

There are but a handful of communities across our nation that enjoys a long-standing football program of excellence. Here in Ironton, our Fighting Tigers give us a common sense of unity, spirit and pride, making our Friday nights something special.

Year after year, the Fighting Tigers create excitement through victories on the field. We start counting the weeks...then the days...until the first kickoff of the season. For many years our football team has largely been the signature of a unified town. Many of my players have gone on to stellar collegiate and professional careers. When you combine the successes of the football program with the sense of community pride, it only stands to reason that the Fighting Tigers should play on a premier playing field. To that end, we are pleased to announce the goal of installing Field Turf on the Ironton Fighting Tiger football field. A first-class program deserves a first-class facility!

The advantages of an artificial turf field are numerous. First and foremost, research indicates that injuries...most notably knee injuries...are reduced when players are on a premium Field Turf surface. The very nature of football is such that we owe it to our team to provide the safest of conditions. Additionally, an artificial turf can withstand significantly more use than a natural grass field and can, therefore, be used more frequently. This will allow Ironton High School to utilize the field for more events without fear of damaging the playing surface; and the funds required to maintain the field throughout the year is substantially reduced. There is no need for watering, weeding, fertilizer or time invested cutting grass and lining the field. Installing Field Turf is a sound investment both from a physical safety and economic standpoint.

The cost of this project is anticipated to be approximately \$650,000.00. Funding must come from private donors such as yourself and many, many others in Ironton and beyond, including businesses, alumni, season ticket holders, families, friends and neighbors. We've long been on the same page with regard to supporting our Fighting Tigers; now it's time to be on the same page to make this project a reality.

Enclosed is a pledge/donation card for your convenience. There has been an account established at Ohio River Bank through the Friends of Ironton (a 501 (c) 3 organization) to receive your tax deductible donation(s). Please make checks payable to Friends of Ironton – Notation: Field Turf Project and mail to P.O. Box 4181, Ironton, Ohio 45638. Please join all of those across Ironton and beyond who wish to be a part of the legacy of the Fighting Tigers for years to come. You will note on the pledge/donation card that you may opt to make a lump sum donation or annual contributions up to five years.

Thank you for your consideration of supporting this worthwhile endeavor. When the project becomes a reality, we know you will share a unique sense of pride when the Fighting Tigers take the field.

Sincerely,



Coach Bob Lutz
Ironton High School
Head Football Coach