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FIRST PITCH



VOL. 9, ISSUE 2

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FIRST PITCH

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Digital versions viewable at CharlotteKnights.com/FirstPitch
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Knights Fans,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to beautiful Truist Field in Uptown Charlotte. As we begin our tenth year in this nationally-renowned ballpark and 25th year as affiliates of the Chicago White Sox, we're excited about the season ahead for the 2023 Charlotte Knights. Even more than usual, there's a lot of new things that you'll get to experience over the next several months.

When it comes to Truist Field itself, there are changes large and small that will help enhance your experience here before, during, and even after the game. Prior to each game, you'll notice enhanced entertainment, new food and beverage areas, and, of course, brand new merchandise with the refreshed, Charlotte Blue logo. The entertainment will include live music and activities each night as soon as you walk through the main gates at Mint and MLK. As you enjoy them, you can pick up your favorite beverage and snack at our new Grab & Go stand immediately to the right of the entrance gates. Before or during the game, be sure stop by the Knights Team Store to check out the wide selection of new logo hats, jerseys, t-shirts, and more.

On the field, the Knights will be under the direction of new manager, Justin Jirschele. The Wisconsin native played for the Knights in 2014-15 and most recently guided the Double-A Birmingham Barons in the White Sox system. He's looking forward to leading the Knights into contention for the 2023 International League title. As he does, it will be even more important for the Knights to get off to a good start as the league season will be split into two halves. The team with the best record in the league after the games of June 24 will be the first half champion. With that crown, the first half winner will get the right to host a three-game league championship series September 26-28.

In a final note, construction is being finished on The Paper Mill Pub here at Truist Field. Once completed, fans will be able to enjoy beverages and food offerings in the renovated space before and after Knights' games. The Pub will also be open year-round and provide an option for people living in the neighborhood and those in Uptown attending sporting events and other entertainment options. We look to be open in a matter of weeks, so get ready to check out the newest hangout on successive trips to Truist Field and Uptown.

Go Knights!



Don Beaver
Managing Member
Charlotte Knights



Dan Rajkowski
Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
Charlotte Knights

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MAY

	1 off	2 gwn 7:05	3 gwn 7:05	4 gwn 7:05	5 gwn 7:05	6 gwn 6:05
7 gwn 1:05	8 off	9 DUR 6:35	10 DUR 6:35	11 DUR 7:04	12 DUR 7:04	13 DUR 7:04
14 DUR 1:05	15 off	16 SWB 6:35	17 SWB 6:35	18 SWB 7:04	19 SWB 7:04	20 SWB 6:05
21 SWB 1:05	22 off	23 jax 7:05	24 jax 12:05	25 jax 7:05	26 jax 7:05	27 jax 6:35
28 jax 6:05	29 off	30 NAS 6:05	31 NAS 11:05	HOME	away	

5-11 Show About Nothing Night / Actor Phil Morris appearance / T-Shirt to first 1,000 fans
 5-12 Dino Day & Youth Cap to first 1,500 kids presented by Atrium Health Levine Children's
 5-13 Pink Knights / Baseball to first 1,000 ladies presented by Charlotte Radiology

May 16-21: Tribute to NY/NEPA

5-16 Hall of Famer Goose Gossage appearance
 5-17 Bark in the Park presented by Williams Subaru / \$1 Hot Dogs presented by Sahlen's
 5-18 70's Night
 5-19 Pretzel Night / Actor Leslie David Baker appearance / T-Shirt to first 1,500 fans presented by FSI Office
 5-20 Military Appreciation Night presented by Tito's Vodka
 5-30 Racing Night / Knights Car to first 1,000 fans

*** Game dates, times & promotions are subject to change.**

JUNE

HOME	away	1 NAS 7:04	2 NAS 7:04	3 NAS 7:04
4 NAS 1:05	5 off	6 gwn 7:05	7 gwn 7:05	8 gwn 7:05
11 gwn 1:05	12 off	13 dur 6:35	14 dur 6:35	15 dur 6:35
18 dur 5:05	19 off	20 LOU 7:04	21 LOU 12:05	22 LOU 7:04
25 LOU 5:05	26 off	27 off	28 nor 6:35	29 nor 12:05
				30 nor 6:35



