

JUST IN TIME FOR FOOTBALL



V. Richard Haro/The Coloradoan

A new scoreboard is installed Friday at French Field. All four Poudre School District high schools use the field for home football games, and some soccer and lacrosse games also are played at the stadium adjacent to Rocky Mountain High School.

New scoreboard goes up at French

Stadium improvements include new sound system

BY HAP FRY

HapFry@coloradoan.com

Tom Davis practically closed his eyes every time he went to turn on the scoreboard at French Field the past few years in hopes that everything would work.

"It got to the point that it was a mystery every time you went to turn it on," Davis said.

Davis, who manages French Field, should not have to worry about potential malfunctions any more, thanks to the installation Friday of a new scoreboard.

The Daktronics scoreboard, which cost Poudre School District approximately \$40,000, is 26 feet wide and 10 feet tall. While the scoreboard did not come with a Jumbotron, it will feature a sound system that should eliminate quite a few headaches that have become associated with halftime performances at football, lacrosse and soccer games played at French Field the past few years.

"I probably get 10 complaints a year, and nine of them were about our sound system," Davis said. "This is just going to up-

date the place so much and really make it comparable to some of the places in Denver.

A similar scoreboard with the same sound system will go up at Cherry Creek High School's Stutler Bowl in two weeks.

PSD athletic director Sandi Martin and PSD resource coordinator Jerry Garrertson, who oversaw Friday's installation, both said that a new scoreboard was needed because the old one donated by Colorado State University in 1995 was becoming outdated.

"There really was no way to repair the old one," Garrertson said. "The parts were becoming obsolete."

One odd thing PSD elected to do with the new scoreboard was not accept sponsorship. The previous scoreboard was sponsored by First National Bank.

The business paid for the installation in 1995, which sources said saved PSD around \$21,000.

The new scoreboard will be showcased for the first time Aug. 29, when Fort Collins host Longmont in the football season-opener at French Field.