dollars and

14:50

if you get a chance to take a look at

14:51

this

14:52

it talks about the ways of giving and

14:54

other pieces that we have here today

14:57

also uh we have naming opportunities

15:01

uh we basically have something for

15:03

everybody

15:04

so if anybody is interested in having a

15:06  
naming opportunity all the way from  
15:08  
lockers  
15:09  
all the way up to naming facilities so  
15:12  
we'll we'll be very active in going out  
15:14  
to make sure that we have the  
15:16  
opportunity to raise the money  
15:18  
and hopefully go beyond that and this is  
15:20  
the kickoff to make sure that we have  
15:23  
volunteers out there and others that  
15:24  
will help us to raise the 20 million  
15:26  
dollars as the challenge grant  
15:28  
and again seth woodcock will be our  
15:31  
point first along with joe carr from the  
15:33  
foundation  
15:33  
working with everybody that you see here  
15:35  
today to help to raise the 20 million  
15:37  
dollars  
15:38  
something for everybody and i hope  
15:40  
you'll help us with the college of your  
15:42  
hearts  
15:43  
always thank you  
15:46  
thanks everyone for your statements i

15:48  
will start with a line of questioning  
15:50  
here  
15:50  
with larry mahoney from the back of real  
15:52  
news  
16:06  
but um if you build a new school  
16:10  
a new high school spend 35 million but  
16:14  
if your curriculum is sub-par and your  
16:17  
teachers are substandard  
16:19  
uh you're not going to get the education  
16:22  
of  
16:22  
educational benefits that you may have  
16:24  
received my question is  
16:26  
what does this do for your vision of  
16:28  
athletics  
16:30  
in going forward and what expectations  
16:34  
because this is a financially strapped  
16:35  
state and this university is always in  
16:37  
financial issues  
16:39  
what is your what is your goal or what  
16:41  
can be obtained what is your expectation  
16:44  
thank you perhaps i'll start and uh to  
16:46  
others can i'm sure we'll have something

16:48

to say about this but i want to pick up

16:49

on something that ken said which is

16:51

we're starting from a foundation that is

16:52

very strong

16:54

strong teams wonderfully committed

16:56

students strong coaches and staff and

16:58

athletes all through the all through the

17:00

athletics department and so that's our

17:02

baseline

17:03

and we can only grow from there as ken

17:05

said it's additive

17:06

and we will use what we have as this

17:08

strong baseline to to figure out where

17:10

we can best expand

17:12

amplify what we're doing create new

17:14

opportunities perhaps for

17:16

for more people to be engaged not only

17:18

in d1 athletics but in rec sports and in

17:20

intramural sports and in all of the

17:22

other kinds of

17:23

opportunities with these facilities that

17:25

we've discussed it's a 10 to 12 year

17:27  
project as we look down the road we'll  
17:29  
uh we'll grow with it and we'll figure  
17:31  
out what we need to do  
17:32  
as it all happens uh ken can say more  
17:34  
i'm sure well as ken knows too your  
17:36  
coaches are probably  
17:36  
uh and you recruiting fighters are at  
17:38  
the low and maybe the lowest in all your  
17:40  
conferences  
17:41  
you know and i think that's a fair  
17:43  
assessment larry and the  
17:45  
you know the reality is is you can't fix  
17:47  
everything all at once  
17:48  
in our situation so we have to fix what  
17:50  
we can fix and we looked at facilities  
17:52  
as something that was  
17:53  
um you know that had to be done uh not  
17:56  
only for the competitiveness of our  
17:58  
teams but also for our standing within  
17:59  
the community i mean we've lost a lot of  
18:01  
face with this community by just  
18:03  
not hosting the events that we used to