May 30-June 6: Tribute to Nashville

- 6-1 Country Night
- 6-2 Star Wars Night
- 6-3 Levine Children's Night / Youth Jersey to first 1,500 kids presented by Atrium Health Levine Children's
- 6-23 Vs. Cancer Night presented by Great Clips
- 6-24 Video Game Night
- 6-25 Faith & Family Night



JULY

1 nor 6:35	2 nor 6:35	3 nor 6:35	4 JAX 6:35	5 JAX 7:04	6 JAX 7:04	7 JAX 7:04	8 JAX 7:04
9 JAX 1:05	10 off	11 off	12 off	13 off	14 lhv 7:05	15 lhv 6:35	
16 lhv 1:35	17 off	18 MEM 7:04	19 MEM 7:04	20 MEM 7:04	21 MEM 7:04	22 MEM 7:04	
23 MEM 5:05	24 off	25 dur 6:35	26 dur 6:35	27 dur 6:35	28 dur 6:35	29 dur 6:35	
30 dur 5:05	31 off				HOME	away	

- 7-4 Military Appreciation Night presented by Tito's Vodka / SkyShow 2023 presented by NewsTalk 1110 WBT
- 7-5 Military Appreciation Night presented by Tito's Vodka
- 7-6 80's Night / Bark in the Park presented by Williams Subaru / \$1 Hot Dogs presented by Sahlen's
- 7-7 Strike Out The Stigma Night presented by Charlotte Area Treatment Centers
- 7-9 Princess Day
- July 18-20: Tribute to Memphis
- 7-20 90's Night / Jim Thome Bobblehead to first 2,000 fans presented by Pepsi
- July 21-23: Christmas in July
- 7-22 Knights Snow Globe to first 2,000 fans

* Game dates, times & promotions are subject to change.

AUGUST

		1 nor 6:35	2 nor 6:35	3 nor 12:05	4 nor 6:35	5 nor 6:35
6 nor 4:05	7 off	8 GWN 7:04	9 GWN 12:05	10 GWN 7:04	11 GWN 7:04	12 GWN 7:04
13 GWN 6:05	14 off	15 nas 7:35	16 nas 7:35	17 nas 7:35	18 nas 7:35	19 nas 7:35
20 nas 7:05	21 off	22 MEM 6:35	23 MEM 6:35	24 MEM 7:04	25 MEM 7:04	26 MEM 7:04
27 MEM 12:05	28 off	29 jax 7:05	30 jax 7:05	31 jax 7:05		



8-10 **Baseball great Andruw Jones appearance**
 8-11 **Wizard Night**
 8-12 **Marvel Night**
 8-13 **Pirate Night**

Aug 25-27: Caballeros de Charlotte

OPPONENTS

DUR	Durham Bulls (Rays)
COL	Columbus Clippers (Guardians)
GWN	Gwinnett Stripers (Braves)
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)
SWB	Scranton-WB (Yankees)

SEPTEMBER

HOME	away						1 jax 7:05	2 jax 6:35
3 jax 6:35	4 off	5 DUR 6:35	6 DUR 6:35	7 DUR 7:04	8 DUR 7:04	9 DUR 5:35		
10 DUR TBD	11 off	12 NAS 6:35	13 NAS 6:35	14 NAS 7:04	15 NAS 7:04	16 NAS 5:35		
17 NAS TBD	18 off	19 mem 7:45	20 mem 1:05	21 mem 7:45	22 mem 8:05	23 mem 7:05		
24 mem 3:05	25	26	27	28	29	30		

- 9-6 Bark in the Park presented by Williams Subaru / \$1 Hot Dogs presented by Sahlen's
- 9-7 60's Night
- 9-8 HBCU Night / Baseball to first 1,000 fans thanks to Truist
- 9-12 Game presented by Humana
- 9-13 Bark in the Park presented by Williams Subaru / \$1 Hot Dogs presented by Sahlen's
- 9-15-17: *Fan Appreciation Weekend*
- 9-16 Jerry the Jester Bobblehead to first 2,000 fans presented by Pepsi



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A promotional image for the Charlotte Knights Racing Night. It features a baseball player in a white pinstripe uniform with 'KNIGHTS' and the number 7, running towards the right. The background is a black and white checkered racing flag. To the right of the player, the text 'CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS RACING NIGHT' is displayed in white and blue. Below the text is a diecast model of a white and gold race car with the number 16 and the name 'NOAH GR' on it. The car is shown from a front-three-quarter view. A small box above the car says 'NASCAR 2022 SEASON' and 'Ages 4+'. Below the car, the text '1:64 SCALE SIZE CAR' is visible.

