

OFFICIAL GAME PROGRAM FOR YOUR CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS

# FIRST PITCH



VOL. 8, ISSUE 3



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# FIRST PITCH

PROGRAM DESIGN & EDITOR: Bill Walker  
Digital versions viewable at [CharlotteKnights.com/FirstPitch](http://CharlotteKnights.com/FirstPitch)  
TEAM PHOTOGRAPHER: Laura Wolff



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Knights Fans,

What a pleasure it is to get underway with our 2022 season! We can't wait for you to enjoy all of the great things that Truist Field has to offer during the spring and summer. As we like to say: "Experience the Game, the View, the Fun" of Knights Baseball.

Guiding the game on the field, Gastonia's own Wes Helms and his entire coaching staff return for their second season in Charlotte. Like last year when they helped develop the likes of Gavin Sheets, Jake Burger, Jimmy Lambert, and Seby Zavala for their Major League debuts, the coaches look forward to working with the next wave of talent. With the Knights help, their longtime MLB partner, the Chicago White Sox, have made the American League postseason the past two years.

As for the view, Truist Field is renowned for having the best in all of Minor League Baseball. We are so glad to have found this spot when preparing to move back into the city a decade ago. The Charlotte skyline was beautiful then and has gotten even better with all of the wonderful development Uptown has experienced since this ballpark opened. We're proud to have been part of the rebirth of the Center City and are blessed with the tremendous support of the region.

The fun of Knights Baseball is easy to find with our promotional events, delicious food and drinks, and seating options so close to the field you feel like part of the game. Whether you like Friday Night Fireworks, a great selection from Charlotte's breweries, or your favorite seat near the Knights' dugout, we have something for you, your family, and friends to enjoy. We appreciate you choosing to spend some time with us here at Truist Field and look forward to your next visit.

Go Knights!



Don Beaver  
Managing Member  
Charlotte Knights



Dan Rajkowski  
Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer  
Charlotte Knights

# JUNE

			1 <b>MEM</b> 6:35	2 <b>MEM</b> 7:04	3 <b>MEM</b> 7:04	4 <b>MEM</b> 7:04
5 <b>MEM</b> 1:05	6 off	7 lou 7:05	8 lou 7:05	9 lou 7:05	10 lou 7:05	11 lou 7:05
12 lou 1:05	13 off	14 <b>JAX</b> 7:04	15 <b>JAX</b> 7:04	16 <b>JAX</b> 7:04	17 <b>JAX</b> 7:04	18 <b>JAX</b> 7:04
19 <b>JAX</b> 5:05	20 off	21 wor 6:45	22 wor 6:45	23 wor 6:45	24 wor 6:45	25 wor 4:05
26 wor 1:05	27 off	28 <b>DUR</b> 11:05	29 <b>DUR</b> 7:04	30 <b>DUR</b> 7:04		

HOME

away

- 6-1 Ladies Night / Meet Mike Johnson
- 6-4 Atrium Health Levine Children's Youth Jersey to first 1,500 kids / Sahlen's Summer Saturday
- 6-16 FSI Office Night / T-Shirt to first 1,500 fans courtesy of FSloffice / Meet Kate "Meredith" Flannery
- 6-17 Vs. Cancer Night presented by Great Clips
- 6-18 Video Game Night / Sahlen's Summer Saturday
- 6-28 Splash Day
- 6-30 Bark in the Ballpark presented by Williams Subaru / \$1 Hot Dogs presented by Sahlen's


**POSTGAME FIREWORKS**

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# JULY

				<b>1</b> DUR 7:04	<b>2</b> DUR 7:04		
<b>3</b> DUR 6:05	 gwn 7:05	5 off	6 gwn 7:05	7 gwn 7:05	8 gwn 7:05	9 gwn 6:05	
10 gwn 1:05	11 off	12 LHV 7:04	13 LHV 7:04	14 LHV 7:04	15 LHV 7:04	16 LHV 12:05	
17 LHV 5:05	18 off	19 off	20 off	21 off	22 jax 7:05	23 jax 6:35	
24 jax 6:35	25 off	26 nas 8:05	27 nas 8:05	28 nas 8:05	29 nas 8:05	30 nas 8:05	
31 nas 7:05							

