

The Coastal Carolina University football stadium officially opened as Brooks Stadium on Sept. 6, 2003, for the inaugural home game of the Chanticleer football program. Scoring a touchdown with just seconds left on the clock, the Chanticleers defeated Newberry College 21-14.

With a gift from the late businessman Bob Brooks, the stadium was named in honor of Brooks' children Coby Garrett and Boni Belle. The \$2 million gift was among the largest gifts ever made to the University.

Brooks, who grew up on a farm in Loris, S.C., was the CEO and founder of Eastern Foods, Inc., creators of the Naturally Fresh line of products, and chairman of Hooters of America, Inc. He also created Hooters Air Charter Airline, the National Golf Association Hooters Tour, and the Hooters ProCup Series, a series of short-track races in small towns throughout the Southeast and Midwest. Brooks passed away in 2006.

Phase I of the stadium construction included 6,408 seats, while Phase II added almost 1,000 additional seats prior to the 2006 season. The third phase of Brooks Stadium was completed in 2010 when approximately 1,600 seats were added directly behind the north end zone. Affectionately referred to as the Chantourage section, the seating directly in front of the field house was designated as the student section in 2011.

Brooks Stadium has been ranked among the top stadiums in the nation in attendance based on capacity. In 2010, the Chanticleers hosted a first-round NCAA Division I Football Championship playoff game against Western Illinois. The game marked the first postseason game played in Brooks Stadium.

On Feb. 15, 2013, the women's lacrosse team opened its inaugural season on its new home field inside Brooks Stadium. Women's lacrosse was the 18th Division I sports program for the Chanticleers.

The facility underwent a major transformation in the spring of 2015 as Benton Field went from natural grass to artificial teal turf ... or "The Surf Turf." The first pieces of Powerblade SD turf were laid on April 2 and the project was completed later that month. The project had a budget of \$1.2 million.

Brooks Stadium was designed and built with the capability to expand from its inception. That original design is coming to fruition as Coastal embarked on another two-phase expansion in the spring of 2017 that has brought the capacity to approximately 20,000.

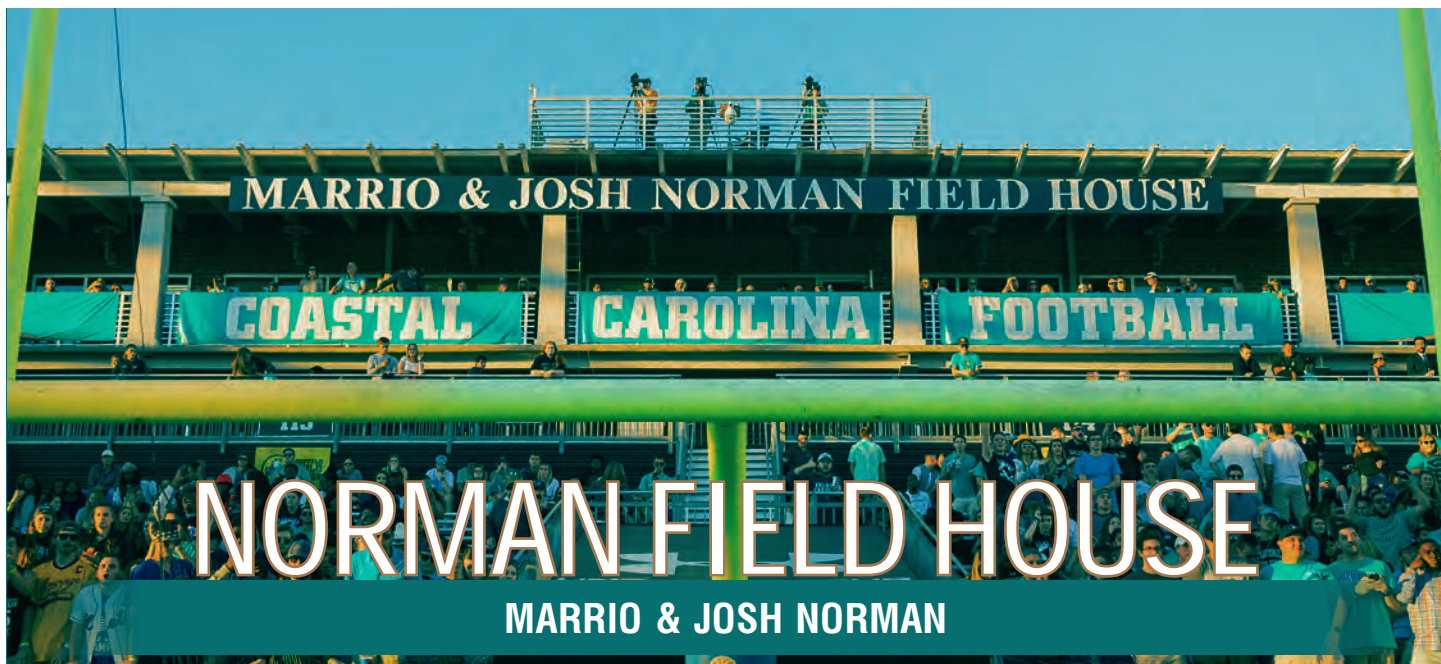
The first phase boosted the seating capacity to 15,000 and included adding seats to both corners of the end zone nearest the field house, expanding the sections closest to the field on both sides toward the scoreboard, and expanding the upper deck on the east side to match the length of the lower deck.

