

New stadium opens "horizons" for baseball fans

After a relocation and an extensive renovation, the new Greensboro baseball stadium is finished. Once Memorial Stadium, it now is known to the public as First Horizon Park.

By Shimère Etheridge
Staff Writer

On Jan. 10, workers began installing the final essential element in Greensboro's new downtown baseball stadium—the seats. Once this task was completed, fans were able to purchase tickets, beginning at 10 a.m. on Feb. 19 (for individual games). First Horizon Park, the name of the host stadium for the new Greensboro Grasshoppers, will host 71 games including the April 3 exhibition against Major League Baseball's Florida Marlins. The regular-season home opener is April 9.

Six dollars can buy standing-room tickets when necessary. However, the park is well equipped in the lower level, which consists of 4,893 fixed seats that cost between \$7

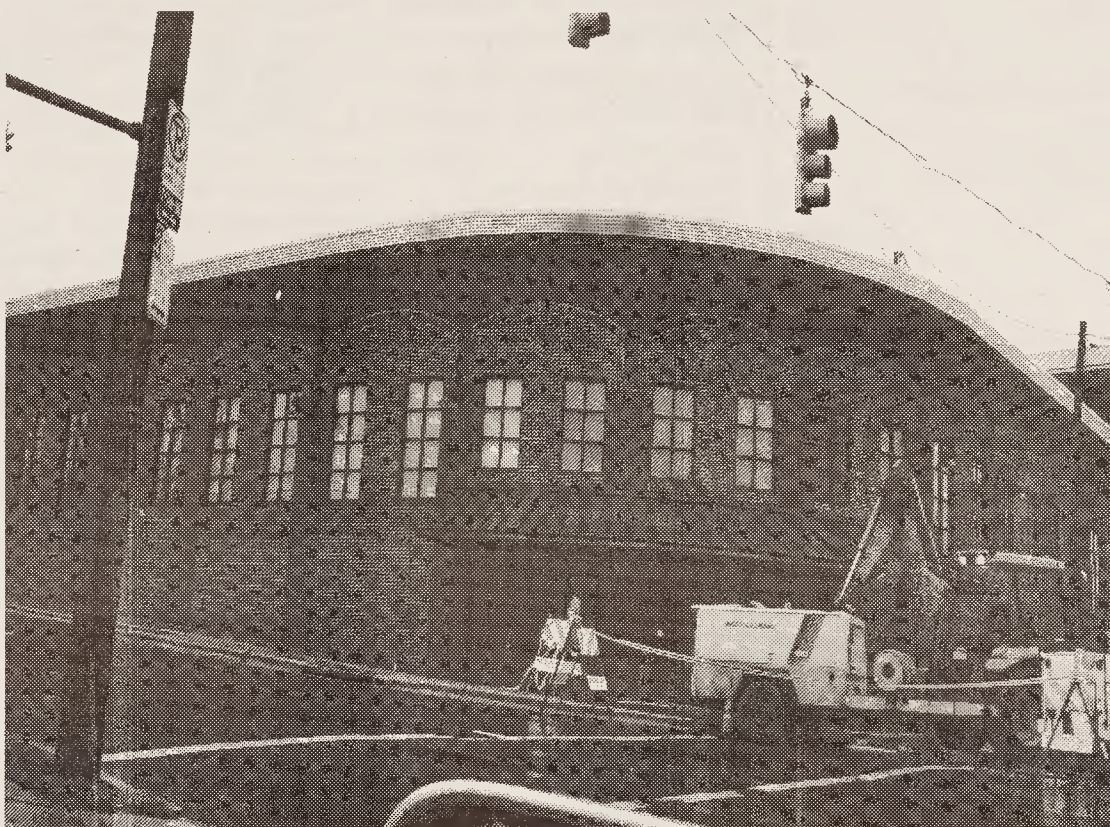
and \$9. Children and die-hard baseball fans may enjoy the option to sit or stand on the large berm behind the left-field fence or the small berm down the first-base line, which will cost \$6. Six dollars is also the price for admission to the GoTriad Grandstand area.

