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## Palmetto Palaces Top 10 high school football stadiums in South Carolina

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Cavalier Stadium Dorman High School

It's a fall ritual played out in more than 100 towns and cities across South Carolina.

The rivalries, pageantry and glory are what the games are all about.

But it's also about where the games are played. Is your high school stadium a football cathedral or an outdated clunker?

High school football is becoming big business, with games now being televised. The stadiums, scoreboards, concession stands and video boards are reflections of a community's pride, budget and priorities.

The Post and Courier has spanned the Palmetto State and come up with its list of the top 10 high school stadiums:

### **Cavalier Stadium Dorman High School**

Capacity: 15,200

Built: 2002

Cost: \$4 million

Notable: The stadium seats 10,200 and the hill in the end zone can handle an additional 5,000 fans. That makes it bigger than Wofford College's Gibbs Stadium. The two-story pressbox is state

of the art and the stadium has PSLs (personal seating license), common in NFL stadiums but rare at the high school level.

They played here: Wide receiver Charon Peake (Clemson); safety Walt Cantey (Duke).

Memorable game: Dorman beat Byrnes 21–14 on Oct. 29, 2010, televised by ESPNU.

## **Memorial Stadium, Summerville High**

Capacity: 10,000

Built: 1948

Cost: \$20,000

Notable: The stadium, owned by the Summerville Exchange Club, is the epitome of what you would expect in a Southern town that loves high school football. The stadium is ringed by beautiful live oaks. The two-story pressbox is one of the best in the state. In 2008, more than \$150,000 in improvements were made, including a \$115,000 videoboard/scoreboard.

They played here: Wide receiver A.J. Green (Cincinnati Bengals); offensive lineman Kevin Long (Tennessee Titans).

Notable game: Coach John McKissick gained his 500th career victory on Sept. 10, 2003, when Summerville beat Wando, 34–17.

## **Harry Parone Stadium, Spring Valley**

Capacity: 12,000

Built: 1971

Cost: \$1 million

Notable: The stadium underwent a massive renovation two years ago that included a new track, new scoreboard, new pressbox and improved seating, restrooms and concession areas. Not only that, it has a peristyle that makes you think you're in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

They played here: Linebacker Peter Boulware (Baltimore Ravens); wide receiver Andre Roberts (Arizona Cardinals).

Memorable game: Spring Valley topped undefeated Spartanburg, 20–17, on Nov. 30, 1973, to win the state championship in front of approximately 13,000 fans.

## **The Reservation, Gaffney High School**

Capacity: 8,250

Built: 2008

Cost: \$8 million

Notable: The new Reservation replaced the old Reservation in 2008. Brumbach Stadium was the school's football venue from 1937–2007. The new stadium has the traditional tunnel, a big videoboard and no track, which puts fans closer to the field.

They played here: Offensive lineman Denzell Good (North Carolina State)

Memorable game: Dorman beat Gaffney 6–0 in the first game at the new Reservation before an overflow crowd of more than 10,000.

## **Nixon Field, Byrnes High School**

Capacity: 6,500

Built: 1955

Cost: \$300,000

Notable: The stadium, located in Duncan, was evaluated a few years ago by engineers to see if it was still structurally sound. More than 12,000 fans have been shoe-horned into the facility. The main attraction is the \$320,000 videoboard with a 10x14-foot screen.

They played here: Running back Marcus Lattimore (South Carolina)

Memorable game: Byrnes beat Glades Central (Belle Glade, Fla.), 27–15, on Aug. 26, 2006, in a game televised by ESPN.

## **Sirrine Stadium, Greenville High School**

Capacity: 15,000

Notable: Built in 1936 and once home to the Furman Paladins football team, the renovated Sirrine Stadium was dedicated in 2002. The renovation project included a new stadium entrance, enlarged pressbox, bigger restrooms, more spacious locker rooms, and enhanced stadium seating.

They played here: Dick Dietz (San Francisco Giants baseball team); cornerback David Jones (Cincinnati Bengals and Jacksonville Jaguars).

## **District Three Stadium, Northwestern and Rock Hill**

Capacity: 8,200

Notable: Known as Rock Hill Municipal Stadium when it opened in the 1940s, the stadium was also home to both school's baseball teams and a minor league team. The stadium underwent a massive multi-million dollar renovation in 2008, including a new scoreboard and artificial turf. It also has press boxes on both sides.

They played here: Baseball Hall of Famer Steve Carlton (Philadelphia Phillies); Hall of Famer Sparky Anderson (Cincinnati Reds).

### **Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium, Myrtle Beach High School**

Capacity: 5,500

Notable: The stadium was built for \$200,000 in 1968 and has undergone numerous renovations, including a \$3.5 million spruce-up in 2008 that included the addition of Field Turf and a state-of-the-art track and field facility that attracts top meets. The stadium was named in Shaw's honor in 1995. He coached Myrtle Beach for 25 years and won 223 games.

He played here: Quarterback Everett Golson (Notre Dame); linebacker Bruce Taylor (Virginia Tech).

### **Bagwell Stadium, Fort Dorchester High School**

Capacity: 7,000

Notable: The stadium, completed in 1997, was built in two stages. The first stage was the bleachers that are now occupied by the visitors. The second stage was a 4,000 seat grandstand that included 700 theater-type seats and a massive pressbox. The stadium was renamed Bagwell Stadium in 2003 in honor of Howard Bagwell Sr. and his son John. The elder Bagwell was driving force behind the Fort Dorchester athletic complex and John Bagwell was the program's first coach. Both men died in 2002.

They played here: Defensive end Carlos Dunlap (Cincinnati Bengals), defensive end Robert Quinn (St. Louis Rams).

### **Varner Stadium, Woodruff High School**

Capacity: 5,200

Notable: Woodruff's pregame ritual includes players rubbing a statue of a wolverine for good luck. The Wolverines have won 10 state titles, all under coach Willie Varner. After his funeral in January 2009, family and friends paid tribute to the coach when the hearse carrying his body took a lap around the football field.

He played here: Quarterback Tony Rice (Notre Dame)