



Ensuring Oak Ridge's Legacy for Future Generations

Blankenship Field Revitalization:

A multi-use venue
for sports, music,
& community events





The Richest Football Tradition



"Our team realizes how significant Oak Ridge football has been to our community over the last 70 years. We have the richest tradition in high school football in the state, and our students (players, band members, cheerleaders, dance team, and student body) absolutely love being a part of it. I truly believe that the majority of Oak Ridge residents feel a tremendous amount of pride in our high school football program."

Coach Joe Gaddis

A Message from the Campaign Chairs



Oak Ridge's cultural development began in 1943 when work under the Manhattan Project led to the construction of Jackson Square, the community's first business district. The district included the famed Guest House, shops, restaurants, a theater, tennis courts, and the first high school. The high school football field, named in honor of school superintendent Alden Blankenship immediately began to be the largest gathering place for Manhattan Project workers and their families. Most likely, no one at that time could foresee what a critical part Blankenship Field would continue to play in the cultural development of Oak Ridge. Then and now, Blankenship Field and its Wildcat Football Program provide a unifying focal point for the huge sense of community pride that Oak Riders have.

Seventy plus years of wear are now showing, and it is time to restore and maintain this critically important Oak Ridge landmark.

***Please help us
preserve one of
Oak Ridge's
greatest cultural
and historic
treasures!***



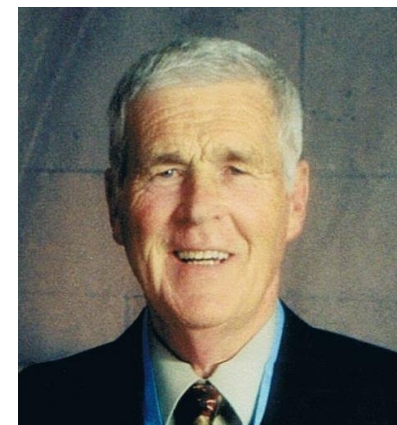
Randy McNally

Randy McNally



Jackie Pope

Jackie Pope



L. Hahn

Lawrence Hahn



The Vision

As the U.S. Congress completed work on legislation to create the Manhattan Project National Park, an effort is underway to revitalize Tennessee's most storied high school stadium as a key building block of America's newest National Park.

For over 70 years, Blankenship Field has not only been the home of the Oak Ridge High School Wildcat Football team, it has been a central gathering place for the city that brought the world into the atomic age.



Create a world-class gathering place that can accommodate over 20,000 people in natural amphitheater for sporting/music and other events.



Make Blankenship Field a vital part of the country's newest National Park connecting Jackson Square & the original site of Oak Ridge High School.



Honor the historic founders of Oak Ridge, a community dedicated to world-class education, scientific discovery, and a high quality of life.

The Blankenship Field Revitalization Foundation formed this vision with the hope that it would be shared, and with your help become a reality.

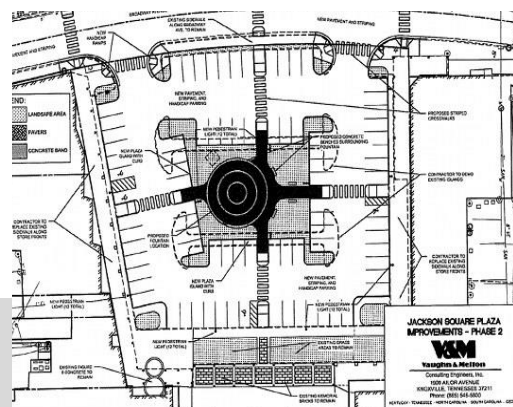
Original Gathering Place: Jackson Square & Blankenship Field



One of the most exciting efforts underway in Oak Ridge is the revitalization of the Jackson Square business district. The square's national historic value as the center of public activity during the Manhattan Project has long been recognized. To see what is occurring there now through public and private financing to ensure its use by future generations is just incredible. Private owners have completed a five million dollar restoration of the famed Guest House. The Oak Ridge Playhouse has just undergone a half million dollar renovation, and the city has completed upgrades to parking areas for ADA accessibility. Several new restaurants have located in the square as well as several other private businesses. The City's one million dollar renovation of the main square itself is underway with emphasis on providing a gathering place for festivals and concerts. The City has also renovated and expanded the Farmer's Market, and will begin the renovation of the main parking lot at Blankenship Field this spring. The renovation of Blankenship Field itself began last year with the Oak Ridge School's half million dollar upgrade of visitor side bleachers and landscaping. The completion of the Blankenship Field Revitalization Project will provide a needed multi-use upgrade to an already popular location.



Alexander Inn, Guest House



Jackson Square Renovations





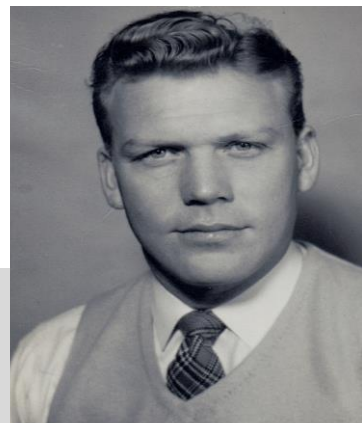
How National Prominence Began

July 1943, General Leslie Groves hand-picked Alden H. Blankenship, a graduate of Columbia University in New York City, as superintendent of schools for the Oak Ridge location of the Manhattan Project. Blankenship opened three schools in October 1943 – the high school, Robertsville and Elm Grove. In *Adventure in Democratic Administration*, Blankenship stated, "The school system was actually built and operated on the assumption that members of the teaching profession can and will do an effective job of developing a complete school program when they are given time, opportunity and encouragement." At that time, most likely he nor anyone else could foresee the National prominence that the Oak Ridge School System has attained with academic and athletic achievement. With regard to athletics, at the high school level this includes 42 State Championships in seven boys and five girls' sports and 26 State Runners-up awards. Over that period no sport has consistently excelled more than football, winning at least one State Championship every decade since the 1950's, its most recent played in 2005.