Prices for most of the fixed seats are higher than for seats at Memorial Stadium, the team's former home. At the Memorial Stadium last season, the team charged \$7 for reserved seats, which had chairbacks, and \$6 for general-admission seating on bleachers.

"You won't be able to please everyone," said Grasshoppers President Donald Moore. "But now people will have more choices and a more comfortable setting. It's still pretty affordable, and people can still come at the old prices."

No bleachers in the new park means that there will be no general-admission tickets; all the fixed seats are by reservation only. There are 894 seats for \$9, 2,250 seats for \$8, and 1,749 seats for \$7.

The number of seats available for the Marlins game,



Forgay photo

The recently constructed Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball stadium, First Horizon Park, is conveniently located downtown, an attractive novelty to citizens of the growing city.

which starts at 2 p.m., and any others will depend on how many season tickets the club sells. As of January, the Grasshoppers had sold approximately 1,470 season tickets. Moore hopes that by the time of the Marlins game, 2,000 tickets will have been sold, leaving 2,893 fixed seats available. About 2,000 more tickets will be available at \$6. They will accommodate 1,000 fans on the large berm, 250 on the small berm, and 800 in the grandstand.

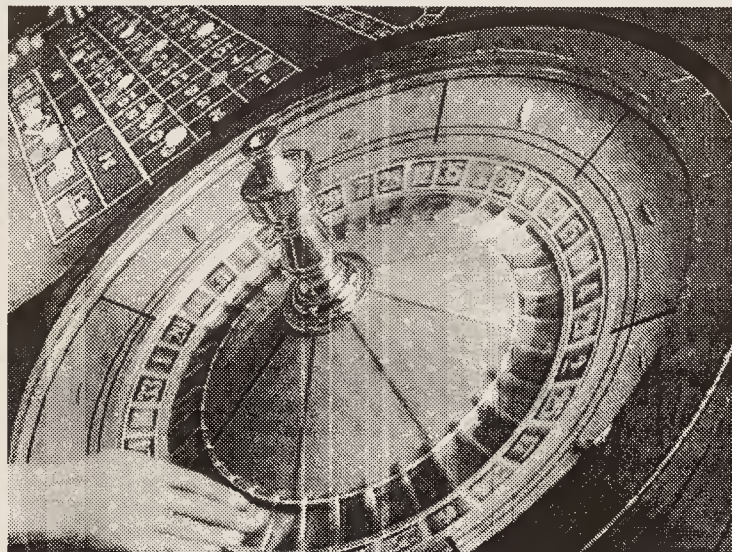
In the grandstand, there are stools around the bar, 500 seats in a pregame picnic space that will open at game time, and standing room on the concourse, where many fans may watch from a railing.

"Our aim is to provide fun and affordable family entertainment, whether the team is playing the Marlins or the Hickory Crawdads," said Moore.

The fixed seats range from 20 to 22 inches wide and are dark green, a

traditional color found in many a baseball stadium. Moore said the team has placed the stadium capacity at 7,599, a figure that includes the fixed seats in the lower level, 500 seats in the skyboxes and party decks, 156 grandstand boxes, and the 2 berms.

On Feb. 19, the team will have an open house to correspond with the sale of individual tickets. The online ticketing system should be up and running by then, according to Moore.



Internet graphic

Among the games featured at Casino Night was roulette. The PTSA hopes the event helped bring parents together.

PTSA gambles on Casino Night, enjoyable parent event

In an attempt to bring Grimsley parents together, the PTSA hosted Casino Night at the Empire Room downtown.

By Chris Izzard
Reporter

The Parent Teacher Student Association's (PTSA) latest attempt to bring the school community together comes in the form of Casino Night.

Ms. Patricia Aronson, head of the PTSA Casino Night, says that it unites people who would not otherwise meet. People from the surrounding neighborhoods can now talk about matters that concern their own communities while enjoying the company of one of Grimsley's most entertaining teachers, Coach Joe Franks III. Overall, Casino Night provides a safe haven for people who want to support the school and

have fun with acquaintances.

The only thing needed to participate in the games offered is a small amount of money, which is then exchanged for fake money used in the games. The real money goes to support different things within the school, such as the Media Center. Participants are to be Grimsley students'

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