14 YEARS IN THE MAKING:
A Timeline of KSU Football

2006
APRIL:
Athletic Department initiates a feasibility study conducted by Turner & Associates to determine if Kennesaw State Athletics could execute a successful capital campaign to raise funds to further expand the program and improve and/or build needed facilities to start football.

SEPTEMBER:
Turner & Associates provides a detailed report to Kennesaw State Athletics supporting a plan to run a capital campaign to raise funds related to identifying needs of the programs and to expand the program.

2009
DECEMBER:
President Papp announces that Coach Vince Dooley would head a thirty-three member Exploratory Committee to determine if Kennesaw State is ready to add football related to financial requirements, academic support and Title IX impact of football to the existing programs.

2010
MAY 2:
Ribbon cutting for KSU Stadium.

MAY 9:
First event in KSU Stadium history is staged as the Atlanta Beat hosts Sky Blue FC.

AUGUST 14:
First Kennesaw State athletics event is held at KSU Stadium as the women’s soccer team hosts Jacksonville State in an exhibition match.

SEPTEMBER 15:
Coach Dooley’s Feasibility Task Force recommends that Kennesaw State move forward to form and start a Football Committee.

NOVEMBER 16:
Kennesaw State University students approve a $100 per semester fee increase to support the funding of football.

2011
APRIL:
Vaughn Williams is announced as the new Director of Athletics for Kennesaw State University bringing extensive experiences at DI institutions that have mid-major to BCS level programs.

2012
OCTOBER 10:
October 10: Kennesaw State University Student Fee Committee votes in favor of an increase in student fees to support football and additional women’s sports related to Title IX requirements. The fee will be implemented in the fall of 2013.

SIDEBAR

THE SENTINEL SPRING 2013

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KENNESAW, Ga.—Kennesaw State University scored its first touchdown on Wednesday when the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia voted to approve the University’s request to add football to its 17-sport NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics program. Kennesaw State University officials anticipate that 2015 will be the team’s first year of competition.

“This is an exciting day for Kennesaw State and a milestone that is the culmination of the hard work and support from many individuals on and off campus,” said Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp. “We want to thank the regents for their continued support of the vision we share for the University. The addition of football at Kennesaw State will help bring positive national recognition to the university and strengthen the sense of pride and connection among students, alumni, and the community-at-large.”

A major source of funding for the football program will come from a stadium naming rights partnership with Fifth Third Bank, an Ohio-based company with more than 1,300 locations throughout the country. Through a multi-million dollar, multi-year sponsorship agreement with the Georgia regional office, KSU Stadium will become Fifth Third Bank Stadium. Renovations to the 8,300-seat stadium, which currently hosts the Owls soccer and lacrosse teams, will be made prior to the football team’s inaugural season.

With this partnership we have the unique opportunity to support the growth of Kennesaw State University and the Athletics program to form a long-term relationship with the community and to reach and interact with customers and prospects,” said Randolph Koporc, president of Fifth Third Bank (Georgia).

In the plan presented Wednesday to the Board of Regents, Papp and Kennesaw State Director of Athletics Vaughn Williams provided a detailed business plan outlining start-up and operating expenses for the football program, Title IX considerations and revenue projections for the next six years. Papp and Williams also outlined the steps the University has made towards securing support for football among its students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community. The two university officials also provided the rationale for beginning a football program at Kennesaw State, focusing on the benefits to current and prospective students, national recognition for the university, and enhanced engagement with alumni and the community.

**FUTURE PLANS 2013**

**FEBRUARY**

- Renovations of space for football program offices begins.
- Planning for renovations to Fifth Third Bank Stadium begins.

**MARCH**

- Kennesaw State is expected to announce the hiring of its first football coach.
- KSU Football Briefings are scheduled to begin for the public to learn more about the process from Department of Athletics representatives.

- Football Ticket Letter of Intent Program begins.

**FEBRUARY 9:**

- Kennesaw State University’s request to begin playing football in 2015 and adding a $100 per-semester student fee is deferred by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

**FEBRUARY 14:**

- Kennesaw State University announces that it will add football and play at the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) level beginning in 2015. The University also announces a multi-year, multi-million dollar sponsorship arrangement with Fifth Third Bank. Included in the sponsorship deal is the renaming of KSU Stadium to Fifth Third Bank Stadium.

**2013 JANUARY 4:**

Kennesaw State University’s request to begin playing football in 2015 and adding a $100 per-semester student fee is placed on the University System of Georgia Board of Regents agenda.

**JANUARY 8:**

Kennesaw State University’s request to begin playing football in 2015 and adding a $100 per-semester student fee is approved by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

**JANUARY 13:**

Kennesaw State University’s request to begin playing football in 2015 and adding a $100 per-semester student fee is placed on the University System of Georgia Board of Regents agenda.

**2013 FEBRUARY 9:**

Kennesaw State University’s request to begin playing football in 2015 and adding a $100 per-semester student fee is placed on the University System of Georgia Board of Regents agenda.

**2014 FEBRUARY:**

- Kennesaw State announces first recruiting class.

**SPRING:**

- Kennesaw State holds first spring practice workout.

**2015 SPRING:**

- 2015 Spring: Kennesaw State holds first spring football game.

**AUGUST:**

- Kennesaw State opens fall practice.

**AUGUST:**

- 2015 August: Inaugural Kennesaw State football game.

**FEBRUARY:**

- Kennesaw State announces first recruiting class.
FIFTH THIRD BANK STADIUM

HOME OF KENNESAW STATE OWLS FOOTBALL

Thank You KSU Foundation, Kennesaw State Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, Kennesaw Community & Fifth Third Bank For Making Kennesaw State Football A Reality.