



Work begins on new turf field at Ipswich High

By Amanda Ostuni Staff Writer



IPSWICH — Years of planning and fundraising culminated on Friday in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new turf field at Ipswich High School.

The project is being funded by various public and private sources. A key contributor, the Institution for Savings, through its 2 Depot Square Charitable Foundation, pledged \$600,000 toward construction costs. In honor of the donation, the School Committee voted unanimously last October to name the school's athletic facilities — the overall area encompassing the track, tennis courts and the Jack Welch Stadium — the Institution for Savings Athletic Complex.

“As a father of four children in the school system, I know firsthand the great strides made by the town in recent years to provide quality, state-of-the-art athletic fields and facilities, and this will be a wonderful and much-needed enhancement,” said bank president and CEO Michael Jones, in a press release. “We are honored and grateful to have the bank’s name associated with this terrific project.”

Lynx Systems Developers has donated a \$250,000, state-of-the-art FinishLynx track timing and video system for the Ken Spellman Track, and Ipswich Public Schools is contributing \$132,000 toward the work in the form of a Payne Grant. The remaining costs will be covered by a \$1 million non-exempt bond approved by town voters last October.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Institution for Savings, the Ipswich Education Foundation, the town of Ipswich and everyone else who played a role in this fantastic collaborative effort,” said Tom Gallagher, director of Ipswich athletics. “The completion of this multi-purpose field is a big win for this town and will have a positive impact on so many athletic programs throughout the town — something we can all be proud of.”

Construction is scheduled to be complete in September, in time for the fall 2016 sports season.

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