



September, 2011

Greetings Members of the Marching Royal Dukes Family,

We would like to welcome you to the 2011 JMU football season and the 40th Anniversary of the Marching Royal Dukes! As you know, we celebrated the opening of the newly renovated Bridgeforth Stadium on Saturday, September 10 to a record-setting crowd and an amazing new game day atmosphere. We are truly fortunate, as a university community and band program, to have such an incredible venue in which to perform and support the Dukes. If you haven't had a chance to visit yet, we hope you will be able to do so in the near future.

Whenever there is a new facility, however, there is also change. We have added some great new traditions to our game day protocol and atmosphere (including an impressive concessions area and video board), and been able to enhance some of the existing traditions as well. And one of the best traditions at JMU, as you know, is the Marching Royal Dukes. We have modified our Pregame performance to utilize the new tunnel in the Northwest endzone; continue to produce our exciting halftime shows for the newly renovated stands (an excellent perspective, by the way); and we continue our postgame performance traditions to the "student side" of the stadium.

In response to the new facilities and to best accommodate the fans, band parents, and alumni who remain to view and be a part of the postgame show, we would like you to be aware of the following protocol in order to create an orderly and enjoyable experience:

- All spectators should plan to make their way to the east grandstands (Godwin/old press box) following the game.
- Viewing of the post game show will be done from the stands; only band members and staff will be permitted on the field during the post game show.
- Following the postgame show, we will invite the audience to join us on the field for the "huddle." At this point, you can make your way to the Northeast field entrance (barricades between the endzone and Godwin stands) and join the MRD's on the field.
- Following the "huddle", those who wish to join the Trumpets for their "Band of Brothers" may do so by gathering at the Duke Dog in the center of the field.
- After the postgame activities have ended, we ask that you help us clear the stadium by exiting through the C-gates (Godwin Breezeway) as all other gates will be closing and event staff will be clearing the stadium.

We appreciate your willingness to help us continue our postgame traditions and help to create an excellent and improved gameday atmosphere at JMU. If you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to contact us at rikkersd@jmu.edu or bournejt@jmu.edu. Again, we look forward to having you with us at Bridgeforth Stadium this season and appreciate your continued support of JMU Athletics and the Marching Royal Dukes.

Thank you, and **GO DUKES!**

Scott Ridders, *Marching Royal Dukes* & Jeff Bourne, *Director of Athletics*