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A promotional image for Star Wars Night. The text 'STAR WARS NIGHT' is displayed in large, white, block letters. Below it, the text 'JUNE 2' and 'KNIGHTS vs SOUNDS' is shown. To the right, a character in a Mandalorian armor suit is standing next to a silver, spherical droid containing a small green alien (Baby Yoda). In the bottom left corner, there are two circular logos: the Charlotte Knights logo (a blue circle with a white 'C' and 'KNIGHTS') and the Nashville Sounds logo (a red circle with a white 'N' and 'SOUNDS'). The background is a desert landscape with a tall, thin antenna tower in the distance.

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Justin Jirschele MANAGER

Justin Jirschele, who played for the Charlotte Knights over parts of two seasons (2014-15), enters his seventh season in the Chicago White Sox organization and first as manager of the Knights. He guided Kannapolis to playoff appearances in each of his two seasons as manager.

YR	TEAM	LEVEL	G	W - L	WIN%
2017	Kannapolis	A	137	68 - 69	.496
2018	Kannapolis	A	137	74 - 63	.540
2019	Winston-Salem	A+	133	72 - 61	.541
2021	Birmingham	AA	118	62 - 56	.525
2022	Birmingham	AA	138	61 - 77	.442
<hr/>					
TOTALS: 663 337 - 326 .508					



Cam Seitzer HITTING COACH

Seitzer, a native of Overland Park, KS, enters his fifth season with the White Sox organization and first with Charlotte in 2023. The 33-year-old spent the 2022 season with Kannapolis as the team's hitting coach. Previously, he spent one season as the hitting coach at Double-A Birmingham (2021) and one season in the same capacity at Great Falls (2019). As a player, the University of Oklahoma product played eight seasons in the minors from 2011-18 and combined to hit .270 (636-for-2359). His final two playing seasons were spent in the White Sox organization (2017-18). His father, former All-Star Kevin Seitzer, played 12 major league seasons with Kansas City, Milwaukee, Cleveland and Oakland.



Matt Zaleski PITCHING COACH

Zaleski, 41, returns to the Knights in 2023 as the team's pitching coach. This will be Zaleski's fourth season as the Knights' Pitching Coach. He began his coaching career in 2016 as pitching coach for Great Falls (Rookie). He later spent 2017 as the pitching coach for Kannapolis and the 2018-19 seasons as pitching coach at Winston-Salem. Before his time as a pitching coach, the Arlington Heights, IL native appeared in a total of 316 games as a minor league pitcher (2004-14). He spent six of his 11 minor league seasons as a pitcher with the Knights from 2009-2014. He is the all-time leader in Knights franchise history in games started (74) and he also ranks second in franchise history in innings pitched (437.2).

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Donnie Veal PITCHING COACH

Veal, 38, enters his third season in Chicago's system and first as White Sox assistant pitching coordinator. The Jackson, MS native spent the 2022 season as the White Sox rehab pitching coach. Before returning to the organization for the 2021 season, Veal spent two seasons as a professional scout with the New York Yankees (2019-20).

As a player, Veal was originally selected by the Chicago Cubs in the second round of the 2005 MLB June Amateur Draft. He was signed by the White Sox as a free agent on November 10, 2011 and spent parts of three seasons with the Knights from 2012-15.



Hyeon Kim TRAINER

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.



George Timke PERFORMANCE COACH

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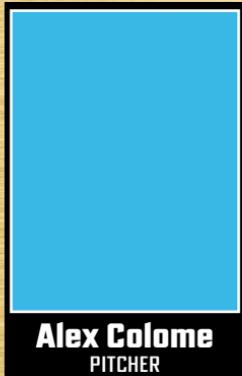
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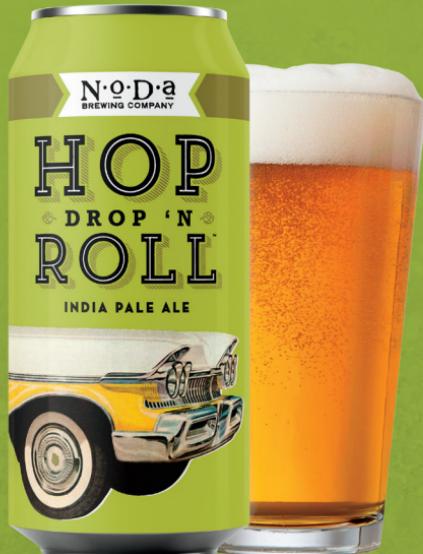


