

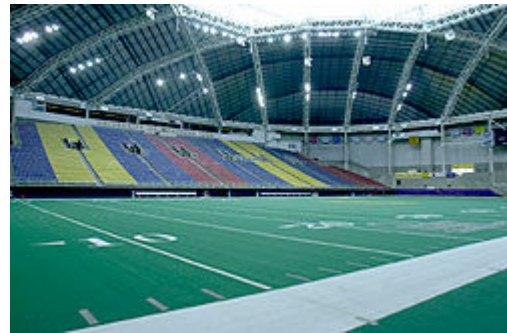
UNI-Dome



The groundbreaking ceremony for Iowa's only domed stadium occurred on July 26, 1974, after several years of fundraising. Most of the money used for construction came from student fees and from private donations from alumni and community members. This \$7.5 million structure was completed in 1976. The UNI-Dome, as it is commonly known, is a multi-purpose coliseum designed by Thorson-Brom-Broshar-Snyder Architects of Waterloo. For sports, it has an astro-turf football surface that can be rolled up

when not in use; a removable basketball court; and an all-purpose floor marked as a running track.

The Dome is used for concerts, community events such as recreational and craft shows, and commencement ceremonies. When the Dome is not in use by the University, it can be rented for various purposes.



The main seating

area accommodates over 16,000 people for football games. Because the crowd must be seated around a smaller court, potential seating for basketball is much smaller. The domed roof was formerly made of fiberglass with a teflon coating. Its inner layer assists with the melting of

snow and ice in the winter. For heavy snows, workers still had to scoop snow off the roof by hand. The transparent roof permitted natural lighting during the day. Lights are installed and used for night events. The roof was supported by cables but suspended by air pressure. It had an electronic monitoring system to alert officials to any problems and is climate controlled to allow for year-round use. In the fall of 1998 a new "hybrid" roof was installed that would consist of two parts. The lower section would have an external finished surface of stainless steel. The translucent center portion would be Teflon coated fiberglass. This center portion, or skylight, would comprise about 45,000 of the 160,000 square feet of roof.

The building has four main concourse level entrances: two on the east and two on the west. Each is named after a major contributor to the Dome project. There are also two other entrances: one on the north and one on the south side. The north entrance opens into a hallway which leads to the Physical Education Center.