



Preliminary renderings of a proposed 3,500-seat stadium at University High. The stadium could be the second in the growing district of four high schools. Note: The background does not accurately portray the city features.

Courtesy of Ruhnau Ruhnau Clarke
Saturday, July 21, 2007

New stadium might come to Irvine

Preliminary plans call for 3,500-seat district stadium at University High, making two in the district.

By JORGE BARRIENTOS
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

IRVINE - A second 3,500-seat stadium for the school district here is in the planning stages for University High School.

Roger Clarke of Ruhnau Ruhnau Clarke, the planner for the project, said a stadium could be built near the Culver Drive side of University High, in between the existing playfields and the baseball fields.

The stadium could have artificial turf and an artificial track, restrooms and aluminum bleachers on the home and visitor sides, and concessions on both sides. There would be four light poles made with the newest technology that do not disrupt the surrounding communities, Clarke said.

According to planner estimates, stadium construction could begin in June 2008 and finish in July 2009. A price tag has not been determined, as plans are preliminary.

Irvine Stadium, with a capacity of 3,500, is the sole football stadium for the Irvine Unified School District that serves Irvine, University, Northwood and Woodbridge high schools.

District officials began discussing building another stadium several years ago to better schedule games and accommodate the growing district. Past ideas included building a stadium for Irvine Unified use at the future Great Park and also sharing one with Irvine Valley College

on its campus.

At the next school board meeting on Aug. 28, the board will get an update with parking plans; a timeline; plans on how to work around construction of classrooms for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program on campus; bids for the project; a budget; and funding sources. The board is scheduled to vote on whether to move forward.

Contact the writer: 949-553-2913 or jbarrientos@ocregister.com