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## BJCC MARKS TOPPING OUT OF PROTECTIVE STADIUM

*(Birmingham, AL, December 8, 2020)* — Last week the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) marked a key milestone in the construction of Protective Stadium with a “topping out” celebration.

A topping out marks the ceremonial placement of the last steel beam in a construction project. Protective Stadium’s modified topping out celebration was designed to adhere to Alabama’s “Safer-at-Home” order. One-by-one over the course of three days, city and county leaders and corporate partners signed a construction beam stationed at Uptown. Once signed, the beam was lifted by crane and fastened to the support structure for Protective Stadium’s score board.

Construction on the 45,000-capacity stadium began in late 2019 and is scheduled to conclude in Fall 2021 for the UAB Football season. Protective Stadium will be the Home of UAB Blazers Football.

“It was important for us to mark this construction milestone, albeit a little differently than we would have,” said Tad Snider, executive director and CEO, BJCC Authority. “Protective Stadium is a public-private partnership, with many entities working together to produce a world-class facility for Birmingham. The topping out honors those partnerships while demonstrating the project’s significant progress.”

### CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

- 3,700,000 pounds of rebar tied
- 26,000 cubic yards of concrete placed
- 150,000 square feet of elevated concrete
- 130,000 blocks of cubic masonry units
- 160,000 feet of conduit hung
- 14,600 feet of pipe
- 31,000 linear feet of concrete seating
- 8,500 feet of ductwork

“Protective Stadium’s construction has moved forward smoothly and on schedule,” said Dennis Lathem, chairman, BJCC Board of Directors. “This year and this project have reinforced how important it is to keep the long view in focus. The stadium’s construction, as well as the

comprehensive renovation of Legacy Arena, will yield long term benefits, strengthening Birmingham as a destination for large scale sporting events.”

“When I look at the progress that has been made on the stadium, I don’t just see a place where our community can come together for football, concerts and other events,” Birmingham Mayor Randall L. Woodfin said. “I see a springboard for economic development, I see new opportunities for small businesses, and I see revenue that will go toward revitalizing each of our city’s 99 neighborhoods. I’m proud to see this great new venue taking shape, but I’m most excited about the groundwork that is being laid to uplift all our communities.”

“I’m excited to reach this milestone on a project that will bring such benefit to our county,” said Jefferson County Commission President Jimmie Stephens. “I look at this stadium as a monument to what happens when we have good leadership across the board — from the city, the county, the state, the BJCC, UAB and the business community — and when we all work together to accomplish something good for our community.”

“This is a milestone moment for Protective Stadium and for Birmingham,” said Birmingham City Council President William Parker. “The new stadium will soon join Legion Field, Birmingham Crossplex and the city’s other venues to make Birmingham even more competitive in attracting sporting events that will boost tourism and support our local economy.”

“Protective is excited to celebrate another milestone in the construction progress made at Protective Stadium,” said Rich Bielen, President & CEO, Protective. “Upon completion, the events hosted at Protective Stadium will unite the city of Birmingham and we are thrilled to play an important role in bringing this venue to life.”

“The progress being made at Protective Stadium is remarkable and this milestone reiterates that,” said Mark Ingram, UAB Director of Athletics. “We are incredibly excited to make Protective Stadium our new home and are appreciative of the partnerships that have helped bring this project to fruition.”

Protective Stadium will also serve as the host venue for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of The World Games 2022, coming to Birmingham July 7-17, 2022.

“The progress on Protective Stadium is incredible, and we are excited that it will serve as a cornerstone of The World Games 2022,” said Nick Sellers, CEO of The World Games Birmingham. “In less than 600 days, we will welcome the world to Birmingham, and we can’t wait to show off this beautiful new stadium to fans and athletes from across the globe.”

### **About Protective Stadium**

Protective Stadium is a 45,000-capacity multi-use, open-air stadium within the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Alabama. Funded by the BJCC Authority, the City of Birmingham, Jefferson County, [Protective Life Corporation](#), and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Protective Stadium will spur continued growth for the city while positioning Birmingham to attract and host large

concerts and a variety of sporting events. Protective Stadium is the future home of UAB Blazer Football. For more information about Protective Stadium, including construction updates, visit [protectivestadium.com](http://protectivestadium.com).

**About BJCC**

The Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) is Alabama's premier sports, convention and entertainment center. It is home to two exhibition halls offering 220,000 square feet for trade shows and exhibitions, as well as three entertainment venues including the state's largest arena and concert hall. The BJCC campus also includes the Uptown Entertainment District, The Westin Birmingham Hotel and Alabama's largest hotel, the 757-room Sheraton Birmingham. Visit [bjcc.org](http://bjcc.org)