

Durham Stadium Prepares for Spring

It's Not the Same Old Bull In Right Field as Ballpark Preps for Extra Attention

BY RYAN THORNBURG
CITY EDITOR

DURHAM — Despite the snow on the infield, the Durham Bulls continued to move into their new home one week before major league spring training is scheduled to begin.

The grass has been laid on the field, the installation of the seats is beginning and, on Thursday, two 190-foot light towers went up in the outfield of the stadium, which is already one year behind schedule.

The Durham Bulls, Single A affiliate of the Atlanta Braves, are perpetually one of the most watched minor league baseball teams in the nation, and their new stadium reflects success few other Single A teams enjoy.

"This ballpark is considered one of the top two minor league ballparks in the country," said Kevin Estrella, public relations director for the Bulls, during a tour of the

construction site.

The new ballpark incorporates style from the old Durham Athletic Park with modern amenities unavailable at the historic field, Estrella said.

Fans who enjoyed lounging on the grass in the outfield at the DAP will still be able to do so at the new park, as long as they don't mind doing it in right field instead of left. Left field at the Bulls' new home will be occupied by a 26-foot wall similar to Boston's famous Green Monster.

"The outfield area will have grass seating similar to Walnut Creek," Estrella said. "The bottom of the hill will begin at the top of the outfield wall so fans will be able to hang over and catch a foul ball or throw a Coke on the center fielder," he said.

Other favorites from the DAP won't be left out of the new stadium. Players emulating the movie version of "Crash" Davis will still be able to "Hit Bull, Win Steak."

"We're going to have a bigger and better bull in right field," Estrella said. "The old one is going to be here, too, and we're going to incorporate him in the design."

The old bull, which became a famous part of Durham tradition after it was used as a prop in the movie "Bull Durham," was

supposed to have its final resting place at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., but there was no room large enough to house the beast.

The bull isn't the only part of the new stadium that will be bigger and better. Seating and parking capacity have both been expanded.

The old ballpark had half the seating capacity of the new one. The new park will have 6,340 seats and will be able to hold 9,500 people when standing room is used. That seating capacity is near the requirement for Triple A teams.

And those thousand extra seats are top of the line, Estrella said. Even the seats that will take the place of the general admission benches found at the DAP will be two inches wider than seats in most ballparks.

Fans aren't the only ones who will be stoked by added amenities of the Bulls' new home. The players' and umpires' locker rooms are substantially larger than the DAP's facilities, Estrella said.

"This is going to be one of the best locker rooms the players will have until they get to the major league level," he said. He said the new training room alone, complete with whirlpool spa, was larger than

the training room and locker room at the old place.

The Bulls have made room for more media coverage this year, too. Estrella said that although the major league strike wouldn't affect their player personnel or crowd size, it might increase their national television exposure.

In anticipation of the increased media interest, the press box has been expanded to five times the size of the previous box.

Other features of the new park include:

- Three picnic areas for group dining and cooking,
- A 150-seat outdoor cafe where fans can eat food and watch the game,
- Food provided by Domino's Pizza, Dillard's Bar-B-Que and the Flying Burrito,
- A public address system that automatically adjusts its volume in response to crowd noise,
- Twelve skyboxes where fans can sit in air-conditioned booths, watch television, eat from a refrigerator and drink from a wetbar. One is still available for rent on a game-by-game basis for between \$300 and \$400, and
- A children's playground and an arcade.

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IM-Rec

Club Sports

The UNC Racquetball Club hosted the Southeastern Collegiate Regional Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 28. UNC was impressive against N.C. State and Georgia Tech on its way to the championship. The tournament doubled as a qualifier for the collegiate nationals, to be held in Nashville, Tenn., from March 29 to April 2.

The club boasted five first-place finishes in singles competition: Jason Armbricht, Catherine Basa, Rebecca Benefiel, Kristi Lanning and Damion Siska. Basa and Benefiel finished first in doubles competition.

UNC plays N.C. State and Virginia Tech Friday through Sunday in Raleigh.

The UNC Bowling Club narrowly lost at the Brunswick Northeast Showdown in Turnersville, N.J. UNC lost to top-ranked Indiana by 40 pins and by 20 pins to Florida State (No. 7). The club's top bowler was Bryan Turner with an average score of 190.

The Men's Soccer Club beat N.C. State 3-1 Sunday at Navy Field.

"This was a great win for our club, and I'm just hoping we can use this momentum for a consistent and successful second half of the season," said club president Neil Harding. The club faces Wake Forest Sunday.

The Outing Club and the Sports Council sponsored a speaker, Kristi Larson, from the National Outdoor Leadership School

in Lander, Wyo. Larson's presentation focused on the opportunities and activities for outdoor education offered at the school, including wilderness skills, rock climbing, sea kayaking, sailing and skiing.

Tryouts for the Baseball Club will be held Tuesday at 3 p.m. outside of Hinton James.

IM-Rec

The Natural High Program has a number of upcoming events. Entries opened Monday. Each of the events is scheduled for Saturday. The activities are Pickleball, the K-SWISS Slam Dunk-Less Contest, the K-SWISS 3-Point Shoot Out, Couples' Challenge and Wallyball. Some participants will receive K-SWISS shoes and T-shirts. For more information, contact Steve Tribble or Rob Talton at the IM-Rec Office at 203 Woollen Gym, or call 962-1153.

