University of Tennessee at Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin has completed a major upgrade to its 8,500-seat Hardy M. Graham Stadium. UT Martin’s goals were to upgrade its locker rooms and training facilities, add classroom space, and enhance the fan experience with a new press area, concessions stand, a private club level, and an audio system with music quality and performance that would rival those of major university and professional stadiums.

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CARL LOWRANCE
Lowrance Sound Company
SOLUTION

Lowrance Sound Company of Union City, Tennessee designed and installed UT Martin’s new audio system. According to owner Carl Lowrance, the stadium’s previous system was a ten-year-old, end-zone design that used a pair of Community R2 loudspeakers, a setup which had provided good coverage and intelligible announcements. “Despite their age, we were able to reuse the existing R2s in the new system to cover the visitor stands,” he said. “They were in very good condition.”

Graham Stadium’s new system is a semi-distributed design with an R2-66MAX loudspeaker on each press box tower to cover the ends of the home bleachers and four WX-1596 loudspeakers distributed along the front edge to provide center coverage. Forty-four Community model D6 ceiling loudspeakers provide audio in the press area, the club and locker rooms, and the second-level classrooms.

A pair of DS8 surface-mount loudspeakers covers the concessions area. Crown DCI amplifiers power the system with DSP provided by a Symetrix EX series processor. Lowrance added Shure wireless mics for the referees, a hand-held wireless for field use, and a wired mic for the announcer. Microphones and other sources are mixed on an Allen & Heath Qu-16 digital mixer.

CONCLUSION

The renovated stadium now boasts a large, modern academic/football press box facility and a new audio system with Community R SERIES and W SERIES loudspeakers.

“We were surprised at how evenly the Community loudspeakers covered the bleachers. And the music quality and intelligibility are great,” said Lowrance. “The whole stadium feels top tier now. The music adds a high energy level when the team comes onto the field. We’ve got a big school experience now.”