



Shawnee State Baseball

Renovations Made to Branch Rickey Park

The 2010 season will mark the Bears second year in their return to Branch Rickey Park. The historic park will celebrate its 75th birthday in 2010.

During the fall of 2008, Branch Rickey saw a face-

down and is being replaced by a net which will improve sightlines for spectators as well as improve on the safety of the fans. A crushed limestone warning track was installed around the entire fence line of the

was purchased as well as protective padding for parts of the brick behind home plate. In late fall, Portsmouth city workers replaced the aging doors that secure the facility.

You can see photos of

some of the renovations on the Branch Rickey Park page of the baseball web-



lift on its infield surface with a new infield clay mix being put into place as well as much needed sod in some of the more worn areas.

Following the fall practice season in 2009, the chain link backstop was torn

stadium. It measures 15 feet wide dugout to dugout and foul pole to foul pole as well as 10 feet wide down both foul lines. New bullpens were erected on both sides.

New windscreen for the batter's eye in centerfield

site.

A special thanks to the city of Portsmouth for their assistance and equipment used as well to Shawnee State administration for their continued support of our program.

Diamond Club Update

In the fall of 2009, Shawnee State Baseball, in conjunction with the SSU Development Foundation, established the Diamond Club as the fundraising wing of the baseball program. The mission of the club is to build the Bear Baseball Nation. The revenue created by the Diamond Club is used to allow

for more opportunities for our players and enhance their college experience while taking the program to unforeseen heights. With the fundraising efforts, two new indoor mounds have been built to go along with a new indoor batting cage, as well as the spring break trips and all of the renovations to Branch Rickey

Park.

At the time of this newsletter, the Diamond Club has raised more than \$6,000. For more information on how you can become a part of the Bear Baseball Nation, contact the baseball office @ 740-351-3537 or by email: ttom@shawnee.edu.

Inside this issue:

Blue/ Gray Footer & Shake Series Recap	2
2010 Schedule Release	2
Alumni Game Fall 2009	3
10 Year Anniversary NAIA World Series Celebration	3
Where Are They Now?	4
Travel Information	4

Special points of interest:

- Find out the where about of former Head Coach Pat Rigsby on page 4.
- Travel Information for the 2010 season.
- Check out our website for more pictures of the Branch Rickey Park renovations.

3rd Annual Blue/Gray Footer & Shake Series

Game 1:

On Sunday, October 11th, the Bears began the 3rd Annual Blue/Gray Footer & Shake Series at Branch Rickey Park. Due to bad weather on Saturday, Sunday became a doubleheader.

In Game 1, the Blue team exploded for 10 runs over the last two innings to win 10-9. The Blue team was lead by freshman Colin Keim's (Clinton, OH) 3-hit and 2-RBI performance. Sophomore Quentin Everman (Galloway, OH) added a 2 run triple in the sixth to seal the win. Junior Andy Carter (North Kingsville, OH) recorded the save.

The Gray team was lead senior Kyle Hammontree (Brownsburg, IN) and junior Zach Byler (Warren, OH) who combined for 5 RBI.

Game 2:

In Game 2, the Gray scored 4 runs in the 2nd inning which was enough to win 4-3. Freshman Jordan Williams (Uniontown, OH) recorded the win

after working 4 solid innings. Senior Adam Hatton (Grove City, OH) earned the save. The Gray were lead by RBI's from freshman Camden Sauls (Tipp City, OH) and sophomore Danny Gesick (Groveport, OH).

Junior Greg Kettel (Ironton, OH) suffered the loss for Team Blue. They were lead by RBI's from Keim and freshman Ryan Deuschle (Newark, OH).

Game 3:

On Thursday, after two days of rain, Team Gray took the series lead with a 4-3 win in extra innings. They were lead by junior Philip Butler's (Spring, TX) multi-hit performance including a homerun in the 5th inning. Sophomore Jordan Maier (Heath, OH), Hammontree, and Byler each had multiple hits in the attack.

For Team Blue, sophomore Adam Wamsley (Wheelersburg, OH) collected 2 hits and 3 stolen bases.

Game 4:

On Friday to begin the Parents' Day Weekend, Team Gray won the game by a score of 3-2 behind a strong pitching performance from sophomore Kyle Compton (Circleville, OH). A three run 4th inning made the difference for the Gray.

Sophomore Austin Dunfee (Pomeroy, OH) took the loss in a hard fought battle. Senior Brian Ramey (Franklin Furnace, OH) started the scoring with a 1st inning homerun to left field.

Game 5:

With the outcome of the series going to Team Gray, Game 5 was played on Saturday with many friends and family in attendance. Team Gray won the game, again in extra innings (3 out of 5 games), by the score of 4-3. They were lead by a 3-hit performance from Jordan Maier.

Bears Release Challenging 2010 Schedule

The Shawnee State Bears baseball team would like to announce their schedule for the upcoming 2010 baseball season highlighted with a three game series versus 2004 NAIA National Champion, Cumberland University and 2009 NAIA World Series participant Campbellsville coming to the friendly confines of Branch Rickey Park. The schedule consists of 55 games with 25 of those being played on the home turf.

The 2010 season will mark the last year of competition in the American Midwest Conference as the Bears will join the Mid-South Conference in 2011. It will also find the Bears getting a taste of the MSC as they will compete against University of the Cumberlands, West Virginia Tech, St. Catharines, Campbellsville, and former AMC rival Rio Grande throughout the year.

"The schedule that we have put together

allows us to compete against several teams we will see in our future confer-

I am very confident that along with this part of the schedule and our demanding spring break trip, we will be prepared to make one last attempt at bringing the AMC conference championship back to Portsmouth,"

ence. I am very confident that along with this part of the schedule and our demanding spring break trip, we will be prepared to make one last attempt at bringing the AMC conference championship back to Portsmouth," says Head Coach Ted Tom. "We are excited to compete against very good competition and see exactly where we stack up."

