

SPORTING SCENE

The Day We Crashed Philadelphia's Parade

Did you see those crazy New Yorkers "celebrating" last week following Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals?

Were you watching ESPN when those idiots jumped off the top of a taxi cab stand into the crowd below? What was that all about?

Big deal. The New York Rangers won the Stanley Cup. Whoopie! They ended a 54-year championship drought.

OK, so I admit the Rangers' fans had something special to celebrate. If I was a Rangers fan, I probably would have done something crazy too, or at least screamed real loud.

The whole celebration scene got me thinking back to the spring of 1974. At the time, I was a member of Miss Fisher's third-grade class at Lima Elementary School near Philadelphia, Pa.

I was also a pretty big fan of the Philadelphia Flyers, known in those days as the Broad Street Bullies for their "physical" style of play.

I loved the Flyers. Whenever us kids in the neighborhood got together to play street hockey, we'd pretend to be Flyer greats like Bernie Parent, Bobby Clarke, Reggie Leach, Dave Schultz, Rick McLeish, Don Kelly, Moose Dupont...

In the mid-1970s, the Flyers were awesome. When they finally captured their first Stanley Cup in 1974, the city went nuts. The Flyers, like every other championship team, were honored with their own parade.

As coincidence would have it, the parade for the Flyers fell on the same day as Miss Fisher's class field trip to Philadelphia.

I can't remember if we went to the zoo or to a museum that day. The only thing I remember was the bus ride home.

One minute, we were winding briskly through the city streets pretty as you please. The next thing I know, our yellow school bus came to a halt smack dab in the middle of the parade.

There we were, two dozen energized Flyer fanatics, suddenly part of the frenzied celebration. This was certainly the greatest thing that had ever happened to any of us.

We all rushed to open our little school bus windows and started shouting and waving at the equally-energized parade watchers gathered on the sidewalk below.

Tons of white confetti floated through the windows and piled up on the floor of our bus.

We all took our empty orange juice containers and flung them out the windows into the crowd. It wasn't a particularly nice thing to do, but it seemed like a good idea at the time.

People spilled over from the sidewalk into the street and began rocking our bus back and forth, not enough to cause panic, just enough to give us a thrill.

It wasn't long before our bus driver found his way out of the parade and got us heading in the right direction again. But not before giving me one of the greatest days a young Flyer fan could have imagined.

We got back to school a little later than expected that afternoon, but we kids weren't complaining.

That was the best field trip ever.

I wish I could remember where we went.

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



American Legion Exploring Support For Centrally-Located Ball Field

BY SUSAN USHER

Danny Gore and fellow Brunswick County Legionnaires are pursuing a dream they believe can become reality in two to three years.

They want a centrally-located baseball field, accessible to students from all three county high schools for American Legion play.

If all goes well a ballpark could be built by the American Legion on the Brunswick Community College campus and given to the college, years earlier than the ballfield already marked on the master plan for the campus.

BCC Trustees gave Gore permission last week to spend the next two months investigating the feasibility of the project. He is to return with a more detailed study and a projected timetable.

"Before it can be finalized," BCC's Building and Grounds Chairman Al Wooten suggested, "I'd like to have our lawyers draw up a contract to make sure what they say they will do, they will do."

This season two American Legion teams in the county—one serving the Leland area and the other serving the Southport-Oak Island and Shallotte areas—merged into one team for youths ages 15 to 18. But the team plays at North Brunswick High School in Leland, said Gore, which creates a hardship for students in the opposite reaches of the county. Only two West Brunswick students are involved in Legion ball this season.

"We don't get a whole lot of participation from those areas because the kids don't have the time and can't afford to drive that far," said Gore, a Shallotte resident and athletic director for American Legion Post 445 at Winnabow.

As envisioned by Gore, the field would be owned by BCC and its use controlled and scheduled by BCC, with American Legion provided use of the field from mid-May through mid-July, or slightly longer if the team makes the playoffs.

He proposes that maintenance be

a "joint effort" of the college, the American Legion and Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, with a long-range goal of establishing an endowment to provide for perpetual maintenance of a "first-class field" at no expense to the college.

Tending the Bermuda grass infield, he suggested, would provide practical experience in turf management and irrigation for students in BCC's recreational grounds management curriculum.

Gore said he foresees the project being constructed in stages, starting with a field that must be built to major league park specifications, fencing, dugouts, press box and sprinkler system, for an estimated cost of \$50,000. Restroom facilities and a parking area would come later.

"I don't see this being a one-year project," he said. "I see this as a two- to three-year project. We don't want there to be any cost to the college."