18:04

host 15 20 years ago

18:06

i mean you know that close anybody and

18:08

um so i think

18:09

you know this is okay we're getting our

18:11

facilities done and this isn't this

18:12

isn't concept anymore

18:14

this is happening okay i mean this is

18:16

there's shovels going to the ground

18:17

we're getting this done

18:19

so now we can move on to some of the

18:20

other issues and we we recognize what

18:22

those are and the president and i have

18:23

had very blunt conversations

18:25

about you know where are we in terms of

18:27

budgets where are we

18:28

against our peers you know where are we

18:31

with salaries and

18:32

there's no no easy answers to those

18:34

things i think we're very fortunate to

18:36

have the staff we do and

18:37

the commitment that we have from them um

18:40

but we recognize the fact that you know

18:42

this is going to raise some bars

18:43

and and we've got to recognize that

18:45

we're also hoping this helps us with

18:47

some external

18:48

revenue generation which can be used to

18:50

support operations as well

18:52

that was part of the way some of these

18:53

things are designed because external

18:56

revenue generation is going to become a

18:57

bigger and bigger part of what we need

18:59

to do

18:59

to support our programs well a question

19:02

just for you

19:03

this is all the law you've got a bunch

19:06

of teams

19:07

hoping to play in the near future

19:08

including some small teams that were in

19:10

the spring

19:11

is there any in your dealings with

19:13

president mills is there any

19:15

way games are going to be played up here

19:17

even outdoors

19:19  
so we've got the plans um multiple  
19:22  
versions of the plans  
19:24  
very particular details about what it  
19:26  
looks like on game day and what the  
19:28  
passage of folks through our buildings  
19:30  
will look like and all of those numbers  
19:32  
those get reviewed here first on campus  
19:33  
by emergency operations center  
19:35  
for compliance with system and state  
19:37  
guidelines  
19:39  
and if they're able to approve them then  
19:40  
those come to my office so we've got  
19:42  
various teams and sports in in that  
19:45  
queue right now looking at it every day  
19:47  
very very hopeful there will be some  
19:49  
activity and of course we've been able  
19:50  
to do  
19:51  
quite a lot through the fall when we  
19:52  
weren't even sure that we could so  
19:54  
so strong commitment to getting our  
19:56  
athletes in a position where they can  
19:58  
play

19:59

and as ken well knows we talk about that

20:01

daily uh in terms of how it's looking

20:04

thank you very much thanks larry um

20:07

we'll go to

20:08

uh david peck from fox abc

20:11

uh yeah there's a question for um ken

20:15

just wondering when um

20:32

sure and you know we say 10 to 12 years

20:34

but i can tell you i sit next to two

20:36

very impatient people

20:37

and so i'm not sure it's going to be 10

20:39

to 12 years i have a feeling that

20:40

timeline is going to be

20:41

accelerated um we are going to be doing

20:43

some small things getting off the ground

20:45

and larry will be happy to know this

20:46

we're going gonna uh

20:48

we will be replacing the turf in the

20:49

football field uh and so we're we're

20:51

gonna be working on that

20:53

but you're gonna see us start and again

20:54

hopefully starting in summer of 22

20:57  
with the three fields for softball field  
20:59  
hockey and soccer  
21:01  
again uh three desperate needs for us  
21:04  
and also we need to show our commitment  
21:06  
to gender equity we've made that a  
21:08  
cornerstone of our discussion  
21:10  
surrounding these events  
21:11  
and then we're going to be moving  
21:12  
through the facilities to include the  
21:14  
dome  
21:15  
uh spaces in the multi-purpose and then  
21:18  
and then the hockey facility um some of  
21:20  
it will be a little bit dependent on  
21:22  
fundraising and how that comes in  
21:23  
but there's also going to be some  
21:25  
opportunities to do some upgrades  
21:26  
for example here in alfond arena that  
21:29  
don't require a shovel on the ground  
21:30  
when you take a look at some of the  
21:31  
technical upgrades and scoreboards and  
21:33  
things like that  
21:34  
so there'll be other things that we'll

21:35  
be able to integrate as part of the  
21:37  
project  
21:38  
earlier than maybe something that  
21:39  
requires a new construction element  
21:41  
and then my other question kind of going  
21:43  
off that is when do you expect the  
21:45  
basketball team to be able to play on  
21:47  
campus and what were the conversations  
21:49  
with the cross center  
21:51  
as far as you know the next one to five  
21:54  
one to seven  
21:54  
years of playing games there  
21:58  
yeah we've been very open with tony vale  
22:00  
and his team at crosston  
22:01  
cross insurance center we have a great  
22:03  
relationship with them we wanted to make  
22:05  
sure we were being on the up and up  
22:06  
um it also is a civic arena and we we  
22:09  
value our relationship with the city of  
22:10  
bangor and we wouldn't want to do  
22:12  
anything to harm that relationship  
22:14  
we will probably end up extending our