The IM ACC Tournament Fantasy Basketball League draft will be held the week of Feb. 27. Stop by or call the IM-Rec Office to sign up.

The softball officials clinic for spring 1995 is being offered Monday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in 304 Woollen Gym. For more information, call 962-1153.

The annual intramural Sweetheart Fun Run will take place Tuesday at 4 p.m. Participants are to meet on the front steps of Wilson Library.

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Baseball Players May Accept Usery's Preliminary Proposal

WASHINGTON — Lenny Dykstra, still considering becoming a strikebreaker, said Thursday that players should consider accepting the proposal offered by mediator W. J. Usery.

The mediator, in a rare public statement, backed away from the ideas he suggested to the sides on Tuesday, saying they weren't his final recommendation.

President Clinton's legislation for binding arbitration remained stuck in Congress, and union head Donald Fehr prepared to schedule a new set of meetings.

Dykstra, wondering whether the union should change its tactics, said he hadn't decided if he will report when the regular season starts.

"Lenny Dykstra loves baseball; Lenny Dykstra is fortunate to be playing in the major leagues; Lenny



Union leader DONALD FEHR plans to schedule more talks.

Dykstra wants to play baseball in 1995," he told ESPN. "As far as going across, you'll have to ask me again in April."

Dykstra said baseball's top players would soon discuss the strike with Fehr.

"If you ask me, I think that Usery tried to do what's best for both sides; he kind of, it looks like, cut everything in half," Dykstra said. "I think there's a big chance we can get something done in his arena there with what he proposed."

Usery was upset that management circulated a two-page document containing the ideas the mediator conveyed to the

sides on Tuesday. His primary proposal was for a 50-percent tax on the portion of payrolls above \$40 million.

Owners said they would reluctantly accept the mediator's suggestions for a settlement, but the union rejected the ideas. At least one lobbyist for the owners has distributed the document on Capitol Hill.

"It pretty clearly indicates the clubs had no business releasing what they did," Fehr said. "It was an attempt to spur bargaining. It was an attempt to get people to talk to one another. It wasn't and never was intended to be a final recommendation."

CAA Presidents Explain Why Ticket Distribution Is Random

As we find ourselves in the midst of an exciting men's basketball season, we would like to explain a few points about student ticket distribution. Specifically, we hope to clear up the confusion surrounding the Wake Forest/Clemson distribution and explain the revised policy for the Duke distribution.

Our initial ticket distribution policy was formed with much student input. Polls, letters and phone calls were all considered in its creation. The overwhelming response indicated that students liked the previous year's policy but wanted two changes: to have numbers handed out earlier (which we have done) and to see the "6 o'clock rule" enforced. The policy states that students may not line up before 6 p.m. on the evening before a ticket distribution. In previous years, students lined up before the set time and were not penalized. Therefore, those who arrived at the proper time risked getting an upper-level seat. At the students' requests, we resolved to enforce this rule.

At the Wake/Clemson distribution, we did indeed enforce the rule. Everyone who arrived early was told to leave the parking lot and return at 6. Unfortunately, by 6 p.m., everyone was waiting across the street, prepared to run to form the line. Additionally, instead of the usual 400 to 500 people who arrive at 6 p.m., there were over 1,300. This was in part because students found out ahead of time that we planned to move the campout inside. Our two main concerns were safety and fairness. We did not want anyone to get hurt in a stampede; neither did we want certain students to get favorable seats because they were willing to push and shove. We decided that because each person had arrived



CAA CO-PRESIDENTS

at 6 p.m., each person should have an equal chance of getting a lower-level seat. There was no way that we could have formed a line in an orderly fashion, so we handed out numbers randomly to the crowd and announced that those numbers would not be called in order.

Once everyone arrived in the Smith Center, we randomly drew numbers in blocks of 100 to determine the order in which tickets would be given out. Any students who arrived after the initial number distribution were automatically placed at the end of the line. We did this as soon as everyone had assembled so that those who risked getting upper-level seats would know ahead of time. We believe we made the right decision under the circumstances; our only concerns were fairness and safety.

Having so many students arrive at once was unprecedented for any game but Duke. We are sorry that you were not aware that randomness was a possibility. We do believe that randomness is the best solution should a similar situation occur, and we are prepared to do this for the Duke distribution. If you have comments or suggestions for a better method, please write us a letter (Tickets, c/o CAA, Box 2, Carolina Union CB#5210) or call us (962-4300). We assure you that we will pass the information on to the next president.

Because of this distribution and student opinion surrounding it, we have altered our Duke policy slightly. If you missed the DTH article (2/1), please pick up the policy in our office (Suite A, Student Union). Highlights: **Anyone graduating in 1995:** 1. Distribution is Saturday at 8 a.m.; don't be late. 2. The best tickets available will be handed out randomly; no need to camp. 3. Make sure that your anticipated graduation date is listed as 1995 with the registrar's office. **Everyone else:** 1. You are taking a risk by camping out; the number of tickets available depends on the number left over after the senior distribution. 2. Distribution is Sunday at 8 a.m. 3. You may begin camping tonight at 6 p.m. 4. This distribution will be as usual, unless more people arrive at 6 tonight than can safely form a line. In that case, we will hand out numbers randomly to those people arriving at 6. We will then randomize and announce number order. Questions? 962-4300.

Nil Dalal and Jennifer Rasmussen are co-presidents of the Carolina Athletic Association.

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