

UNF Board of Trustees

February 27, 2006

Issue: Naming of Hodges Stadium

Proposed action: Approval

Background information:

In accordance with the policy proposed for naming opportunities and unanimous approval from the Finance and Audit Committee, the University of North Florida requests that its Board of Trustees ratify naming the Multi-Purpose Classroom Building #46 as HODGES STADIUM. Administrators of the UNF Athletics Department have made this request as a tribute to George Hodges, Jr., and his wife, Kernan, in recognition of their continued support of the University and the city of Jacksonville.

The University wishes that this honor be bestowed on George and Kernan Hodges as a testament to the legacy of generosity that the Hodges family has shown throughout the history of the University of North Florida.

From the very beginning, the Hodges family has been instrumental in the development of the University of North Florida and has played a prominent role in its growth. The Hodges family donated and sold a portion of the land that was to become the University of North Florida.

In December, 2000, George and Kernan Hodges made a \$100,000 gift to help with construction costs for the Arthur "Buster" Browning Athletic Training and Education Center, located in the Multi-Purpose Classroom Building #46. The Browning Center, in addition to providing athletic training care and support for more than 200 student-athletes each year, also is a working classroom/lab used by the College of Health as a clinical-internship training site for students enrolled in Athletic Training Certification and Physical Therapy coursework.

Most recently, George and Kernan Hodges made a gift of \$2,000,000 to the University of North Florida to be used for facilities enhancements on campus. This gift was pledged and paid in its entirety in 2005 so that the much needed construction could be planned and implemented beginning in 2006.

Naming the stadium in honor of George and Kernan Hodges is an ideal way to recognize these individuals that have meant so much to the University of North Florida. The stadium is a tangible structure that will be prominently recognized throughout Jacksonville and the collegiate sports

community as a premier dedicated Soccer and Track facility that will also be utilized for classes in the College of Education and Human Services. Whenever the University of North Florida competes or hosts competitions within the stadium, the Hodges name will be closely associated with the University as well as Jacksonville. For this reason, the University of North Florida would be honored to have a facility in which we compete, train, and teach to be named in recognition and honor of these outstanding benefactors and supporters of the University.

The next step in the process is to submit to the 2006 Legislative session a similar request which is required for individuals still living to have their name on a university building.

Supporting documents: None