Local American Legion posts would raise some of the money through events such as their annual fish fries, which support the Legion baseball program, and through solicitations in the community. He said several industries have already pledged their support.

Gore anticipates working with the county recreation department to seek possible grants, and has contacted the N.C. National Guard about the possibility of an engineering unit's help building the field.

The only commitment from the

college, at least for now, would be the land. Gore estimates the overall project would require about 10 acres, at a site to be chosen by BCC.

The field would be available for a BCC intramural ball team and for hosting events such as the Special Olympics. Its large outfield would accommodate soccer.

BCC Trustees said they liked the idea of a ballfield; a sports/recreation complex that includes a ballfield is part of BCC's long-range master plan and would help provide a well-rounded college program.

That project rates lower in priority than several other projects that relate directly to students and their studies and also require substantial financial support. The most immediate is space to house the recreational grounds management and a new aquaculture program that begins this fall.

However, as Chairman Dave Kelly pointed out, the American Legion's goal is to build a field in a central location.

"If not here then they will raise the money to build it someplace else," he said. "The project is going to happen and the money is going to come out of the community."

Gore sees the project as a way for the American Legion to achieve its goal, and in the process, help BCC realize a long-term goal of its own without jeopardizing funding for other projects.

"If we can come at it from other sources," he said, "we can accomplish your goal quicker."

Catamaran Sinks Off Holden

Holden Beach's water rescue unit saved three young men Saturday after their catamaran sank several hundred yards offshore.

Holden Beach Police Chief Robert Cook said four men launched the boat from the beach in the vicinity of 150 Ocean Blvd. West.

"There are small holes in each pontoon to let the water drain out and they forgot to put the plugs in," Cook said. "They got about 500 yards offshore and it sunk."

Cook said one of the men swam ashore and the water rescue squad went out to pick up the other three and the boat.

The chief said one of the men had the tip of his left index finger pinched off while the group was trying to right the boat.

New Chief Reports At Annual Calabash EMS Board Meeting

Frank Egan, newly elected chief of the Calabash Volunteer Emergency Medical Service, told the annual general board of directors' meeting that the squad answered 710 calls during the year 1993-94, working 2,289 manhours and traveling 24,844 miles.

The meeting took place June 7, with 23 attending.

Egan said 326 calls were in Calabash, 141 in Sunset Beach 243 elsewhere, with 71 for mutual aid for Waccamaw and 66 for Shallotte.

There are 17 active squad members. The chief assured the membership that the local squad, complemented by the county service, provides complete coverage.

The following board officers were elected: Kathy Morfit, president; Lina Angstadt, vice president; Jack Brady, treasurer; and Maryn Hall, secretary. Andy Campbell and Robert Correll were elected two-year

board members. Walter Dodge was elected one-year board member. Holdover board members are Frances Wrenn and Thomas Lynch.

Morfit thanked those attending for their support and expressed appreciation to squad members and thrift shop workers for their "devotion to service to the community."

COED SOFTBALL LEAGUE Mt. Olive Clinches First

Mt. Olive clinched the Brunswick Baptist Association Coed Softball League regular-season championship Saturday with a 29-3 win over Brunswick Islands at Lockwood Folly Park.

Mt. Olive (14-0) had a chance to close out the regular season undefeated Tuesday night with a game against Southport "A" at Smithville Park.

Gospel Center improved its second-place record to 11-2 Saturday night with a 13-8 victory over Mt. Pisgah.

In other games, Calvary knocked off Shell Point 12-5, Bolivia defeated Mill Creek 9-6 and Faith "A" posted an 11-4 win over Faith "B."

Brunswick Baptist Assn.

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Mt. Olive	14	0
Gospel Center	11	2
Southport "A"	7	2
Southport "B"	10	3
Faith "A"	9	3
Bolivia	8	5
Faith "B"	6	5
Calvary	7	7
Mt. Pisgah	6	6
Bethel-Ol-Bch Road	6	8
Supply	4	9
Shell Point	3	9
Lebanon	2	9
Southport "C"	2	9
Mill Creek	2	10
Brunswick Islands	2	11

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2x6	3.75	4.83	5.90	8.90
4x4	5.52	9.75	11.00	14.95
5/4x6	3.29	3.99	4.79	6.29

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REJECT			8.49	10.95	12.95
SELECT			9.99	12.95	14.95
Shop BC	10.00	11.75	14.25	16.75	21.00
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2x6	3.24	4.05	4.86	6.75
2x8		4.77	5.72	7.75

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