# AUGUST

	1 off	2 GWN 7:04	3 GWN 6:05	4 GWN 7:04	5 GWN 7:04	6 GWN 7:04	
7 GWN 5:05	8 off	9 lhv 7:05	10 lhv 7:05	11 lhv 7:05	12 lhv 7:05	13 lhv 6:35	
14 lhv 5:35	15 off	16 SYR 6:35	17 SYR 6:35	18 SYR 7:04	19 SYR 7:04	20 SYR 7:04	
21 SYR 5:05	22 off	23 mem 8:05	24 mem 8:05	25 mem 8:05	26 mem 8:05	27 mem 7:35	
28 mem 3:05	29 off	30 DUR 6:35	31 DUR 6:35				

# SEPTEMBER

			<b>1</b> DUR 12:05	<b>2</b> DUR 7:04	<b>3</b> DUR 5:35		
4 DUR 5:35	5 off	6 NAS 6:35	7 NAS 6:35	8 NAS 7:04	9 NAS 7:04	10 NAS 5:35	
11 NAS 6:05	12 off	13 nor 6:35	14 nor 6:35	15 nor 12:05	16 nor 7:05	17 nor 6:35	
18 nor 1:05	19 off	20 jax 7:05	21 jax 7:05	22 jax 7:05	23 jax 7:05	24 jax 6:35	
25 jax 1:05	26 DUR 6:35	27 DUR 6:05	28 DUR 11:05	29	30		



OPPONENTS

- DUR - Durham Bulls (Rays)
- GWN - Gwinnett Strippers (Braves)
- IND - Indianapolis Indians (Pirates)
- JAX - Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp (Marlins)
- LHV - Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Phillies)
- LOU - Louisville Bats (Reds)
- MEM - Memphis Redbirds (Cardinals)
- NAS - Nashville Sounds (Brewers)
- NOR - Norfolk Tides (Orioles)
- SYR - Syracuse Mets (Mets)
- WOR - Worcester Red Sox (Red Sox)

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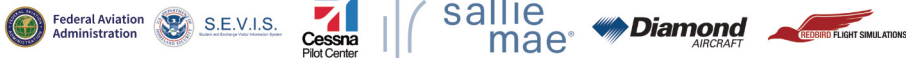
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TUESDAY, AUGUST 16



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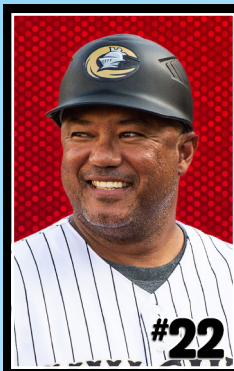
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# CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS COACHING STAFF



## **Julio Mosquera** ACTING MANAGER

Mosquera is in his first season with the Chicago White Sox and he began the 2022 campaign as the organization's catching coordinator. A native of Panama City, Panama, Mosquera previously spent 16 seasons in the New York Yankees system in a coaching capacity. Last season, he managed Somerset (Double-A, New York Yankees) to a first-place finish in their division.

As a player, Mosquera appeared in 12 major league games combined with the Toronto Blue Jays (1996-97) and Milwaukee Brewers (2005). He played 15 minor league seasons with six different organizations: Toronto, Tampa Bay, New York (AL), Texas, Seattle and Milwaukee.



## **Matt Zaleski** PITCHING COACH

Zaleski, 40, returns to the Knights after first being named Charlotte's pitching coach in 2020. He spent his first season as the team's pitching coach in 2021 after the 2020 season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Arlington Heights, IL native spent six seasons as a pitcher with the Knights from 2009-2014. He appeared in 92 games with the Knights and is the all-time leader in franchise history in games started (74) and is second in franchise history in innings pitched (437.2). Overall, Zaleski appeared in a total of 316 games as a minor league pitcher (2004-14). As a pitching coach, he began his career with Great Falls in 2016. He later spent time with Kannapolis (2017) and Winston-Salem (2018-2019).