Jack Armstrong coached Oak Ridge High School's football team from 1955-1968, and is considered the architect of Oak Ridge football. He won state championships in 1956, 1958, 1961, 1962 and the national championship in 1958. He grew up in Lenior City, TN and played football from 1946-1948 at the University of Tennessee for Coach Robert Neyland during his final stint as head coach, 1946-1952. Armstrong was inducted into the Oak Ridge Sports Hall of Fame in 1988. On November 5, 1993, the stadium at Blankenship Field was named for Jack Armstrong.



Alden Blankenship, 1957



Jack Armstrong



Don Bordinger, Jackie Pope,
Jack Armstrong, 1958



Jackie Pope



"Oak Ridge's history and the legacy of its Wildcat football team are inseparable. They are both very, very special."



Spencer Gulmire

"Being a Wildcat instilled in each of us that we should never give up on anything we believe in – faith, trust, character, honor and respect. Our student athletes deserve the best because being a WILDCAT means striving for the best. Oak Ridge High School is not a 2nd tier school, and our facilities should not be either."



History, Tradition, Champions

Emory Hale



"When I came to Oak Ridge in 1969, I told my first team that this is a special place, no one else has your history and tradition, background, and pedigree. Champions come from Oak Ridge. People like first team All-American quarterback Bill Wilcox who was a great player and leader. He is just like his father Bill, whose leadership during the Manhattan Project helped win the war, and ensure Oak Ridge's place in history."



Shawn Summers

"Walking down the steps as an Oak Ridge Wildcat was the biggest thrill of my life. There's nothing like Oak Ridge football."



Don Bordinger, Jack Armstrong, Ben Martin



"Within 2 years [Jack] and his charges won their 1st state football championship and one year later a National Championship. He lived, breathed, and dreamed ORHS football. He built a powerhouse based on what he believed to be the basics of a winner: pride, discipline, self-respect, and dependability."

Sally Cook & Nancy Armstrong, daughters of Jack



Joe Gaddis

"I've coached high school football for 41 years, at nine schools in five different states. I've had the honor of coaching at Oak Ridge twice. There is no other place like Oak Ridge and the love this City has for its football team. And, there is nothing like being an Oak Ridge Wildcat."



Oak Ridge Football All-Americans

Tom McGrew	Running back, 1950
Dave Griffin	Running back, 1951
Jim Shelton	Tailback, 1952
Jim Grubb	Running back, 1954
Jackie Pope	Tailback, 1958
Dick Truitt	Fullback, 1961
Bill Wilcox	Quarterback, 1969
David Webber	Quarterback, 1977
Shawn Summers	Tailback, 1991
Shaun Bohannon	Running back, 1996
Tee Higgins	Wide Receiver, 2014



Oak Ridge Wildcats



National Champions - 1958
 State Champions
 1956, 1958, 1961, 1962, 1975, 1980, 1991

**Oak Ridge
 High School
 All-time Record
 616-177-11**

Forever, We Are Oak Ridge



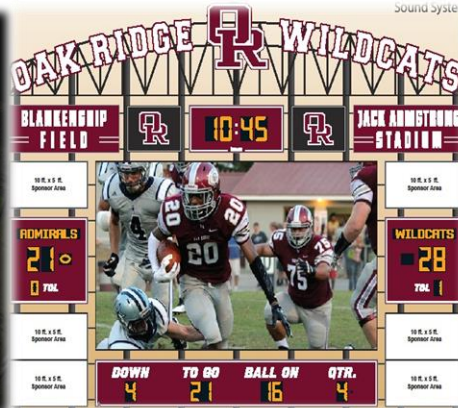
Over 25% of the ORHS student body is directly involved in the football program either as players, team managers, band members, cheerleaders, or dance team. Blankenship Field is also the home field for Jefferson and Robertsville middle schools and hosts other school events.



PLANS: PHASE I

Phase I

- ★ Installation of turf field
- ★ Installation of LED scoreboard with video and media options
- ★ New main entrance - Ticket booths at field level with plaques honoring Oak Ridge & Wildcat historical events & people.
- ★ New front parking lot and lighting with walk-way from main entrance to Jackson Square
- ★ Wrought iron fencing with decorative rick columns and donor's recognition wall
- ★ New visitor's side concessions and restrooms, home side bleachers and grandstand
- ★ New advanced energy-efficient lighting and communications





Phase II



New Home stadium building with expanded locker rooms, press box, skyboxes, and club seating





FINANCIAL PLAN

The Blankenship Field Renovation Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed by private citizens, and led by State Senator Randy McNally. The Foundation is coordinating the revitalization project, and its fund raising activities, in cooperation with the City of Oak Ridge and the Oak Ridge School System.

Sources:

60%	Public Contributions
20%	Grants
10%	City/School Participation
10%	Grant of In-kind Services

The Blankenship Field Revitalization Project will be completed in conjunction with the Jackson Square Revitalization Project (\$1 million) and the recent completion of the Guest House renovations (\$5 million).

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION



Recognition plaques and naming rights for locations within the stadium are available. For information on how to make your one-time contribution or multi-year pledge please see:

www.BlankenshipLegacy.org

Or, if you wish you may contribute directly by check to:

**BLANKENSHIP FIELD
SPECIAL FUND**
c/o TNBank
401 South Illinois Avenue
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

For more information regarding this project, please contact Oak Ridge High School Athletic Director

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Foundation Board Members



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