Shawnee State opens at University of the Cumberlands in late February followed by a home stand with Spring Arbor (MI), 2007 NAIA Runner-up. There will be single game home and away dates with Rio Grande before the Bears embark on their annual spring break trip. To begin the trip, the Bears travel to Savannah, GA to compete in the Fairfield Inn Marriott Classic against Savannah College of Art & Design in a four game series. From there, the Bears will play respective three game series with South Carolina-Beaufort and 2004 National Champion Cumberland University.

Upon their return, Shawnee will play St. Catharines followed by Campbellsville in a home tilt during the week. That weekend finds the Bears traveling to Pulaski, TN to compete against Mar-

Alumni Game 2009

Shawnee State Baseball welcomed back their former players over the weekend. On Friday, several alumni participated in a two-man scramble at Shawnee State Golf Course. Shanen Zimmerman and Gene Kraeger took home the winning honors. The annual homerun derby and game followed at Branch Rickey Park on Saturday. Former slugger, Nolan Crabtree wowed the crowd with his four homeruns easily winning the derby.

For the first time ever, the current Bears split themselves with the alumni for the game. Alums' Justin Craft and Jon Venters started the contest looking as if they have never left campus. In a very competitive game, the Blue team

won 6-3 behind a 5 hit performance from sophomore Nick Ball. Junior Philip Butler added 2 hits and senior Kyle Hammontree hit a 2-run homer to



lead the way. Highlights for the alumni participating in the game were Nolan Crabtree adding 2 hits and Jared Perdue

smashing a 2-run homerun to left center.

After the game, Coach Tom said, "It is always a good time to see many of our former players including several that I had an opportunity to play with, rehash some old stories and just catch up. The Shawnee State baseball family extends well past our current players as everybody who represented our program at one time or another will always be a part of it and hopefully we can continue to improve on the field to make everybody involved proud. I am already looking forward to next year."

Schedule Release (continued from page 2)

tin Methodist College.

The last weekend of March gets the Bears into AMC play with a trip to Walsh followed by a home stand with Point Park. The Bears will leave conference play for a weekend to play former conference foe Ohio Dominican in a split four game



series. After a trip to Cedarville, the Bears will spend the next two weekends at Branch Rickey Park against Malone and Notre Dame sandwiching a doubleheader with St. Catharines. The season finishes with a split conference series with Mount Vernon.



10 Year Anniversary Gathering of 5th place finish @ NAIA World Series Set for April 24th

The 2010 season will mark the 10 year anniversary of the Baseball Bears made the historical run through the AMC Tournament all the way to a 5th place at the NAIA World Series in Lewiston, ID.

To celebrate the feat, Head Coach Ted Tom would like to announce that Saturday, April 24th, the Shawnee State baseball program will recognize the



members of that team during a conference doubleheader versus Malone University.

"It has been ten years since Shawnee State Baseball made that magical run to Lewiston so I think it is only fitting to get as many of those players back to campus and honor them.

We speak on a regular basis about accomplishing many of the goals that group was able to achieve. I am really looking forward to seeing many of those guys as well as giving our current players the opportunity to meet them," says Coach Tom. More details of this weekend will be available soon.



Where Are They Now?

Former Head Baseball Coach Pat Rigsby

**SHAWNEE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Baseball Office
James A. Rhodes Athletic Center
940 Second St.
Portsmouth, OH 45662

Phone: 740-351-3537
Fax: 740-351-3639
E-mail: ttom@shawnee.edu

GO BEARS!!

Check us out on the web:
www.shawnee.edu

Pat Rigsby, former Head Baseball Coach here at Shawnee State, is our first installment in the new "Where Are They Now?" series. Pat currently lives in Louisville, KY with his wife Holly and his stepson Tyler (8). After leaving SSU in 2002, Pat began working in the fitness and sports performance industry where he now is the Co-Owner of several businesses including the International Youth Conditioning Association and a youth fitness & athletic development franchise – Athletic Revolution. He also has authored a book: The Business of Personal Training, which is slated for release in late 2010.



Rigsby became head coach of the Baseball Bears in 1996 and over

the course of the next 6+ years held a winning percentage of .689, going 195-88 during his career.

The 1999 and 2000 seasons are the best in school history highlighted by a 5th place finish at the NAIA World Series in 2000. Both years, the Bears won the AMC Conference Tournament winning 85 games. His teams were nationally ranked from 1998-2001 being as high as #10 to start the 2001 season. The Bears led the NAIA in hitting in both 1998 and 2000. In all, Rigsby tutored twenty seven all conference selections as well as eight NAIA All-Americans and the AMC Conference Player of the Year in 1998.

Travel Information 2010

Saturday February 20

Cumberland Inn
649 S. 10th Street
Williamsburg, KY 40769
Teresa Felts
606-539-4106

Friday March 19

Comfort Inn
1140 W. College St.
Pulaski, TN 38478
Aleta
931-424-1600

Friday March 5-10

Fairfield Inn Marriott
2 Lee Blvd.
Savannah, GA 31405
Claire Gale
912-353-7100 x709

Friday March 26

Comfort Inn
5345 Broadmoor Circle, NW
Canton, Ohio 44709
Chris Menagay
330-492-1331

Thursday March 11-12

Comfort Suites
904 Murfreesboro Road
Lebanon, TN 37090
Connie Bullington
615-443-0027

Friday April 16

Red Roof Inn
155 West Leffel Ln.
Springfield, OH 45505
Julia
937-325-5356