

Making Audi Field a Destination for All Sports Fans



From left, Chris Jett, Steven Davis, Foreman Tom Stinnett, Sandy Griffin, Business Agent Cordelia McKoy, Retired Business Agent Riley Gaines, Superintendent Don Simmel, Zack McAndrew, Foreman Ruben Diaz, and Business Manager George Hogan





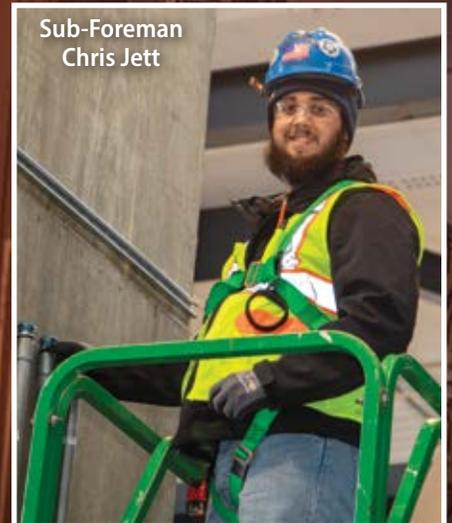
From left, Superintendent Don Simmel, Sandy Griffin, Business Manager George Hogan, and Foreman Tom Stinnett



Hunter Griffith



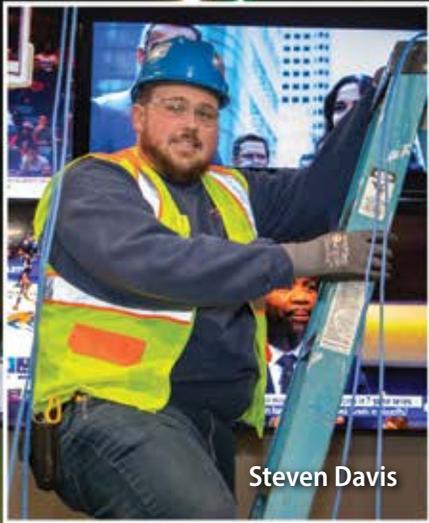
Zack McAndrew



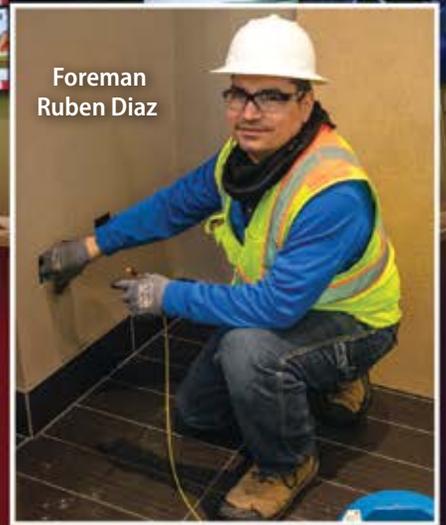
Sub-Foreman
Chris Jett

Although the sports world has come to a halt due to Covid-19, under normal circumstances, the summer months would bring soccer fans from all across the DC area into Audi Field in Southwest DC to cheer on our hometown DC United Major League Soccer team and the Washington Spirit of the National Women's Soccer League (for select matches). In 2020, the XFL football league also used Audi Field as their home field before the league suspended operations due to the pandemic and subsequently filed for bankruptcy.

Audi Field, which was built with the talents of Local 26, was completed in July 2018, but constant improvements are being made to the facility for the benefit of the players and teams and to enhance the fan experience. Most recently James Electrical Control was on site making various upgrades to the lighting, convenience outlets, receptacles, and audio/visual systems.



Steven Davis



Foreman
Ruben Diaz



James Electrical Control (JEC) has been in business since 1980 and while it is a smaller contractor in terms of its number of employees, its impact on the region is quite large. JEC employs Local 26 teledata workers and electricians and has worked on numerous major commercial and government projects all around our jurisdiction. The contract they have for the work on Audi Field also included what will be the District's first sportsbook, run by Caesar's Entertainment Corp., once again putting JEC in the middle of a groundbreaking project.

The partnership between DC United, Audi Field, and Caesar's is the first of its kind and was created to make Audi Field a "year-round hub of entertainment and activity." This partnership includes the creation of a sportsbook space that will allow guests to view and bet on other sporting events taking place around the country, as well as the inclusion of Caesar's on the sign in front of the field.

JEC came on site in early 2020 to begin the work on the lighting, convenience outlets, receptacles and audio/video systems, as well as other work that DC United requested along the way. Under

the leadership of Superintendent Donald Simmel, Foreman Tom Stinnett, and Sub-Foreman Chris Jett, the Local 26 JEC team, which ranged from a crew of one to ten electricians at a time, worked on the coaches' areas on the sides of the field, the food area, the kid zone, and the Audi car display, in addition to the Caesar's sportsbook area. The projects ranged in size from 1,000 feet to 30,000 and included the installation of low voltage and electrical wiring. Work on the sportsbook area was at the midway point when the Covid-19 virus shut the project down. As soon as Audi Field reopens, the JEC crew will be back on the job to complete their work.

Prior to the shutdown, the JEC team had logged 2,500 manhours and anticipated being on site well into the foreseeable future working on a number of different projects. Since JEC has been on site at Audi Field for quite some time, delivering quality work, they have earned the trust of the stadium and have become the go-to contractor for all of the facility's

electrical needs. JEC encourages their telecom techs to be BICSI certified and to maintain a biannual certification and encourages all of their R workers to seek A status. They also encourage all of their employees to take full advantage of the quality training that is offered through the Local 26 JATC. This higher expectation of their employees is what has helped JEC earn the respect of Audi Field and what has helped strengthen their relationship with the stadium. It has been a win-win for both JEC and Audi Field.

JEC is looking forward to picking up where they left off on the work at Audi Field as soon as restrictions are lifted. Pedro Aguilar, CFO of James Electrical Control, noted that the work of Local 26 reflected superior training, attention to detail, and pride in the job. He added, "This makes the Local 26 worker unmatched in the Washington, DC, area."