

## Vancouver Temporary stadium fills in for BC Place Stadium

BC Place Stadium in Vancouver is the current talk of the town. After all, this is where the opening ceremonies are being held for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, along with the closing ceremony and the evening victory ceremonies.

The BC Place has the largest inflatable stadium roof in North America and is the first roofed stadium in the history of the opening and closing ceremonies for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

After the games are over, the stadium will be extensively rebuilt and outfitted with a retractable roof. During this period, a completely different stadium will come into play: a modular, temporary stadium with 27,500 seats.

The BC Lions Football Club in Vancouver is one of the most important sports clubs in the Canadian Football League. A second club, the Vancouver Whitecaps, will be joining North America's Major League Soccer (MLS) next year.

Seen long-term – following the reconstruction phase – both clubs will be returning home to BC Place Stadium. Initially, though, the home games of the BC Lions and the Vancouver Whitecaps will be played in an interim stadium built by NUSSL, a specialist in modular construction.

This stadium will be located in Hastings Park in Vancouver in the immediate vicinity of the Pacific Coliseum, the venue for the Olympic figure skating and short track speed skating competitions. On these famous grounds for the new building once stood the time-honored Empire Stadium, which was built in 1954 for the Commonwealth Games. This was also the home stadium of the BC Lions and the Vancouver Whitecaps until 1983. The Empire Stadium was torn down in the early 1990s.



The temporary stadium will be roofed on the long sides. In addition to the approximately 27,500 seats, it comprises 12 suites for 20 persons, commentator boxes along with further press areas, a floodlight system, and additional ancillary systems.

The challenge during the planning of the temporary stadium was to develop a multifunctional facility which would unconditionally meet the requirements of use for Canadian football and for soccer games, while also offering the perfect venue for concerts and other events. Nonetheless, the facility also had to demonstrate the necessary profitability and refinancing viability. After all, its use is only planned for a period of 1 ½ years!

A modular construction system is being employed. The advantages of a system like this lie in the installation speed and reaction rate along with price and cost-efficiency. A further advantage: NUSSL will be able to use the material from the grandstand facilities currently being implemented in Vancouver for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, for the construction of the stadium. When BC Place Stadium is reopened, its stand-in can be completely dismantled.

The ground work begins at the end of February; construction starts in mid-March. The stadium will be opened in late June 2010, after only three months' construction time.

