

## Advisory

CONTACT: Jeremy Solomon, Director of Communications  
617-521-2324 jeremy.solomon@simmons.edu

### **Brighton High School Football Set to Play First Home Game in 25 Years Sept. 9**

*The Brighton High Bengals play at the new Daly Field this Friday*

BOSTON (September 7, 2016) – After five years of planning and construction, Simmons College proudly announces the Daly Field Athletics Complex will be open this fall, with celebrations taking place on Friday September 9 and Saturday September 10. The opening celebrations officially complete the transformation of a derelict, unplayable field into a state-of-the-art, environmentally sound community recreational facility.

On September 9, a ceremonial coin toss is scheduled for 6:00 pm, and at 6:30 the Brighton High Bengals will take on the O’Bryant Tigers in their first home football game for more than 25 years. **Members of the media are asked to arrive by 5:45 pm.** On September 10, Simmons College President Helen Drinan and local officials will cut the ribbon as part of the Daly Field community celebration event at 10:00 am.

**WHAT:** Grand Opening of the Daly Field Athletics Complex

**WHEN:** Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, first home football game for the Brighton High School Bengals Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, Daly Field community celebration event

**WHERE:** Daly Field Athletics Complex, 10 Nonantum Road, Brighton (next to CRI rowing building)

**Sept. 9 Event Features:** Ceremonial coin toss to include special guest **pro football Hall of Famer Andre Tippett**, football team running on to field for first home game, unveiling of Brighton High championship banners, elected officials remarks, kickoff promptly at 6:30 pm.

**Sept. 9 Event Logistics:** Parking at Daly Field is extremely limited. An early arrival is recommended.

Located on Nonantum Road along the Charles River in Brighton between Community Rowing, Inc. and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Daly Ice Skating Rink, the Daly Field Athletics Complex will include the following: NCAA Division III regulation soccer field, MIAA standard high school football field, NCAA compliant softball diamond, NCAA compliant lacrosse field, NCAA Division III field hockey field, six NCAA standard doubles tennis courts, 3,200 sq. ft. service building, a ¼ mile two-lane walking track, stadium lighting, a digital scoreboard, public restrooms, and a bicycle and walking path along the Charles River that connects the complex with the Hatch Shell path in Boston. In addition to Brighton football, Daly Field will serve as the first home field for all outdoor Simmons College athletics teams: field hockey, tennis, soccer, lacrosse, and softball. Simmons College was founded in 1902. The complex will be open for public use via DCR permitting for roughly 75% of playable hours.

Simmons chose to install an organic infill on the synthetic turf fields, "geofill," due to concerns over the possible connection between crumb rubber and cancer, an issue that is now under federal investigation. Daly Field is the only complex in New England available to the public that uses the organic geofill. In addition, a Brock pad underlayment system has been installed beneath the turf, which is estimated to reduce the occurrence and impact of concussions by as much as 50%. This is a critical safety issue for Boston Public Schools athletes and the general public who will use these fields.

What they are saying:

**Boston Mayor Marty Walsh:** "Turning an unusable and unsafe field into a state-of-the-art athletic complex for the entire community is exactly the type of innovation that makes Boston shine. I commend Simmons College, a leading institution for women's empowerment in our City and the force behind the Daly Field renovation project, not only for investing in the Boston Public School system and in the health of the people of Boston, but also for giving students in the neighborhoods of Allston and Brighton resources to reach their full potential."

**Newton Mayor Setti Warren:** "The outstanding, modern facilities at Daly Field provide a safe, environmentally sound recreation space. We are proud to partner with Simmons College, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and our neighbors in the Brighton community to bring this project to fruition."

**Senator William Brownsberger:** "The collaborative effort of my House colleagues, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Boston Public Schools, and Simmons College, have transformed Daly Field from an unusable patch of dirt and weeds into an environmentally-sound public space that will benefit the people of Brighton, Watertown neighbors and the Commonwealth for years to come."

**Representative Michael Moran:** "Seeing the Allston/Brighton Little League and the Brighton High Bengals play at Daly Field this coming season will be one of the hallmarks of my career as a legislator. I am tremendously proud of what the Allston-Brighton community, along with Simmons College, has accomplished. Daly Field is a state-of-the-art project accessible to each and every resident in Allston/Brighton."

**Representative Kevin Honan:** "This wonderful partnership between our neighborhood and Simmons College will provide access to these world class multi-purpose fields. Daly Field does more than provide open space. It helps to create equity in our community, and I am proud to be a supporter of this public-private partnership."

**Boston City Councilor Mark Ciommo:** "The renovation of Daly Field is a true investment in the lives of our children and families in Allston and Brighton and throughout Boston. I am proud to have worked with my friends in the Legislature and with Simmons College to make this dream a reality."

**Simmons College President Helen Drinan:** "The research is clear that participation in sports enhances key skills, including teamwork, leadership, and communications, while encouraging a healthy lifestyle. Our investment in the Daly Field Athletics Complex is aligned with our College's

mission to nurture women leaders, while helping to develop future leaders from our broader community.”

Simmons College ([www.simmons.edu](http://www.simmons.edu)) is a nationally recognized private university located in the heart of Boston, and is the preeminent authority on women's leadership. Founded in 1899, Simmons is the only undergraduate women's college in Boston, and maintains a history of visionary thinking and a focus on social responsibility. The college offers world-class coeducational graduate programs in nursing and health sciences, including physical therapy and nutrition; liberal arts; life sciences; library and information science; business management; and social work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at [@SimmonsCollege](https://twitter.com/SimmonsCollege) and [@SimmonsNews](https://twitter.com/SimmonsNews).