



The

Snake Pit

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A Newsletter for Copperhead Baseball Fans

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Copperhead Classic Will Be Played At Randleman High

The installation of a synthetic infield surface at Asheboro's McCrary Park this spring has necessitated a change in the site for the fourth annual Copperhead Classic April 5-9.

This year's event will be played at Randleman High School's Brookshire Field, located on the RHS campus just off U.S. 220 bypass.

Nine schools, including all six Randolph County high schools, will participate in the five-day event.

"We'd like to thank the Randleman High administration, the athletic department and their booster club for stepping up to help us when it became obvious McCrary Park wasn't going to be available," said Copperheads GM David Camp. "They welcomed the opportunity to host the event, even on such short notice. We're confident that we'll have another successful Classic and one that will bring some additional benefit to the RHS program."

The Classic will begin with three games on Monday, April 5, and there will be two games per day Tuesday through Friday.

Asheboro, Southwestern Randolph and Eastern Randolph will all play three

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McCrary Park Getting CPL's First Artificial Infield Surface

A state-of-the-art synthetic infield surface will give Asheboro's 62-year-old McCrary Park, home of the Coastal Plain League's Asheboro Copperheads and the 2010 State American Legion baseball tournament, a unique, modern-day look.

The project was unanimously approved earlier this month by the Asheboro City Council and work began at the historic park on Monday, March 8. The installation process is expected to take approximately eight weeks with May 3 as the projected date of completion. The Copperheads are set to open the 2010 season at home on May 26 against the Wilmington Sharks.

It will be the first artificial surface in the Coastal Plain League.

The park's outfield surface will remain natural grass, but the synthetic surface, manufactured by the Georgia-based company FieldTurf Tarkett, will be installed from the infield in through the dugout areas. The pitcher's mound will remain natural. All field markings, including the foul lines and batter's box, will be inlaid in the turf. The traditional



Excavation of the old infield surface at McCrary Park (above) was the first step in the installation of FieldTurf, a synthetic surface like the one shown in the photo below.



dirt portion of the infield will be synthetic, but will be colored a reddish brown, taking on the appearance of a dirt surface.

"We're thrilled that the City decided to move forward with the project this spring and both excited and proud that we'll be the first team in the CPL to have an artificial infield surface," said Copperheads General Manager

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Copperheads Add To 2010 Roster

A second player from the University of New Mexico, plus five more players from two Conference-USA schools, and two from SEC-member Tennessee have been added to the roster for the 2010 Asheboro Copperheads.

Kenny Held, a JUCO transfer who got his career at New Mexico off to a great start when he delivered some clutch hits in the Lobos' season-opening success over pre-season No. 1 Texas, will be joining UNM teammate Ryan Honeycutt on the

Copperheads roster this summer. Held, who played two seasons at Central Arizona Junior College, has been platooning in right field in recent weeks. He drove in runs in both of the UNM victories over Texas and capped the big weekend off with a two-hit, two-RBI performance in the final game of the series. The 6-2, 215-pounder hit .333 and .364 in two seasons at Central Arizona. In high

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FieldTurf Surface For McCrary Park

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David Camp. "It is not only going to benefit the Copperheads, but it's going to be something that will have a long-term positive impact for the City of Asheboro and Randolph County. It should help open a lot of doors in our efforts to bring high-profile baseball events to Asheboro in the future.

"People are going to be truly amazed at how much this surface looks and feels like natural grass, and plays just like a natural surface," added Camp. "It's going to give us a perfect infield surface, regardless of weather conditions or the amount of play the field receives. This will also practically eliminate the chance for rain outs, unless it's just pouring rain at game time or during the game. Even if a game is delayed due to rain, the drainage system underneath the surface will allow baseball to be played literally minutes once the rain has stopped."

McCrary Park is already scheduled to host this year's North Carolina State American Legion Tournament July 24-28. To accommodate the tournament dates at McCrary Park, the CPL worked with the Copperheads with regard to scheduling. The Copperheads will play on the road July

23-29, but will play 11 of their first 17 July games at home.

