Cajundome nears halfway point

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Not rain, sleet or snow can stop the production of the Cajundome, which is on schedule in construction and almost halfway there.

Construction on the $54 million project is on schedule and rolling along smoothly, according to official spokesman Al Thierry, director of community affairs.

The Cajundome, about 41 percent complete in development, had its ground breaking ceremonies on Jan. 27, 1982 and completion is still expected in the summer of 1985.

"Thank God," said Thierry, "the construction is proceeding as scheduled with no problems." Recent heavy rains have done little if anything to hamper work on the dome, as the project has entered the roofing phase.

Currently, the truss erection is taking place on the dome. As of last week, about 15 percent of the total 48 trusts had been put into place to support the roof.

Following the placing of the trusts, work will begin on the decking, said Thierry.

Otherwise, no major developments have sprung up on the project and action is going according to planned.

Upon completion of the Cajundome, whose architect is Neil Nehrbass, the facility will immediately go into operation hosting conventions, USL basketball, banquets, concerts, meetings, etc.

"It's designed to have things done simultaneously," said Glenn Menard, director of the student union. He notes that it will also handle sufficiently the quick-turnaround of events which occurs from day-to-day.

Blackham Coliseum, meanwhile, will remain in use and likely increase its housing of rodeo-type events, according to Menard.

The dome, with a seating capacity of 14,000, will be comparable in size to the LSU Assembly Center in Baton Rouge, which has a capacity of 15,000.