



# A JOB LIKE NO OTHER

Reconstructing Kyle Field is a dream project for A&M graduate Greg McClure

It is barely 5 a.m. on an otherwise non-descript August day in College Station, and the buzzing has already started on the cell phone next to Greg McClure's bed. Actually, to be more accurate, the buzzing never truly slowed down from the night before.

The sun is still more than 90 minutes from peeking above the horizon, but McClure's mind is already racing.

He rapidly scans the texts and emails he received since nodding off to sleep a few hours prior, pausing to type out a few messages and return a couple calls. Before long he is headed toward the Texas A&M campus, where he is the project director for the redevelopment of Kyle Field.

There, it's more of the same, with McClure racing to various meetings amongst the controlled chaos that normally surrounds a massive project such as this.

McClure works for Manhattan Construction Group, which partnered with Vaughn Construction, on the redevelopment of Kyle Field. McClure is a 25-year veteran of Manhattan, earning some of his stripes three hours up the road in Arlington, where he also helped

build the Dallas Cowboys' palatial stadium.

But this job is different.

In fact, it may be the most important work ever assigned to a non-A&M employee in university history.

McClure, a 1990 graduate of Texas A&M, doesn't shy away from the fact that Kyle Field holds a special place in his heart.

"Opportunities like (Kyle Field) don't come along very often," said McClure recently from inside a construction trailer just south of the Bright Football Complex. "And to have it be at your alma mater...it means so much and you want every little thing to be perfect."

Like many Aggies, McClure has high expectations for how the finished stadium should look, feel and endure. After all, he has been a season ticket holder since graduation and has spent many fall Saturdays enjoying games from what was formerly section 312, row 17.

The magnitude of the redevelopment is certainly not lost on McClure.

As the old saying goes, "to whom much is given, much is expected." In McClure's case, he knows full well

the weight of responsibility bearing down on every contractor, subcontractor and employee participating in the redevelopment.

"This is the number one iconic venue of our university," McClure said. "Heck, you can see it from six miles out of town when you're driving in for the weekend. It's the one place everyone is going.

"My family is all Aggies. My wife is; my brother is; several distant cousins, aunts and uncles are, too. Their pride in knowing that I am down here doing this resonates back through me."

His task is not a simple one. McClure estimates the number of man-hours spent by construction crews alone has already topped 3.5 million and will inch toward 4 million by kickoff of the first home game. Upwards of 1,100 workers have been on site for much of Phase 2, which began in earnest with the implosion of the west side last December.

The different variables and contingencies his team has planned for are mind-bending. And it's all overshadowed by the impending deadline of Sept. 12, when Aggies fans will be exploring every nook and cranny of the spectacular stadium.

That reality is what makes the early morning texts and phone calls a welcome part of McClure's routine. It's also what makes him swell with Aggie pride when he thinks about the finished product.

"In my office in Dallas is a nice montage to Cowboys Stadium," said McClure, whose fulltime home is in Midlothian, southwest of Dallas. "Well, I've already cleared the shelves for Kyle Field, and that display is going to be bigger and better. Sorry, (Dallas Cowboys owner) Jerry Jones, but this one's home." ■



McClure has been an A&M season ticket holder since graduation.