

Zurn Scores Big with Extensive Plumbing Installations at Orlando Citrus Bowl Stadium



When the scoreboard of the “old” Orlando Citrus Bowl Stadium was torn down in January 2014, the project team was beginning to execute a hurry-up offense to complete a roughly \$200 million renovation in only ten months!

Everything below the stadium’s upper deck was targeted for demolition and reconstruction to modernize the storied venue that opened in 1936. The game plan provides Orlando, Florida an 85% new stadium the city can use to host College Football Playoff games, World Cup soccer, and other major entertainment events appropriate for a big, modern venue.

The large-scale renovation project includes new restrooms, concessions, kitchen facilities and a team facilities building, as well as locker rooms for athletes and game officials.

Zurn Industries, LLC was drafted to provide its products for all of these spaces and to meet the challenges of an expedited project timeline, with made-to-order requirements.

“Zurn’s Custom Specification Drainage products and carrier banks were engineered, approved, ordered and shipped in less than four weeks,” says Bill Verdecchia, Director of Specification Drainage Product Marketing & Engineering for Zurn.

The roster of products used in this project is lengthy and filled with high-performance veterans, including stainless steel linear floor drains, lavatory and urinal carrier banks, closet carriers, stormwater drainage, custom debris covers, wall hydrants, cleanouts and light-duty grease traps, floor sinks, floor drain stabilizers, and more.

Tharp Plumbing Systems, based in Orlando, performed the plumbing system installations.

“The single most important material selection was the Zurn systems as suggested by David Wright with Specified Sales Associates and Frank Schaetzke with Zurn,” says Jim Tharp, Owner/CEO of Tharp Plumbing.



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– Jim Tharp, Owner/CEO
Tharp Plumbing Systems
Orlando, FL



All Eyes on the Play Clock with a “Hurry-Up” Project Timeline

Specified Sales Associates, LLC has offices in Tampa, Orlando and Pompano Beach and represents a number of manufacturers. Schaetzke is Vice President of National Accounts for Zurn.

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Tharp explained, “Zurn products allowed us to build a sturdy prefab that was moved to the site and installed in-place with no damage or leaks.”

Based on recommendations from Tharp Plumbing, the specification of the Zurn products was handled by TLC Engineering for Architecture, based in Orlando and by Bobes Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc. of Maitland, FL.

Construction crews worked in 24-hour shifts and everyone associated with the project was laser-focused on the play clock.

“We had no room for time outs,” says Dale Peterson, Senior Plumbing/FP Specialty Designer of TLC Engineering. “It was essential that the plumbing products deliver, not only excellent quality and performance, but also easy and fast installations – and they did.”

Schaetzke says the Citrus Bowl project is another example of how Zurn provides the largest breadth of engineered water solutions: “It makes it so much easier for everyone involved to specify, install and use products that are designed to work as total building systems. And needless to say, this is a huge building.”

Florida Citrus Sports is an organization that runs major events in the Citrus Bowl, including the Capital One Bowl and the Florida Blue Florida Classic. The group was instrumental in getting the stadium renovated.

“Just seeing it in real life, to be able to walk into the bowl – it just blows me away,” says Steve Hogan, CEO of Florida Citrus Sports as quoted in the *Orlando Sentinel*. “Most of the country that would look at bringing business to Orlando has heard about this now, but once they actually come and experience it, I think all bets are off.”



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