

TCF BANK STADIUM

MINNEAPOLIS



TCF Bank Stadium will be the new home for the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers football team when it opens this fall, thanks to the efforts of fabricators LeJeune Steel and American Structural Metals, and painting contractor Swanson & Youngdale.

LeJeune Steel, headquartered in Minneapolis, is fabricating much of the 8,600 tons of steel used in the construction of the \$288 million, horseshoe-shaped, open-air facility located on campus at the Minneapolis school. The fabricator is applying a prime coat prior to erection, while Swanson & Youngdale (St. Louis Park, Minn.) is doing most of the finish coat work on-site, post-erection.

After surface preparation to SSPC-SP6, the prime coat is Sherwin-Williams Zinc Clad III, and the finish coat is Sherwin-Williams Fast Clad Urethane. A three-coat system was originally in place during bidding, but the fabricators involved in the joint venture made a case for the two-coat system in order to expedite coatings operations, especially in light of the weather-shortened painting season in Minnesota.

According to Rick Torborg, a project manager for LeJeune, doing the finish coating on-site simply took the place of inevitable touch-up operations post-erection.

"We prefer this method," says Torborg, whose company finished plate girders up to 60 feet long for the project. "That steel gets a lot of rough handling during erection, so we just feel a better product is the result when more of it is field-applied. This way, all the bolted connections receive the same application."

HOK Architects (Kansas City) provided the design for the stadium, and M.A. Mortenson Company (Minneapolis) is the general contractor.

TCF Bank Stadium is nearing an on-time completion in time for the 2009 University of Minnesota football season.

Photos courtesy University of Minnesota