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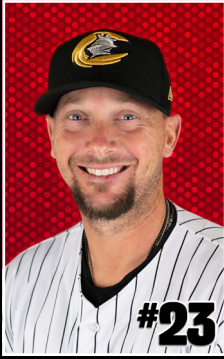


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## Chris Johnson HITTING COACH

Johnson, 37, returns to the Knights and the Chicago White Sox organization for his second consecutive season. He joined the organization for the 2021 season. As a player, Johnson spent parts of eight seasons in the majors with Houston (2009-11, 2012), Arizona (2012), Atlanta (2013-15), Cleveland (2015) and Miami (2016). He was originally drafted by the Astros in the fourth round of the 2006 MLB Amateur Draft out of Stetson University. The Naples, FL native compiled a .275 career batting average in 839 major league games.



## Cory Barton TRAINER

A native of Needmore, PA, Barton returns to the Knights for the 2022 season after being named to Charlotte's staff for the first time in 2020. Before that, he spent time as a trainer in the Chicago White Sox organization with Birmingham (2018-19), the AZL White Sox (2014-17), Kannapolis (2013), Winston-Salem (2011-12) and Bristol (2005-10). He was named as the Appalachian League Trainer of the Year in 2007 and 2009.



## Shawn Powell PERFORMANCE COACH

Powell, a native of Brighton, IL, enters his 11th year in Chicago's system. He first joined Charlotte's staff for the 2016 season. Before his time with the Knights, Powell spent two seasons as the strength and conditioning coach with High-A Winston-Salem (2012 and 2015) and two seasons with Double-A Birmingham (2013-14) in the same capacity. In addition, he spent 13 years with the New York Yankees as a strength and conditioning coach (1989-99) and assistant to their front office (2004-05). He also worked for the NBA's New Jersey Nets (1999-2003). More recently, Powell worked with Darryl Strawberry on the book "Don't Give Up on Me" in 2017.

  
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AS OF JUNE 2, 2022



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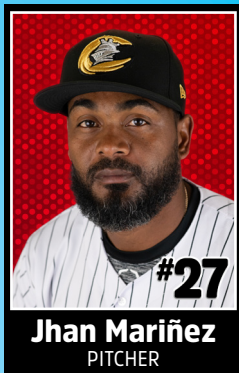
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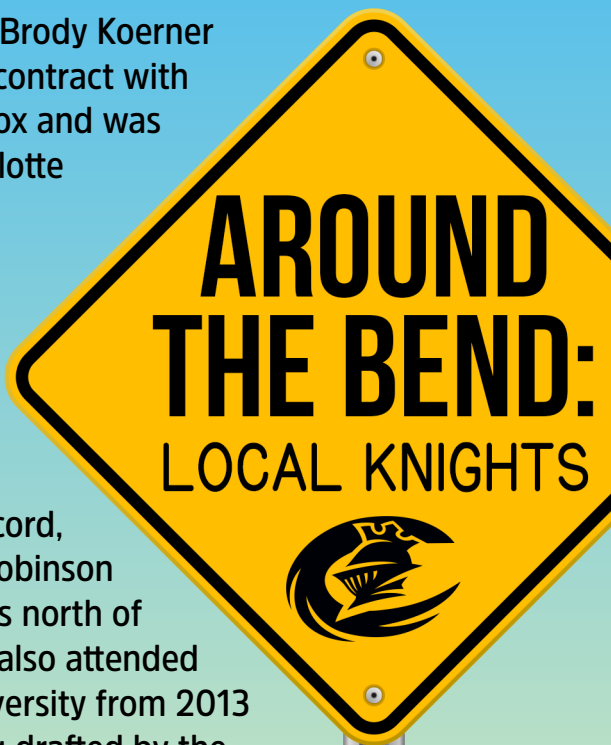


In early May, pitcher Brody Koerner signed a free-agent contract with the Chicago White Sox and was assigned to the Charlotte Knights. He has now found a spot in the starting rotation for the Knights this season.

