



MIKE LONG TRACK



1957

Varsity Track and Field is constructed on campus at the current site of Mike Long Track and field lights were installed. The surface was a 50/50 mixture of the natural clay base and fine grain granite slag. It had its own watering system to wet it down like a baseball infield in order to drag and roll it. The surface was widely recognized as the best in the Southeast, and teams loved to run at Florida State because the track was so appealing. The seating capacity was 1,250 wooden seats.

1963

Stands (an additional 1,250) were added on the back stretch and all seat boards were replaced with aluminum. The seats were just ground level, 10 rows with a short rise so they were not very conducive to viewing on the track. The seating capacity was 2,500.

1974

The track was completely renovated. The layout was widened to accommodate 8-42 lanes all the way around. An asphalt base was installed to support a long-awaited state-of-the-art polyurethane synthetic surface, putting FSU back at the top of the list of facilities that teams loved to compete on.

1977

Crowd control had become an issue, with some home meets bringing out between 3,000 and 4,000 spectators. The athletic department and the university began receiving letters from fans and alumni concerned with the situation; and shortly thereafter crowd control fencing was installed.

1978

Three additional sets of bleachers (15 rows high, 500 seats each) became available from the baseball field and were added to the southwest end of the track near the finish line. Although beginning at ground level again the seating capacity was now increased to 4,000.

1979

Athletic Director John Bridgers, along with Head Track Coach Dick Roberts and University President Bernard Sliger officially commemorate the facility to be known as "Mike Long Track."





1980

A beautiful combination time/temperature and fully automatic running display clock was donated by the Gulf Winds Track Club bearing the "Mike Long Track" commemoration at the top and was installed by the university.

1984

Mike Long Track goes through another restoration. The now 10-year-old polyurethane surface was transformed with the newest surfacing from Germany called "Rekortan." The entire facility is completely renovated, this time taking out the existing curbing in favor of a state-of-the-art (the first one in the USA) perimeter trench drainage system and converting the layout to 400 meters. Men's and women's restrooms were constructed at this time and are the first restrooms ever installed at the facility since its conception in 1957. The existing 3,000 bleacher seats on the home-stretch were removed, and a new elevated section with a higher rise was installed with a seating capacity of 1,800. The total seating capacity was reduced by 1,000 seats, but the seating was much more functional. Total capacity was now 3,000.

Early 1990s

The McIntosh building was constructed at the south end of the facility.

1993

The Rekortan surface received a refurbishing (a reapplication of the top layer) which lasted for another 10 seasons. Some additional field event renovations were accomplished at this time.

2002

The entire facility was again renovated to its current status. The oval was widened to very close to the IAAF radius, all lanes were widened to 48 and all field events were relocated and redesigned. New, much-needed restrooms were constructed. The existing concessions building was removed and was not

replaced. All existing seating was removed, and a small section was reconstructed across from the finish line to hold 1,200 spectators.

2006

Plans begin to renovate the building on the south end of the track. Construction is slated to begin in spring of 2007 and be completed by the next track season. New additions include another building to the east of the existing structure, brand-new locker rooms, a larger meeting area and state-of-the-art athletic training space.



Stuart Pearce

Assistant Director of Event Management

Stuart Pearce begins his seventh year with the Facilities Operations/Event Management Department working with the Mike Long Track Complex, and the Training Center. Pearce coordinates home events for cross country, track and field, and men's and women's basketball while supervising the maintenance and upkeep of the track and basketball facilities on a daily basis.

The Tallahassee, Fla., native started his tenure at Florida State as an undergraduate seeking a bachelor's degree in sport management. Pearce went on to earn his masters in Sport Administration from Florida State while working with the event management department as well as facilities. Upon graduation, Pearce spent a year working part-time before being hired as the assistant director of event management. Pearce has been married to Kerri for five years, and they are the proud parents of Elizabeth Grace, 3, and Bryant Thomas, 1.