Prior to the 2019 season, a second level and premium suites were completed on the west side to increase the capacity to 20,000. The cost of the two-phase project was \$31.8 million.

STADIUM CAPACITY THROUGH THE YEARS

2003	6,408
2006	7,322
2010	9,102
2012	9,214
2017	15,000
2019	20,000

2020 SUN BELT CHAMPIONS



Former Coastal Carolina University football All-American Josh Norman made a major donation to his alma mater that will benefit both athletics and academics. It is the largest gift ever given to the University by a former Chanticleer student-athlete. In recognition of his philanthropic generosity, CCU announced in November 2018 that the athletics field house at Brooks Stadium has been named the Marrio & Josh Norman Field House, after Josh and his brother, Marrio, who also played football for the Chanticleers.

The major gift was designated for the Brooks Stadium expansion project, financial support for walk-on football student-athletes as well as CCU's communication and theatre programs.

Located at the north end of Brooks Stadium, the Marrio & Josh Norman Field House is a 55,400 square-foot facility that opened in 2010 and was the first green building on campus. The first floor features the 9,000-square-foot Watson Strength and Conditioning Center that is used by all CCU student-athletes, along with locker rooms and meeting rooms. On the second floor are various coaches' offices while the third floor is dedicated to football meeting rooms, position rooms, and coaches offices.

The stadium expansion project included increased seating capacity to 20,000, the addition of luxury suites, and an upper deck to the west side of the stadium as well as other features such as new entrances. Completed before the opening of the 2019 season, the stadium expansion was in response to the Chanticleers joining the Sun Belt Conference and meeting NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision requirements.

Josh Norman, a native of Greenwood, S.C., played cornerback at CCU from 2008-11. In CCU's career record books, he is ranked first in pass breakups and passes defended, and is ranked in the top-six in interceptions, unassisted tackles, forced fumbles and blocked kicks. He was named first-team All-Big South Conference in 2009, 2010 and 2011; was a first-team Associated Press FCS All-American in 2011, and earned third-team honors as a sophomore in 2009. Norman is the only player in Big South history to play in both the East-West Shrine Game and the Senior Bowl. He was a finalist for the 2011 Buck Buchanan Award, given annually to the top defensive player at the NCAA FCS level. In 2012, Norman became the third-ever CCU football player to get drafted into the NFL.

"My brothers and I grew up at Coastal," Norman said. "We did everything at this University. From relationships, jobs and of course you can't leave out the weekly parking tickets that plagued every student on campus. Coastal taught me a lot about myself, and I will never forget the impact the professors had on where I am today in life. The friends that I've made are life-timers. They, too, have gone on to do amazing things, and we will never forget the ones we lost due to illness and tragedy."

"You can never put a dollar amount on someone's personal influence on your path in life. I am beyond grateful for my experience at Coastal Carolina University."

"For my two brothers [Marrio and Phillip] and I who passed through these halls, may our voices be heard from a time long ago as we watch the evolution of CCU as a growing titan. I'm proud to be a Chanticleer! Hail to the Chants!"

In addition to his success on the field, Norman is making a name for himself off the field. He recently donated \$50,000 to Horry County Schools to assist with recovery and support efforts after the historic flooding from Hurricane Florence, which devastated areas of the county that is also home to CCU. In May, he and partner Sharna Burgess finished runner-up on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars: Athletes." Last year, Norman founded the Starz24 Foundation to help children through programs that emphasize fitness and teamwork. In 2017, he was inducted into CCU's George F. "Buddy" Sasser Hall of Fame; and the CAF named him the 2016-17 Chanticleer of the Year. The University presented him with an honorary doctorate of public service in June in recognition of his philanthropic efforts.

Marrio Norman, also from Greenwood, was a defensive back for the Chanticleers in 2004 and from 2006-08. In 2007, he recorded 53 tackles and five interceptions and was named first-team All-Big South. He finished his career ranked in the school's top-10 in interceptions, passes defended, pass breakups, punt returns, punt returns yards and average yards per punt return. His professional career includes playing in the Arena Football League for Georgia, Cleveland, Orlando, Albany, and the Washington Viators. He was named first-team All-Arena in 2014 while playing with the Cleveland Gladiators, and in 2018 with the Albany Empire.

