Hofstra University Names James M. Shuart Stadium
August 29 Dedication at Football Home Opener

On February 1, President Stuart Rabinowitz announced that the University’s 15,000-seat stadium has been named the James M. Shuart Stadium at Hofstra University.

"During Dr. James M. Shuart’s 25 remarkable years as President of Hofstra University we grew from a fine regional institution to an internationally recognized university. Although every aspect of the University has benefited immeasurably from Jim Shuart’s leadership, we believe that his roots as a student-athlete and his support of our fine athletic programs make the naming of the stadium particularly appropriate. By doing this we convey our admiration and respect for James Shuart to the thousands of individuals who use the James M. Shuart Stadium at Hofstra University each year," said President Rabinowitz.

"When President Emeritus James M. Shuart retired last spring, the Board of Trustees unanimously agreed that future generations of Hofstra students, faculty, alumni and visitors to our campus should be reminded of Jim’s good work. Hofstra has achieved recognition for the successful integration of its outstanding academic and athletic programs. By naming the James M. Shuart Stadium at Hofstra University we provide an ongoing testamentary to Dr. Shuart’s contribution to Hofstra, Long Island and the entire higher education community," said John J. Conelly, Jr., Chairman of the Hofstra University Board of Trustees.

In August 1994 Hofstra University announced plans for a major renovation and expansion of Hofstra Stadium, the University’s 39-year-old multipurpose outdoor sports facility. The $9-million project, completed in the fall of 1996, has made Hofstra Stadium, home of Hofstra’s Field Hockey (NCAA II), Football (NCAA I-AA) and Lacrosse (NCAA I) teams, one of the premier facilities in the nation.

The project included the expansion of the seating capacity from 7,000 to 15,000; the installation of a network-quality lighting system for television broadcast; Athletic Department offices; a press level and a club suite level; entrance plazas on the south and west sides of the Stadium; new facade around the outside of the Stadium; additional parking and landscaping; Howdy Myers Pavilion; concession and souvenir areas; two new locker rooms; the installation of a state-of-the-art scoreboard board on the south end; and the installation of a scoreboard on the north end.

Hofstra Stadium is now the largest outdoor sports and entertainment complex on Long Island.

Opened in 1963, Hofstra Stadium has served as the site for NCAA championships, Nassau County and New York State high school championships in football and lacrosse, world championships in men’s and women’s lacrosse, professional soccer, commencement exercises and cultural events. In 1968 Hofstra Stadium became the third college facility in the nation to install an artificial playing surface.

Hofstra’s James M. Shuart Stadium has become a focal point of Long Island, serving as the home of the NCAA Division I Men’s Lacrosse Championship Quarterfinals, the Outback Steakhouse Long Island All-Star Football Game, the Long Island Lizards of major league lacrosse, various Long Island high school championships, America East championships and the 1999 Empire State Games. The Stadium also served as a home for the Long Island Rough Riders of professional soccer’s A-League.

Within the past decade, the Stadium has received a new balsam turf playing surface, several sections of chair-back seating, a new sound system and the $3.8-million Joseph M. Margiotta Field House on the south end.

Originally the University had planned to create a public performing arts center that would be named in honor of Dr. James M. Shuart. Upon the Board’s substitution of an alternative plan for expansion of academic facilities, they decided that it would be most appropriate to name the stadium in Dr. Shuart’s honor.

"Many remarkable dreams become reality at Hofstra thanks to the dedication and hard work of the University’s Trustees, administrators and faculty. As President I worked closely with my Hofstra colleagues on projects such as the stadium. Hofstra’s marvelous stadium provides students, alumni, visitors and friends with a first-class venue. It is one of the top on-campus intercollegiate sports facilities, indoor or outdoor, in the New York metropolitan area. I am truly honored that the Hofstra Board of Trustees has decided to name its stadium the Hofstra University James M. Shuart Stadium," said President Emeritus Dr. James M. Shuart.

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