22:16

existing relationship with cross

22:17

insurance center in the short term

22:19

and go once this once this agreement is

22:22

finished we'll go to an annual

22:23

rolling agreement until we're able to

22:25

play here part of it is going to be

22:27

determined on

22:28

um when the availability of funds is is

22:32

you know accessible and uh so we can get

22:34

going it's a

22:35

it's a 16-month construction timeline on

22:38

the

22:38

basketball facility or multi-purpose

22:40

facility and so once you see a shovel in

22:42

the ground you can

22:43

about a year and a half and we'll be in

22:44

there all right uh when you say short

22:46

term

22:46

how long is that before you start going

22:50

you know it's i get asked that question

22:51

on the way in the door and i don't know

22:53

the end date of our relationship with

22:55

cross insurance

22:56

they're committed to keeping us there as

22:58

as long as we're needed

22:59

to be in there and we're also we

23:01

actually great conversations with them

23:03

about how we can cooperatively use the

23:04

two facilities

23:06

for different events that might be able

23:08

to really benefit our students in our

23:09

community

23:10

um some really exciting things uh

23:12

because we're really

23:13

sizing this in a way to not be a

23:15

competitor and that was very deliberate

23:17

um it wouldn't be helpful for a market

23:19

of this size to try to build two

23:21

facilities the same side and compete for

23:22

events that doesn't make any sense at

23:24

all

23:24

so we're really looking cooperative

23:26

opportunities and

23:27

i think we can have an awful lot of fun



23:29  
with that and drive a lot of value to  
23:31  
the campus in that  
23:31  
in that fashion  
23:38  
with you how have you really seen the  
23:40  
landscape of division one athletics kind  
23:42  
of  
23:42  
change in terms of recruits want to go  
23:45  
to the best places  
23:46  
facility wise you know maybe a team or  
23:48  
the coach  
23:49  
is important obviously but all  
23:51  
facilities now have you seen that  
23:53  
and is that really kind of a driving  
23:54  
force for this project you know  
23:56  
they're definitely an arms race in  
23:58  
division one athletics when it comes to  
23:59  
facilities  
24:00  
but quite frankly we didn't want to  
24:01  
participate in it and i  
24:04  
i think it's a it's a bit of a fool's  
24:05  
errand because i think what you end up  
24:07  
as saddling schools with a bunch of debt

24:09  
they can't manage  
24:10  
especially when you have a rough  
24:11  
economic year like we did and you take a  
24:13  
look around the landscape of division  
24:15  
one  
24:16  
and the schools that are holding a lot  
24:17  
of debt on on their new facilities  
24:20  
and they're really struggling  
24:21  
budget-wise um you know we're looking at  
24:24  
these facilities  
24:25  
we don't want to be holding any debt but  
24:26  
we want to have facilities that are  
24:28  
clearly division one caliber  
24:30  
but are also sized appropriately for our  
24:32  
community and for our campus size  
24:34  
and for our needs um so we we sort of  
24:36  
have to thread that needle a little bit  
24:38  
because everybody wants  
24:39  
everybody just assumes bigger is better  
24:42  
but we would rather have  
24:43  
a high quality facility that is is  
24:46  
simple and elegant and easy to maintain

24:48  
and something that's going to look great  
24:50  
for the next 25 years so that really  
24:52  
drove a lot of our decision making  
24:54  
president i know you mentioned trying to  
24:56  
post more community events down events  
24:58  
with these new facilities  
25:00  
what you know programs events the  
25:02  
university was hosting  
25:03  
now it's not anymore and hopefully you  
25:05  
know trying to bring back um  
25:07  
some local i don't know if it was like  
25:08  
recreational sports tournaments  
25:10  
or anything like that so some of that  
25:12  
goes back before before my time  
25:14  
but over the years as the facilities  
25:15  
have have been less and less  
25:17  
available and accessible we've not been  
25:20  
the destination  
25:21  
and so we're ready to step that back up  
25:24  
to bring folks here  
25:25  
certainly once we're past pandemic uh  
25:27  
restrictions we

