The Big Picture: A New Skyline in Spanos Stadium

By Mary McNally

Alex G. Spanos Stadium is home to a brand new three-story, state-of-the-art, multimedia scoreboard thanks to a $625,000 gift from alumni Albert (Al) Moriarty (B.S., Physical Education, 1957) and his wife, Patty, a couple with a long Cal Poly history.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2002, Al played football all four years during college, starting as a freshman on the legendary, undefeated team of 1953. And on the wall of their home is a picture of Patty performing as a drum major in front of the old scoreboard – basically a couple of two-by-fours nailed together.

They are excited about the new scoreboard because they believe enhanced facilities will help attract top athletes, prospective students, community support – even tourism to the area.

"Look what we have to sell," Al said. "We have a gold mine around here. We live in an area that’s beautiful, and Cal Poly has everything going for it: top academics, the arts, a well-rounded atmosphere and quality of life."

Al is a big-picture thinker who takes a comprehensive approach to sports. In addition to training, he believes that superior athletes have to develop pride, discipline and confidence.

"You can be physically equipped, but to win you have to be mentally tough," he said. He also believes presentation is part of the game: ‘You gotta’ present..."
Never one to call it quits, Al head of a financial services company he started while a junior here, he says, “Poly helped me get started; football helped me get my foot in the door.”

Now, he says he plans to use his formidable skills amassing people and resources to complete the stadium enhancements, which would allow Cal Poly to compete at the highest level.

A born salesman, he doesn’t hesitate to tell people, “You’d be smart to get involved with Cal Poly.

" I’m a great forecaster and I see big things for this school.”

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