Koerner is a local kid who grew up in Concord, NC going to Jay M. Robinson High School, 20 miles north of Truist Field. Koerner also attended nearby Clemson University from 2013 to 2015 before being drafted by the New York Yankees.

Playing close to family has been a big benefit this season for the pitcher.

*(continued on page 28)*





“It’s nice knowing the area, and having family be able to come to games is really nice,” said Koerner.

**BRODY KOERNER**  
PITCHES AGAINST THE INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS ON MAY 10 AT TRUIST FIELD

### **Local Accolades**

Koerner gained many accolades when he was younger, playing in the area.

While playing baseball for the Jay M. Robinson Bulldogs, he was recognized with two all-state selections and was awarded as the region pitcher of the year twice.

In 2015 during his final year with the Clemson Tigers, Koerner played exceptionally well in the series against in-state rival South Carolina, earning the Bob Bradley team’s series MVP award after throwing a four-hit complete-game shutout. In the game, he only allowed two Gamecocks to advance past first base while striking

out seven batters, leading the Tigers to a 7-0 victory and winning the series 2-1.

In that same game for South Carolina fellow Charlotte Knight, a young sophomore John Parke pitched a scoreless inning for the Gamecocks.

Following his strong junior year, Koerner was selected by the Yankees in the 17th round.

### **MLB Memories**

At famous Yankee Stadium, Koerner made his major league debut on August 3, 2021, as the Yankees hosted the Baltimore Orioles, where he threw two innings in relief.

“Pitching at Yankee Stadium was pretty awesome. I would say that was my favorite moment,” said Koerner.

Besides his debut, another unforgettable experience for Koerner was being on the Yankees roster and getting to travel to the Field of Dreams game when they took on the White Sox.

“It [Field of Dreams] was sweet. Everyone always talks about getting to walk out of the cornfield on tv. But when we got to do it beforehand was the coolest part, because you got to do it and experience it for yourself. Just walking around the whole area was cool, and the atmosphere was really cool for that game,” said Koerner.

### **Being Home**

Koerner, like many others, when talking about playing in Charlotte at Truist Field, falls in love with the view of the skyline in the outfield.

“You can’t beat the view. The view is definitely the bread and butter for sure. The facilities are nice; they take good care of us here,” said Koerner.

*(continued on page 31)*

---

# GREAT FOOD, FOR GREAT FANS!

---



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**"YOU CAN'T  
BEAT THE VIEW"**

**- KOERNER ON PLAYING  
AT TRUIST FIELD**



But playing  
in Charlotte for Koerner  
means a lot more than just  
playing in a beautiful stadium; he is  
getting to play at home, where he grew up,  
and where his friends and family are.

"It's definitely nice being able to have friends and family come out and see me. Whether it's people from church, guys I met while playing basketball in the offseason, or people I've met through the years that are like, hey, I want to come out to a game. It's cool to pitch in front of family and friends. It's kinda hard to fathom as a kid growing up like yeah, I want to pitch in the big leagues ... but pitching in Triple-A around everyone that you grew up with is awesome too," said Koerner. 🏆

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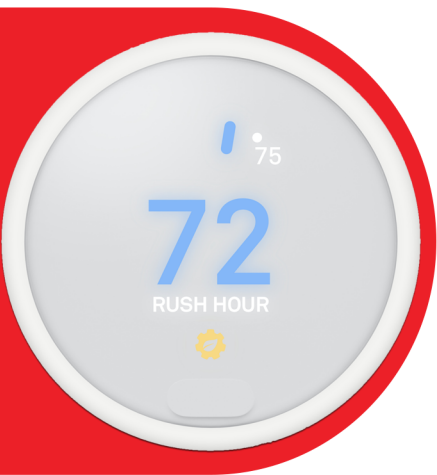
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THIRST  
OUT OF  
THE PARK.**



# KNIGHTS SPOTLIGHT

*Mark Payton*  
written by: Tommy Viola

Mark Payton has been a key addition to the Charlotte Knights this season. It was a solid first month of the season for Payton, but the Orland Park, IL native really thrived during the month of May.