25:28  
would begin right away even in in trying  
25:31  
to um  
25:31  
work with organizations that maybe  
25:33  
haven't thought about us lately but we'd  
25:34  
like to get them back in the  
25:36  
in the loop so i'm very interested in  
25:38  
what we can do that  
25:39  
helps k-12 students and teachers and  
25:41  
their families see what the  
25:43  
possibilities are  
25:44  
for college and therefore we might come  
25:46  
forward with more events that  
25:48  
that cater to those audiences to bring  
25:50  
them on to the campus get a look at what  
25:52  
higher education can be and how they can  
25:53  
imagine themselves here  
25:55  
so again we'll be working on  
25:57  
programmatic ideas as as  
25:59  
go by but i'm i'm excited about seeing  
26:01  
much more of it happening here  
26:02  
as we move ahead let me just get one  
26:04  
more uh ken i know you mentioned

26:06  
the alpha arena the technology upgrades  
26:09  
you know video board  
26:10  
sound systems am i talking about you  
26:11  
know when you start seeing um  
26:13  
you know these things you don't have to  
26:15  
break a shovel to put in a new video  
26:16  
board  
26:16  
will kind of be going simultaneously  
26:18  
with the development of  
26:20  
the soccer field upgrades  
26:23  
we've already been in in contact with  
26:25  
some uh  
26:26  
product providers on what that would  
26:28  
look like to make sure we're  
26:30  
correct in our assumptions on cost and  
26:32  
you know it's a number of different  
26:33  
things it's center home video boards and  
26:35  
it's ribbon boards and  
26:36  
i think everybody's been to a game here  
26:37  
at pond arena really wants the sound  
26:39  
system upgraded and  
26:41  
uh you know you think about lighting the

26:43  
wi-fi obviously needs to be upgraded and  
26:45  
and tv production capabilities because  
26:47  
we want to put a great event on here and  
26:49  
showcase the university of maine  
26:50  
there's an assumption of quality that  
26:52  
comes with showing a great event that  
26:53  
can be distributed nationally  
26:55  
um you know those are things that we can  
26:57  
do based on the current structure of the  
26:59  
building  
27:00  
um but again it's okay when is the money  
27:03  
arriving  
27:04  
uh it's it's a timed gift from the  
27:06  
alphon foundation  
27:07  
what we are going to try to do is see if  
27:08  
we can do some uh  
27:10  
some work to borrow against that and if  
27:12  
we can then some of these things will  
27:13  
happen earlier  
27:14  
uh it's impossible for me to put a hard  
27:16  
date and say okay by  
27:17  
summer of 22 this particular thing is

27:19  
going to be done  
27:21  
but we know that once the funding is  
27:22  
approved that we'll be able to move  
27:23  
quickly on some of those items that are  
27:25  
not going to require new structure  
27:27  
thank  
27:32  
through it you like you've cut pretty  
27:35  
much every  
27:36  
single aspect of the athletics every  
27:38  
sport  
27:39  
the one that stood up to me was because  
27:42  
you said you're eliminating the track  
27:44  
stadium what happens sure we actually  
27:48  
met with the track and field coaches  
27:50  
about that very topic  
27:51  
because originally we were looking at  
27:52  
moving the 400 meter track to another  
27:54  
location within the footprint  
27:56  
and we just kind of had a wild idea of  
27:59  
you know nobody's got one of these 300  
28:00  
meter tracks in  
28:02  
in new england is this something we

28:04  
ought to consider  
28:05  
and it took him about a day to come back  
28:07  
and say absolutely because we looked at  
28:08  
how often our teams get to train  
28:10  
outdoors and it's really very rarely  
28:13  
especially in the spring during the  
28:14  
outdoor season the other thing that was  
28:16  
brought to our attention is that these  
28:18  
300 meter tracks  
28:19  
you can use them for qualification for  
28:21  
indoor standards  
28:23  
so for a student trying to qualify for  
28:25  
an indoor ic 4a meet or ecacs or  
28:27  
national championships  
28:29  
you can run on a much faster 300 meter  
28:31  
track and qualify in a 200 meter  
28:33  
standard  
28:33  
so it opens up a whole bunch of new  
28:35  
possibilities for us  
28:36  
in terms of the different types of  
28:38  
events that we can hold  
28:40  
and i think for any of you that have



