

Marquette University Stadium

(Quad Park)

One of Milwaukee County's most prominent athletic facilities might not remain in its original form, but its site is still functioning as the host for numerous athletic contests. Marquette Stadium was formally dedicated on October 18, 1924, when Marquette hosted John Carroll College and won the game 10-3. The stadium was located on 9 acres at 37th Street and St. Paul Avenue, nearly two miles west of the University. The stadium contained a football field, a quarter mile cinder track, and two grandstands. The facility could seat approximately 20,000 fans and underneath the west grandstand were locker rooms, shower facilities, a first aid station and storage rooms.

Marquette University utilized the stadium for over 50 years and hosted numerous football games, track meets, as well as men's and women's soccer. The grandstands were razed in 1976-77, but the University continued to use the site for various athletic activities until the property was sold to Marquette University High School in 1998.

Throughout its history Marquette University Stadium hosted a number of note-worthy events. In addition to Marquette University's "Golden Avalanche" football games, the Green Bay Packers played four football contests there during the 1952 season prior to the completion of Milwaukee County Stadium. Another football game, a clash between Milwaukee Pulaski High School and Bay View High School, is believed to be the most attended high school game ever in Wisconsin when over 19,500 fans filled the stadium.

Marquette University Stadium was also the site for numerous track meets including the Central Collegiate Meets and the National Amateur Athletic Union Meets at which many outstanding athletes competed. It was at the 1934 A.A.U. Meet where Marquette's famous sprinter Ralph Metcalfe edged Jesse Owens in a classic 100 yard dash event while Owens captured the long jump title. The two future Olympians and world record-holders would later go on to be teammates on the 1936 United States Olympic Team that competed in Berlin.

The stadium hosted another well-known figure when General Douglas MacArthur, born in Milwaukee, returned home on April 26, 1951, to receive an honorary degree from the University. Schools and businesses throughout Milwaukee closed and thousands lined the streets to welcome the retired general. A crowd of over 22,000 poured into the stadium to watch him be conferred with an honorary doctoral degree.

After Marquette University dropped football in 1960, Marquette University High School utilized the stadium for its home football games through the 1974 season. Following that season both Marquette University and the high school used the site for track and soccer practices, as well as intramurals. After the sale of the property to Marquette High School in 1998, a new facility, Quad Park, was built and was dedicated on September 9, 1998. It is considered to be an outstanding soccer and track facility and has been the site of numerous W.I.A.A. regional and sectional events.

The grandstands may be gone, but the site of Marquette University Stadium remains an important part of this county's history.