Signed by the Chicago White Sox as a free agent this past offseason, Payton was assigned to the Knights to start this season after earning a non-roster invitation to Sox spring training. In his Charlotte debut on April 5 in Norfolk, the 30-year-old went 3-for-5 at the plate with an RBI. Two days later, he had two hits and two RBIs in the club's 13-7 win over the Tides on April 7.

Since debuting with the Knights in April, Payton has become a staple in the lineup and a solid defensive presence in the outfield as well. In fact, the Charlotte outfielder has really excelled in the month of May. In 19 games during the month, Payton hit a remarkable .382 (29-for-76) with 17 runs scored, four doubles, two triples, five home runs, 17 RBIs and four stolen bases.

*(continued on page 39)*





**KNIGHTS**  
MARK PAYTON

OUTFIELD



**BASEBALL BROTHERS**



MiLB

**MARK PAYTON**  
CHARLOTTE



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**JACK PAYTON**  
LOUISVILLE



# MARK PAYTON

Bats: Left Throws: Left Drafted: Yankees #7-June, 2014  
Born: 12-7-91, Orlando Park, IL College: Texas



## FIRST PITCH GAME PROGRAM: KNIGHTS SPOTLIGHT


Payton strung together a 12-game hitting streak with the Knights -- the team's highest of the season -- from May 3 to May 22. Over that 12-game stretch, Payton recorded 22 hits. He also went on a power stretch, hitting four home runs over a six-game span from May 15 to May 22.

### HOCKEY KNIGHT

Recently, Payton also had the honors of dropping the puck at Bojangles Coliseum for the Charlotte Checkers before the team's Round 2 matchup against the Bridgeport Islanders on Monday, May 16. The Checkers went on to win the game 4-0 to move on to Round 3 of the Atlantic Division Finals to face the Springfield Thunderbirds.

### ACC BASEBALL

During the ACC Baseball Championship held at Truist Field in the month of May, there was another Payton on the field playing baseball -- Jack Payton -- Mark's younger brother. A member of the University of Louisville baseball team, the younger Payton is following his brother's path, playing baseball at the collegiate level -- and excelling.

All and all, it has already been a solid season for Mark Payton in Uptown Charlotte. And, there's plenty more to come from the talented outfielder. 

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### **Beer Portable - Sec 101**

Appalachian Mt. Long Leaf IPA  
Austin East Pineapple  
Catawba White Zombie  
Michelob Ultra  
New Belgiim Fat Tire Amble Ale  
New Belgium Juicy Haze IPA  
Southern Tier Hazy Daze  
SweetWater 420 Extra Pale Ale  
Wicked Weed Coastal Love

### **Crafts of the QC - Sec 102**

Birdsong Paradise  
OMB Copper  
NoDa Jam Session  
Red Oak Hummingbird  
Red Oak Lager  
Sycamore Mt. Candy

### **Garage BBQ - Sec 103**

Blue Blaze Pink Blazer  
Blue Blaze Yellow  
Bud Light  
Golden Road Mango  
Stella Artois  
Summit No Shoes  
Wicked Weed Pernicious

### **Beer Portable - Sec 103**

Bud Light  
Budweiser  
Golden Road Mango  
Michelob Ultra  
Stella Artois  
Wicked Weed Daylight

### **Wicked Weed - Sec 104**

Wicked Weed Burst  
Wicked Weed Coastal Love  
Wicked Weed Dr. Dank  
Wicked Weed Pernicious