28:41  
been here on weekends when we've hosted  
28:42  
high school track  
28:43  
indoor meets and tried to find a parking  
28:45  
space it's crazy around here  
28:47  
and we realized it's an incredible  
28:48  
service we provide and if we're really  
28:50  
going to be  
28:51  
um engaging our community at a high  
28:54  
level this is a better type of  
28:55  
facility than an outdoor track would be  
28:57  
everybody's got an outbreak  
28:59  
this would be new this allows us to  
29:01  
gauge engage the community at a higher  
29:03  
level  
29:04  
and that drove the decision making  
29:06  
they'd still be able to compete  
29:11  
correct we don't hold base here now um  
29:14  
and quite frankly with everybody holding  
29:15  
out or having outdoor tracks  
29:17  
there's nobody's going to drive all the  
29:18  
way up to maine to go to a meet anyways  
29:21  
and what we'll do is we're going to

29:22  
trade track time indoor time for outdoor  
29:24  
time some local schools and  
29:26  
give our students the opportunity to be  
29:27  
able to practice on the outdoor 400  
29:29  
meter tracks when we do have the weather  
29:31  
cooperating  
29:33  
does this open up avenues to hold  
29:36  
regional  
29:37  
championships or conference  
29:42  
absolutely and it's a discussion i had  
29:44  
with the commissioner of the america  
29:46  
east conference last night  
29:48  
she just lit up and said we'll be able  
29:49  
to host indoor track at your place and  
29:51  
not only that but the field house is  
29:53  
going to stay as it is so we can do the  
29:54  
throwing and jumping events inside the  
29:56  
field house and the running events  
29:57  
inside the speed dome  
29:59  
it's going to be an incredible setup in  
30:01  
something that nobody else has it's  
30:03  
going to be very

30:04  
unique to maine and it's going to be a  
30:06  
way for us to stand out are they still  
30:08  
gonna be able to  
30:10  
you said they're setting up the  
30:11  
basketball games  
30:16  
you know maybe i know we've been working  
30:20  
together  
30:27  
well the pool isn't large enough to have  
30:29  
a warm down area so we wouldn't qualify  
30:31  
to coast america east i know we have in  
30:32  
the past but  
30:33  
the new standards don't allow us to do  
30:35  
that we'll be able to host in  
30:37  
now that i'm looking around i think  
30:39  
every single sport except swimming um  
30:41  
except swimming in outdoor track and  
30:43  
it's it's kind of nice to have that  
30:45  
feeling and the other thing is is that  
30:46  
you know weather will be less of an  
30:47  
impact  
30:48  
for us going forward and that's that's a  
30:50  
big deal

30:52

can you explain i looked at the pictures

30:54

of the dome

30:55

i know you have a dome but this one

30:57

seems bigger

30:59

and more advanced

31:02

yeah it's it's two separate domes so the

31:05

many dome will be replaced and enlarged

31:07

uh partially so we can go full width of

31:09

a soccer field and also be able to get

31:11

softball in there

31:12

uh to be able to get their training in

31:14

and we see that as a again an equity

31:16

thing and also a safety

31:17

a safety pitch there the second dome is

31:20

going to have the 100

31:21

yard turf field surrounded by a 300

31:23

meter track it's a much larger enclosure

31:25

it's over 100 000 square feet

31:27

the technology in those facilities is

31:29

really unbelievable now and

31:31

it's going to be fun i think for

31:32

engineering students to engage with the

31:34  
contractors as we put these things  
31:35  
together because  
31:36  
it's such a unique look um but it's so  
31:39  
we're going to have the two domes side  
31:40  
by side we're hoping we can link them  
31:42  
so that you'll be able to pass from one  
31:44  
end to the other and be able to go  
31:45  
through the buildings without ever going  
31:46  
outside  
31:47  
so again a little bit of a different  
31:49  
look and the  
31:50  
uh the pure facilities we looked at were  
31:53  
at north dakota notre dame  
31:54  
in pittsburg state kansas uh all had 300  
31:57  
meter tracks and we  
31:58  
talked all of them about how they use  
32:00  
them it's just incredible and it's  
32:02  
it's the kind of activity we want going  
32:04  
on in our camp  
32:07  
uh softball is going to be turf now  
32:11  
yes full turf field including the  
32:13  
infield is that an

