

Vikings Aim to Make Practice Facility Community Inclusive

Earlier this month the Sports Business Journal took an in-depth look at the Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center, Eagan's future home of the Minnesota Vikings. Written by Don Muret, the piece highlighted the Vikings vision to make the new practice facility, team headquarters and 6,000-seat stadium open to the community.

"Many practice facilities are built to keep the fans and the community out," Vikings Chief Operating Officer Kevin Warren told Muret. "We did ours with the mindset that it's almost inverted, to bring people in."

Community benefits include partnering with the Minnesota State High School League to schedule high school football games on Friday nights at TCO Stadium, themed as "Skol Nights." In conjunction with those games, students interested in pursuing a media career may have an opportunity to broadcast the games from a 3,000 square-foot studio run by the Vikings Entertainment Network (VEN), allowing high school kids to gain broadcast experience prior to leaving for college. The team is also researching a tech accelerator program that will give young entrepreneurs a chance to put their ideas in front of potential investors and will share more details on that program in the future.

Since breaking ground in early August on the 40-acre performance center slated to open in March 2018, the Vikings and partners Kraus Anderson and Crawford Architects have been moving quickly to finalize designs and prepare the site for construction. Currently crews from Little Canada-based Frattalone are overseeing the excavation and grading work for the first phase of the entire 200-acre project while bid packages for structural steel have been issued.

To stay up to date on the Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center, visit vikings.com or watch the team's [24-hour live streaming camera](#).