### **Flashpoint Grille - Sec 105**

Bud Light  
Michelob Ultra  
Yuengling

## A guide to finding the draft beers available at Truist Field

### **Budweiser Wagon - Sec 109**

Budweiser  
Birdsong All Knight Long  
Catawba White Zombie  
Golden Road Mango  
OMB Captain Jack  
OMB Copper  
NoDa Radio Haze  
Stella Artois  
Sycamore Mt. Candy  
Wicked Weed Coastal Love

### **Beers of the World - Sec 110**

Catawba Zombie  
OMB Captain Jack  
Southern Tier Hazy Daze

### **Smokies - Sec 110**

Blue Moon  
Bud Light  
Corona Premier

### **Domino's Pizza - Sec 111**

Golden Road Mango Cart  
NoDa Hop Drop 'n Roll  
NoDa Jam Session  
Southern Tier Hazy Daze  
Sycamore Mountain Candy

### **Franx - Sec 114**

Austin Eastciders  
Appalachian Mt. Long Leaf IPA  
Birdsong All Knight Long  
Birdsong Higher Ground IPA  
Catawba White Zombie  
Gilde Pilsener  
New Belgium Fat Tire  
New Belgium Juicy Haze IPA  
Red Oak Humming Bird  
Red Oak Lager  
Southern Tier Hazy Daze  
SweetWater 420 Extra Pale Ale  
Wicked Weed Coastal Love

### **Beer Portable - Sec 116**

Austin Eastciders Pineapple  
Blue Blaze Pink Blazer  
Blue Blaze Yellow Blazer  
New Belgium Juice Force IPA  
New Belgium Juicy Haze IPA  
Summit Seltzer No Shoes Allowed  
Summit Seltzer Shooobie  
SweetWater 420 Extra Pale Ale  
SweetWater Blue

### **BBQ - Sec 117**

NoDa Jam Session  
OMB Copper

### **Beer Portable - Sec 120**

Bud Light  
Golden Road Mango  
Stella Artois  
Wicked Weed Dr Dank

### **The Show - Sec 122**

Blue Moon  
Bud Light  
Miller Lite

### **OMB - Sec 123**

OMB Captain Jack  
OMB Copper  
OMB Hornets Nest

### **Circle K Corner Club - Sec 123**

Austin Eastciders Pineapple  
Bud Light  
Gilde Pilsener  
Miller Lite  
Stella Artois  
Sycamore Mt. Candy

### **Flashpoint Express - Centerfield**

Blue Moon  
Bud Light  
Golden Road Mango  
Leinekugel's Summer Shandy  
Miller Light  
Stella Artois  
Yuengling

