



Locker Rooms

Project Overview

University of Texas at Austin

Creating an atmosphere for success — dynamic lighting control helps set the right scene.

“It’s all about creating the right environment for success — from recruiting, to player comfort and motivation, to game day intensity — and Lutron lighting controls help set the right tone at the right time.”

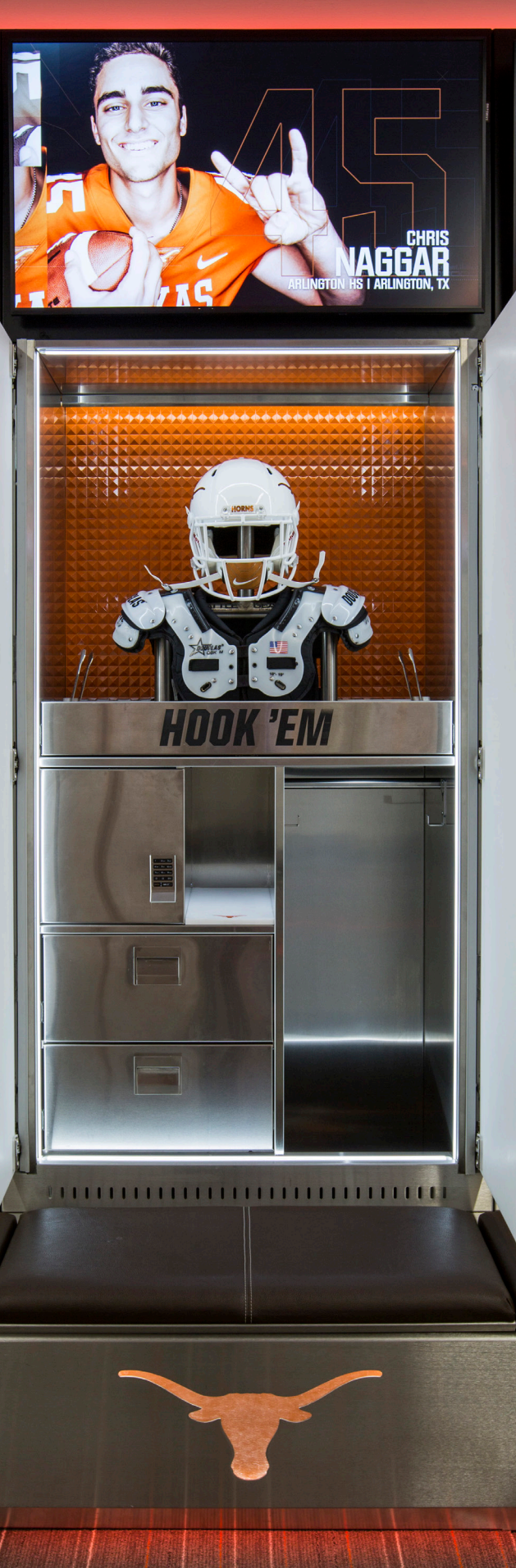
— Tom Herman, Head Football Coach

Introduction

The 2017 renovation of the University of Texas locker rooms started with a cathartic dismantling of their existing facility. Coach Tom Herman hefted a sledge hammer and made sure the players and staff were fully engaged in the moment, “We’re committed to giving you guys the best facilities in America. And that starts right now, so I’m going to take a swing. And seniors, you get a little ceremonial swing, too.”

For Coach Herman, it’s all about creating the right environment for success and Lutron lighting controls help set the right tone at the right time.





In a design unique to the Longhorn's program, each locker glows orange.

The Challenge

Recruiting, training, and retaining a championship-caliber football team is no small endeavor, and it starts long before the players take the field. Highly sought-after recruits consider every aspect of a program before they commit to a school, and the university's outdated locker room wasn't creating a lasting impression. Every aspect of the renovation was designed to make UT facilities reflect the university's commitment to continued excellence throughout the program.

Wooden lockers held onto years of player blood, sweat, and tears. In addition, the lighting was uninspiring, and the existing sound system wasn't ready for Coach Herman's variety of high-energy, pre-game hype.

Lighting in the updated facility had to easily accommodate everything from players hanging out between practices, to academic study sessions, team meetings, and the supercharged minutes right before players take the field. The lighting controls had to quickly and easily transform the environment, especially on game day.

Critical to the selected control solution was the successful integration of a highly technical, precision system that was easy to use, reliable, and aesthetically beautiful.

"When Coach presses that Game Day button, he wants lights, music, and energy to reach epic levels immediately."

— Matt Smidebush,
Assistant Director Football Operations

The Solution

A Lutron Quantum solution meets every control requirement throughout the new facility. Working with Angela Ryan from Bell & McCoy Company, Chief of Staff Fernando Lovo held the keys to Coach's vision and communicated all aspects of that plan to the architects, designers, and project managers.

Under Lovo's guidance every detail was meticulously planned and implemented including the ideal sequence of operations for defined lighting scenes, each of which is accessed by the simple press of a button.

Lighting plays a major role throughout the space. In a design unique to the Longhorn program, each locker glows orange. Cove lighting throughout the space is fully adjustable, and a lighted corridor along the main entry way creates a must-stop photo-op for virtually everyone who visits the space including other UT athletes, visiting teams, the media, and the families of players and recruits.

Beyond the lighting scenes themselves, another requirement is easy player access. Lights can be adjusted in every area, including the showers, to ensure players can tune the lights to their preferences. Engraved keypads take the guesswork out of selecting the right scene: *Daily*, *Recruiting*, or *Game Day*. And, as Matt Smidebush, Assistant Director Football Operations, explains, "When Coach presses that Game Day button, he wants lights, music, and energy to reach epic levels immediately."

The locker room is more than just a strategic space. College athletes are limited to a defined number of practice hours, but football is family to these players and in many ways this space is an on-campus home. The facility includes study tables, comfortable couches, gaming systems to encourage socializing with their peers, and a quiet place to meet, study film, or just relax. The Quantum integrated lighting control system ensures the atmosphere reflects the players' mood and meets their needs.



The Longhorns Corridor creates a must-stop photo-op for virtually everyone who visits the space.

From the locker area, to the weight room, and even the shower facilities, lighting scenes contribute to a motivating, positive atmosphere.





Lutron Quantum system helps create a home-away-from-home space.

Results

The Longhorn locker room is already making its mark on the University of Texas football players and recruits. As Coach Herman likes to remind people, “You’re a lot better coach when you have the right players on the field.”

Every aspect of the lockers, every design element, every piece of furniture, and every lighting sequence was carefully chosen to set a new standard of excellence. For many players this place exceeds their wildest expectations, giving them a genuine home-away-from-home.

Lutron is proud to have its Quantum integrated lighting solution play a critical role in creating the right experience in such a vibrant facility.

Architect

Gensler — Austin

Electrical Engineers

Glumac

Electrical Representatives

Bell and McCoy

Lighting Control

Quantum System —
Lutron Electronics

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