



## **Stadium Preparation Begins for Fiesta Bowl, BCS National Championship**

**Extravaganza Seating, New Field Sod, New Meeting Rooms and Media Spaces set for National Bowl Games**

GLENDALE, Ariz. (Dec. 19, 2006) – The Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) in conjunction with stadium managers Global Spectrum, have begun work to prepare the new University of Phoenix Stadium for the Fiesta Bowl and the BCS National Championship games next month.

Global Spectrum's operation staff has started installing the extravaganza seating designed to increase the stadium's capacity to 73,000 seats.

The extravaganza seating is being installed in the south end zone, on the south bridge and in the north end zone upper terrace. It was already installed once in November during a test run and will now be set up over the course of seven days.

Final touches are also being made on the new interior spaces which have been under construction for the last four months including a 10,000 square-foot media area, three party suites which are capable of holding 120 people each and a meeting area with break out rooms totaling another 13,000 square feet.

Ground crews are currently installing new sod on the famous roll-in field. The operation started yesterday (Dec. 18) to strip out the worn playing areas and replace with new turf. This is consistent with the resurfacing done to Sun Devil Stadium each year for the Fiesta Bowl. The new surface will be available for the Fiesta Bowl Band Championships held Dec. 29 and the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1.

A complete, new overlay of turf will cover the field after the Fiesta Bowl for the BCS National Championship to be played Jan. 8. It is anticipated that this procedure will also be done for Super Bowl XLII in 2008.

"The playing field is the focal point on which the Fiesta Bowl and the BCS National Championship are presented," said Ted Ferris, president/CEO of AZSTA. "Television is very unforgiving and we want to ensure the best possible platform for these nationally televised events."

The field will actually get two new playing surfaces between now and Jan. 8 when the BCS National Championship will be played on national television.

“We continue to work diligently to prepare the facility for these great events,” said Peter Sullivan, General Manager for Global Spectrum at University of Phoenix Stadium. “Hosting two nationally televised events within the span of one week presents many unique challenges, but our staff has risen to the task.”

AZSTA is the public entity which owns and operates the University of Phoenix Stadium. Global Spectrum, one of the nation’s leading facility management companies, manages the stadium on behalf of AZSTA. For more information about AZSTA, go to [www.azsta.com](http://www.azsta.com). For more on Global Spectrum and events at the stadium, go to [www.universityofphoenixstadium.com](http://www.universityofphoenixstadium.com). For more information on the Fiesta Bowl, go to [www.fiestabowl.org](http://www.fiestabowl.org).

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