

Out with the old and in with the new: Will the University of Oklahoma Softball team play at Love's Field on March 1?

With opening day at Love's Field coming to its closing days, the stadium has yet to be completed.

By: Jack Kirchhoff

The Oklahoma Sooners women's softball team is set to play its first home game of the season at the brand-new Love's Field on March 1 against the University of Miami (OH). But the stadium has yet to be completed, with just one week away until Oklahoma's home opener.

With public updates usually given every few weeks, the club posted on February 2, on X, that the playing surface was completed.

“Laying the groundwork for a new legacy. The sod at Love's Field is in, featuring the finest Tahoma Bermudagrass!”

With news like this, associate head coach/pitching coach Jennifer Rocha is not worried whatsoever. She believes the stadium will be ready and operational on opening day in Norman.

Rocha stated, “They're doing a great job, we've got great weather and they're doing a really great job of staying on time, so I feel like the fans are in for a real treat once it's done”

The Director of Compliance for the university, Brady Newville, agrees but doesn't believe it will be completely finished. He says the stadium will be up and running for games and, from a fan perspective, will be done.

Newville said, “The new stadium will be operational by March 1st..... Operational meaning all the fan amenities will be available, the press box will be ready, the scoreboard will be used, the field playable, bullpens ready, etc. Essentially, anything forward-facing will be good to go. It’s the private team spaces like the hitting facilities, locker room, etc. that still need to have the finishing touches.”

However, this stadium means a lot as they would rather have a nice one that takes longer than expected to build than one built fast with many flaws. Newly promoted Associate Head Coach JT Gasso says that this stadium will be more than just a new home to the club.

“The new stadium is going to have a bigger impact than what people may realize. It will not only help our program immediately, but it will also boost OU community, and push the sport of softball forward and create more visibility for women and women’s athletics.”

The stadium represents more than just the Sooners, though. It represents the sport of softball and women’s sports as a whole. It represents dreams and achievements that can be toppled through hard work.

“Love’s is empowering women to reach the absolute pinnacle of achievement while inspiring the next generation to look to the future with the biggest dream. As we see at a moment like this, dreams really do come true.” Patty Gasso stated via the Sooner Club.

This stadium impacts not just players and coaches but the staff behind the scenes as well, such as the head of equipment for the team, Garrett Voelker. Voelker is ecstatic over the new stadium as he is gaining a new office that nearly triples the space of the old one with amenities that will advance his work production.

“The equipment room in my own opinion is one of the best in the country in regards too to what is included in it, the space savers and how they are laid out, and the thought process that went into the layout of it.” Voelker said.

With excellent word and confidence high, Love’s Field will be up and running on March 1 for the Sooner’s home opener.

Resources:

<https://thesoonerclub.com/sports/softball-stadium-project>

https://x.com/OU_Softball/status/1759958955680297237?s=20

Brady Newville- phone (405) 426-5437 email- newvilleaa@ou.edu

Garrett Voelker- (405) 532-3608 email- gcvoelker98@ou.edu

Jennifer Rocha – (405) 343-4429 email- jrocha@ou.edu

JT Gasso- (405) 306-7795 email- jtgasso@ou.edu