

editor's note



EVERY YEAR, MY YOUNGEST SON AND I GET OUT A SIX-PACK OF ROOT BEER, ORDER PIZZA, CONSUME MUNCHIES AND DIP AND WATCH THE SUPER BOWL.

My son was already exposed to the important information he needed (I showed him an advance copy of this month's article on Levi's Stadium—the host stadium for Super Bowl 50—on page 20) but this time he also had to listen to one of my long-and-drawn-out stories about the steel in football stadiums around the country.

Just a few days before the big game, I happened to see an article from the Alliance for American Manufacturing touting the American credentials of the stadium. According to Tim Salak, project manager from SME Steel Contractors, "All of the major structural steel—rolled sections, wide-flange and channel—came out of Nucor in Blytheville, Ark." Salak pointed out that it wasn't a case of any Buy America clause but rather a standard practice for this American fabricator.

Of course, that got me thinking about the other Super Bowls I'd watched with Jason. Last year's game was at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, a beautiful steel stadium and winner of a 2007 IDEAS² Award (see the May 2007 issue for details on the fabulous roof fabricated by Schuff Steel Company). The 2014 and 2013 games were in older stadiums, but the 2012 game was in the amazing Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis—featured, of course, in the March 2009 issue of *Modern Steel Construction* and fabricated by Hillsdale Fabricators of St. Louis.

I think the first game my son remembers, though, was the 2011 game in one of the NFL's most spectacular stadiums: Cowboys Stadium near Dallas.

As the December 2008 *Modern Steel* article explained: "There's a joke that's popular among Dallas Cowboys fans: Why is there a hole in the roof of Texas Stadium? So God can watch his favorite team play." Of course, it also gives a great view of the giant trusses fabricated by W&W Steel out of Oklahoma City. (If you're ever in Dallas, the stadium offers wonderful tours—and if you're lucky, when you're walking across the field, you might be able to pick up a ball and toss it to a friend!)

Regrettably, Heinz Field (where we held an NASCC: The Steel Conference dinner back in 2011) has never hosted the big game. And Orlando, where the conference will be held this year (have you registered yet?), doesn't have a pro team.

While football stadiums aren't built every day, they are one of the most visible uses of steel. And to the surprise of those who aren't in the steel industry, the vast majority of steel used in construction is made and fabricated in the U.S.A.

So the next time you attend a live football (or baseball or basketball or hockey) game, take a few minutes to look away from the action on the field to the structure surrounding you. And if you like what you see, visit www.modernsteel.com and search for the stadium. It's likely we've written about it, and you're bound to read an interesting story.


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