# BALLPARK MAP

## CONCESSIONS AND FACILITY LOCATIONS

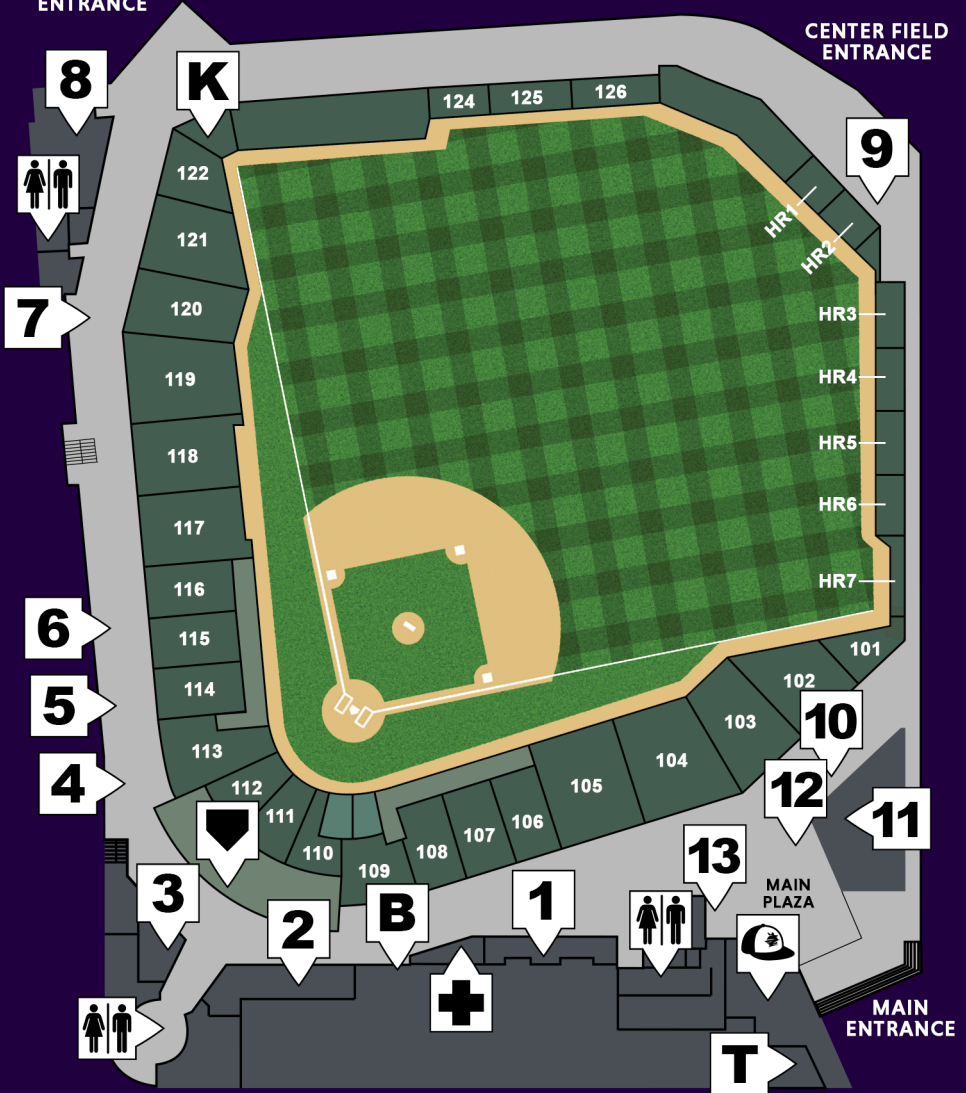
- |          |                       |           |                        |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | Flashpoint Grill      | <b>8</b>  | The Show               |
| <b>B</b> | Budweiser Wagon       | <b>K</b>  | Circle K Corner Club   |
| <b>2</b> | Beers of the World    | <b>9</b>  | Flashpoint Express     |
|          | Steakadelphia         | <b>10</b> | Popcorn & Dippin' Dots |
|          | Smokies Sausage Shack | <b>11</b> | Crafts of the QC       |
|          | Sweet                 |           | Garage BBQ Joint       |
| <b>3</b> | Domino's Pizza        | <b>12</b> | Beer Portable          |
| <b>4</b> | Fresh Market          | <b>13</b> | Wicked Weed            |
|          | Dippin' Dots          | ▼         | Budweiser HP Club      |
|          | Sweet                 | 🧢         | Knights Team Store     |
| <b>5</b> | Franx                 | <b>T</b>  | Knights Ticket Office  |
|          | Beer Portable         | ♂️        | Restrooms              |
| <b>6</b> | Salsa                 | +         | First Aid Room         |
|          | Draft Beer & Liquor   |           |                        |
| <b>7</b> | Beer Portable         |           |                        |

SEE PAGE 42  
FOR OUR BEER GUIDE  
ON HOW TO FIND  
YOUR FAVORITE  
DRAFT BREW



LEFT FIELD ENTRANCE

CENTER FIELD ENTRANCE



# TRUIST FIELD

324 South Mint Street, Charlotte NC 28202

## Field Dimensions

Left Field Line: 330 ft with 10-13 ft wall  
 Center Field: 400 ft with 12 ft wall  
 Right Field: 315 ft with 14 ft wall

Because  
getting in a  
baseball's way  
happens.



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