

# Gillette puts more greens on team

## Stadium fields new food choices

By Ira Kantor

featuring Debra Wein, President and founder of Wellness Workdays  
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Nutritionists praised Gillette Stadium officials yesterday for adding healthier food options, such as black bean burgers, gluten-free pizza and grilled veggie wraps, to the venue's 38 revamped and rebranded concession stands' menu options.

“Would it be great if they got rid of the junk food? Of course it would be, but people would complain so we need to, at least, offer a choice,” said Caroline Apovian, director of the Nutrition and Weight Management Center at Boston Medical Center. “I love that Gillette Stadium is doing this.”

While these options will compete with more typical stadium staples, such as Italian sausages, hot dogs and french fries, registered dietitian Debra Wein said it would be “unreasonable” for the stadium to only offer “quote unquote healthy options.”

“I don't think it's ever too little, too late,” said Wein, president of Wellness Workdays in Hingham. “Often the healthiest option ... is a sodium-laden pretzel made with processed white flour. That's what you find at these locations.”

“I wish it could be where you turn to the right and to the left and salads are at both places instead of one out of 10, but this is a step in the right direction,” Apovian added.

Along with two Market Fresh Deli locations that offer salads, wraps and fruit, four other in-house concessions — Champions Brew Pub, Smokehouse Grill, Lighthouse Grill and Tailgate Grill — will take over space previously filled by McDonald's concessions on the 100 and 300 levels. The fast food chain's 10-year operating contract was not renewed after it expired, said James Nolan, Gillette Stadium's senior vice president of operations, administration and finance.

“We've always had healthy options, which we've expanded over time, but we know that people these days are focused on eating healthy and eating right,” Nolan told the Herald. “We wanted to dramatically expand our offerings and brand them in locations where it makes it easy to find them.”