Over the past decade, FieldTurf Tarkett has emerged as the worldwide leader in the synthetic athletic playing field industry with a brand of artificial turf designed to replicate natural grass. It is now used by many professional baseball and football teams in the U.S., as well as by a large number of colleges and universities. Appalachian State University in Boone has FieldTurf on both its football and baseball facilities, which were visited by a group of Asheboro City officials last fall when they first began to consider the project.

The surface is composed of monofilament polyethylene blend fibers tufted into a polypropylene backing. The infill is composed of a bottom layer of silica sand, a middle layer which is a mixture of sand and cryogenic rubber and a top layer of only rubber. The fibers are meant to replicate blades of grass, while the infill acts as a cushion. This cushion improves safety when compared to earlier artificial surfaces and allows players to plant and pivot as if they were playing on a grass field. It also dramatically reduces field maintenance costs.

2010 Roster Additions

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school, Held was named Arizona's 5-A Player of the Year as a senior.

Joining earlier announced signee Matt Ryan from perennial C-USA power Tulane, will be first baseman/catcher Karl Mundt and middle infielder Bowen Woodson. Ryan, who played with the Copperheads two seasons ago but missed last summer due to an injury, is off to a solid start this spring as Tulane's everyday first baseman, hitting .323 through the first 16 games.

The 6-foot, 185-pound Mundt hit .297 as a redshirt freshman and is seeing action in a back-up and DH role as a sophomore. Woodson, 5-11, 165, is a versatile freshman infielder from Vicksburg, MS, who had an outstanding prep career that earned him first-team 4-A all-state honors.

From Memphis, the Copperheads will welcome sophomore pitcher/first baseman Heith Hatfield, redshirt freshman lefthanded relief pitcher Michael Wills, and sophomore JUCO transfer Chris Castillo. The 6-3, 195-pound Hatfield will both start and come out of the bullpen for the Tigers. The 6-1, 180-pound Wills sat out last spring, but won six games for his summer collegiate team in the KIT League and made the all-star team. Castillo, a 5-10, 175-pound infielder, transferred to Memphis after a brilliant freshman season at Richland JC near Dallas, TX, where he helped his team to the NJCAA Division III national championship by hitting over .400 and belting 11 home runs. A hand injury has slowed him thus far in his first season at Memphis.

From the Tennessee Vols, the Copperheads will be getting sophomore transfer catcher Adam King and sophomore lefthanded pitcher Josh Allman. The 6-2, 200-pound King joined the Vols after spending a year at Young Harris JC in north Georgia. The Alpharetta, GA, native hit .319 for Young Harris and had a nice debut for UT this spring with hits in his first two at bats. The 5-11, 175-pound Allman hails from Bryson City, NC, and graduated from Swain County High School, where he went undefeated as a senior and was twice named all-conference. He is working out of the bullpen for the Vols this season.

Additional roster announcements will be made in the weeks ahead. Check the Copperhead and CPL websites for details.

For more news on the Copperheads and the complete 2010 schedule, visit our website at www.teamcopperhead.com

2010 Classic Shifts To Randleman High

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games during the Classic, while Randleman, Trinity and Providence Grove will each play twice.

Burlington Williams, North Moore and West Davidson are the out-of-county teams in the Classic. Williams will play three times, North Moore twice and West Davidson once.

The three Monday games will begin at 3, 5:15 and 7:30 p.m., while the Tuesday through Friday games will start at 5 and 7:15 p.m.

Eastern Randolph and Williams will get things started at 3 p.m. on the opening day, followed by Asheboro and Trinity at 5:15 and Southwestern vs. Providence Grove at 7:30.

Asheboro and Eastern Randolph will cap the event with the 7:15 p.m. game on Friday night.

The complete schedule is as follows:

Monday April 5

3:00 E. Randolph vs. Burlington Williams
5:15 Asheboro vs. Trinity
7:30 SW Randolph vs. Providence Grove

Tuesday April 6

5:00 Eastern Randolph vs. North Moore
7:15 Randleman vs. Burlington Williams

Wednesday April 7

5:00 SW Randolph vs. Trinity
7:15 Asheboro vs. West Davidson

Thursday April 8

5:00 Randleman vs. North Moore
7:15 Providence Grove vs. Burlington Williams

Friday April 9

5:00 SW Randolph vs. West Davidson
7:15 Asheboro vs. Eastern Randolph