

Project Profile



USG SECUROCK™ Glass-Mat Sheathing

Name:
University of Tennessee Neyland Stadium
Location:
Knoxville, TN
Contractor:
Odom Construction Systems
Distributor:
CK Supply, Knoxville, TN
Featured Product:
SECUROCK™ glass-mat sheathing



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SECUROCK Glass-Mat Sheathing Plays Defense Against Tight Schedule and Rainy Weather at the University of Tennessee Neyland Stadium Renovation.

Officials may be able to reset the clock during a football game, but adding minutes to the renovation schedule at the University of Tennessee (UT) Neyland Stadium is not an option. Shortly after football players cleared the field following their last 2008 game, construction teams began tackling the stadium's two-year Phase III renovation.

Phase III is part of a long-range comprehensive stadium master plan designed to meet the needs of student athletes, UT supporters, coaches, staff and university students. This phase, the largest and most expensive to date, includes widening the pedestrian areas in several concourses, adding new elevators and stairwells, remodeling the skyboxes and press boxes, building new or renovated men's, women's and family restrooms, and adding more concession stands. Outside of the stadium will be a new gate entry plaza, and brick and wrought iron façade work along the north and west sides of the stadium. When completed in 2010, more than 60 percent of the stadium will have been renovated since 2006. The stadium, built in 1921, is the largest football stadium in the South and the third-largest college stadium in the country with more than 700,000 visitors each year.

Odom Construction Systems, a Knoxville area contractor, managed the project's exterior framing, sheathing and metal installations as well as the interior framing, wallboard installation and finishing. "This project had everything—demolition, renovation and additions. Our role on a job like this would typically take a year or longer," explained Project Manager Scott Layton.

"It was a fast-paced, demanding schedule. We were working two shifts," added Len Haithcock, Odom's general superintendent on the job. "We had eight months to complete our part of the project. It was non-negotiable."

More than 30 days of wet weather further squeezed the tight timeline. But with 120,000 square feet of USG SECUROCK glass-mat sheathing, weather did not dampen construction progress and the building remained protected, especially since the specification for this particular job called for treated joints. Designed for use in most exterior systems, SECUROCK glass-mat sheathing panels have a non-combustible, moisture- and mold-resistant gypsum core that achieves a 10 per ASTM D3273, the highest possible rating for mold resistance.

The Neyland Stadium renovation is one of the largest installations of SECUROCK glass-mat sheathing since the product's successful launch in late 2008. SECUROCK 5/8" Type X is installed beneath all of the renovation's exterior brick and inside the stadium's walkways, which are not completely enclosed, as well as stadium tunnels. The sheer size of the stadium renovation project was about as intimidating as lining up against a 300-lb. defensive end.

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“At one point the whole west side of the stadium was exposed with SECUROCK glass-mat sheathing, but since we knew the product could get damp, we knew we were protected,” explained Layton. “We also sealed up other parts of the stadium with SECUROCK so we could continue to work inside and didn’t have to worry about the weather affecting us. That helped push the schedule along.”

Easy to Handle; Guaranteed to Perform

SECUROCK glass-mat sheathing panels are encased in a double-sided, green-colored fiberglass facer and are easy to score and snap with no saws or special tools required.

“The first thing we noticed was SECUROCK’s green color. Then we noticed it’s much less irritating to use. There was no itch like there is with other company’s products,” noted Haithcock.

“The product cuts a lot better and it’s less dusty. It doesn’t break off and leave a lot of uneven edges. We don’t have to go back to rasp joints and cut edges as much. SECUROCK is also smoother than other products, so it’s easier and faster to apply caulk,” Haithcock said. “Every second helps on this job. They add up.”

This wasn’t the first time a member of the Odom Construction team faced pressure on the sidelines of Neyland Stadium. Company President Bill Odom played center and linebacker for the Tennessee Vols in the early 1960s. Personally and professionally, Odom’s ties to the “Vol Nation” and the stadium renovation project run deep. Odom and his three children graduated from the university, and his grandson is a student there. His construction firm has worked on multiple projects for UT.

“Naturally, we want to do anything we can to help the university because it’s impacted our lives so much,” he said. “It’s been a good thing, particularly seeing my children involved and working where we all went to school.”

USG Corporation has worked with Odom Construction on more than 300 projects during the past 25 years. The construction firm requested the architects spec the stadium project with SECUROCK. “We have a strong relationship with USG that goes back several years. We like their products and the SECUROCK warranty,” Haithcock said. “We prefer to use USG products whenever we can.”

Cameron Kemp, local USG sales representative, adds, “Odom is a leader when it comes to construction in the Knoxville area. They’re always interested in trying new and innovative products.”

With the addition of SECUROCK glass-mat sheathing, construction professionals can count on USG for high-performing, easy-to-use building products for both inside and out. “With SECUROCK glass-mat sheathing, USG brings the same quality, performance and dependability professionals have come to expect from our interior building products to the exterior,” said Dan Collins, USG wall systems manager.

SECUROCK glass-mat sheathing is designed for use under exterior claddings where conventional gypsum sheathing products have traditionally been used. It is approved by leading EIFS companies, meets or exceeds the requirements of ASTM C1177 and is Underwriters Laboratories classified as to fire resistance, surface-burning characteristics and core combustibility. The product is available in 1/2" or 5/8" thicknesses and carries a five-year warranty against manufacturer defects and 12 months of weather exposure. For additional information, contact USG, 550 W. Adams St., Chicago, IL 60661-3676, call (800) USG-4YOU or visit the USG website at usg.com.