32:14  
equity angle i know that's something  
32:17  
they've been holding for for a long time  
32:19  
it is and it's you know our softball  
32:21  
field you know we've had years we've had  
32:23  
one or two home games total in an entire  
32:25  
season  
32:26  
um and so we want to be able to just  
32:28  
plow snow off it and be able to get our  
32:30  
students out there to  
32:31  
to get their practices going as soon as  
32:32  
possible we also want it to be able to  
32:34  
train very well so we don't lose games  
32:36  
because of  
32:37  
because of rainouts um and we just want  
32:39  
to make sure that when you take a look  
32:41  
at the baseball field and say this is a  
32:42  
great baseball field  
32:43  
we go over the softball field say this  
32:45  
is a great softball field  
32:46  
and everybody feels like they're being  
32:48  
accommodated at the highest level  
32:50  
that's really important us how

32:52

accessible once these projects

32:56

because i know you've had a lot of

32:58

shared space for old town or arnold

33:10

yeah matter of fact the president can

33:11

probably tell you we had a very nice uh

33:13

a nice email this morning from a local

33:15

athletic director who is just blown away

33:18

by the projects and was so excited about

33:20

the opportunities for the local high

33:21

schools to be able to engage here

33:23

and well it's important to us it's not

33:26

always completely altruistic either

33:28

because we want all those students

33:29

coming here to start thinking about the

33:30

university of maine for their college

33:32

decision

33:33

we want to do everything we can to drive

33:35

high school students to maine

33:36

and engage in our facilities and have

33:38

great experiences here

33:40

and we want to sell them a humane

33:41

t-shirt and we want to get them to buy a

33:43  
hockey ticket we want to get them  
33:44  
to feel like they're a black bear before  
33:46  
they you know before they ever graduate  
33:48  
from high school  
33:49  
and so a lot of the design of the  
33:50  
facilities is not only to serve  
33:53  
the highest level of college sports but  
33:55  
also it's going to be a driver  
33:56  
for our enrollment management group and  
33:59  
we just felt that this great way for us  
34:00  
to cooperate  
34:01  
in terms of cross-platforms  
34:06  
we have a number of people watching our  
34:07  
live stream including media members  
34:09  
uh mike lowe uh just sent in a question  
34:12  
he wishes he could be here but uh his  
34:14  
question is specific about the strategy  
34:16  
of the construction  
34:18  
he's  
34:29  
yeah and that was something we  
34:30  
considered as part of the master design  
34:32  
plan



34:33  
was if you're building over the same  
34:36  
spot of an existing  
34:38  
facility uh that team is displaced for a  
34:41  
certain period of time and you end up  
34:42  
having to rent fields and drive teams  
34:44  
around and there's risk associated and  
34:45  
cost associated  
34:47  
so as we look at these facilities we  
34:49  
really focused on okay  
34:50  
how can we maneuver these facilities in  
34:52  
a way where we don't disrupt any current  
34:54  
operations  
34:56  
and we did a pretty good job succeeding  
34:58  
with that the way the  
34:59  
softball soccer and field hockey  
35:01  
facilities go in  
35:02  
there won't be any any contact with  
35:05  
their existing facilities so as we're  
35:06  
building those the teams can still use  
35:08  
the  
35:09  
facilities they're on currently to be  
35:11  
able to practice and participate

35:14  
then once once softball and field hockey  
35:16  
move into their new fields  
35:17  
that opens up the space where we're  
35:19  
going to be putting the speed dome  
35:20  
because that displaces softball and  
35:22  
field hockey  
35:22  
but they're already gone so we're not  
35:24  
displacing any sports there as well  
35:26  
and we go that way all the way around we  
35:28  
should not be displacing any sports  
35:30  
at any point in time thank you that  
35:33  
completes our  
35:33  
questioning so i'll uh thank the  
35:35  
speakers for for your time and thank you  
35:37  
members  
35:38  
if anyone has any follow-ups please just  
35:40  
let me know what happens  
35:41  
with that thanks everyone for your time  
35:43  
thank you  
35:56  
thanks  
35:59  
you