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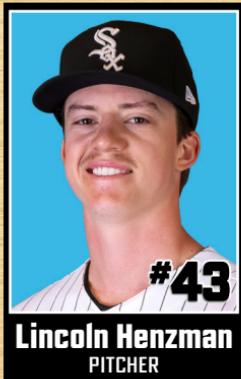
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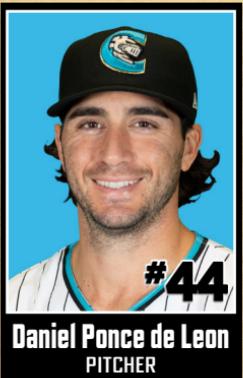


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KNIGHTS SPOTLIGHT

month of April

written by: Sam Perry

The Charlotte Knights got off to a solid start and have had some major standout performers on the mound and at the plate in the month of April. Here's a look at some of the top players through the team's first 21 games of the 2023 season.

OFFENSIVE LEADERS:

Zach Remillard

Infielder Zach Remillard picked up where he left off last season, being a key table setter for the Knights this season. The Coastal Carolina product was leading the team in runs scored (15), walks (15), stolen bases (six) and was tied for the most doubles (five) over Charlotte's first 21 games of the season. Through April 23, Remillard was hitting .302 with three home runs and 10 RBI. The former 2016 College World Series champion had two masterful performances at the plate, the first on April 2 at Truist Field against the

(continued on page 26)





Memphis Redbirds. Remillard went 4-4 to win the Sunday matchup with a double and two runs scored, including the winning run coming in to score in the eighth inning on a wild pitch. The other came against the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, where Remillard hit two home runs and ended the night going 3-5 with four RBI and a double on April 11.

Víctor Reyes

Outfielder Víctor Reyes joined the White Sox organization this past offseason coming from the Detroit Tigers. Reyes has wasted no time in leaving his mark in Uptown, being a power bat in the lineup, shining brightly under the cityscape. Through April 23, the switch hitter was leading the team in batting average (.320), RBI (13) and was tied for second with three home runs. He also recorded four doubles through the team's first 21 games, helping be a vital cog in the lineup for Charlotte. On April 1, Reyes played a crucial role in securing the opening series win, where they came through with a 5-4 win. In the game, Reyes hit a two-run homer to put the team ahead early in the second inning, then added a third RBI later in the fourth inning.

PITCHING LEADERS:

Davis Martin

Right-handed pitcher Davis Martin looked sharp over his first three starts for the Knights this season. Once again, he has been a successful part of the team's rotation



posting a 2.81 ERA in 16.0 innings pitched. Against the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp on April 14 at Truist Field, Martin threw six scoreless innings while striking out 11 batters on 101 pitches while only allowing three hits. Charlotte went on to win the game 3-2 in extra innings. In that game, Martin had the wipeout slider working fanning seven batters on the pitch.

Nick Padilla

Nick Padilla has been a critical arm providing big-time relief performances out of the bullpen. Padilla, who earned a promotion to the White Sox for the team's doubleheader on Wednesday, April 19, returned to the Knights and has been solid. Over his first eight appearances of the season for the Knights, Padilla threw nine strong innings, posting a 2.00 ERA. The right-handed pitcher went scoreless in seven of nine games pitched, not allowing a hit in five of his appearances. He has proved to be a valuable arm out of the bullpen for the Knights this season.





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written by Tommy Viola

For an entire weekend, Truist Field went back in time. On April 15 and April 16, the Charlotte Knights continued celebrating the legacy of Negro Leagues Baseball. Jackie Robinson's contributions were honored on Jackie Robinson Day, April 15. A day later, the team welcomed one former Negro Leagues player, numerous Negro Leagues ambassadors, historians and even a local filmmaker to the ballpark to celebrate the history of Negro Leagues Baseball. For the first time in the eight years of Negro Leagues Baseball Tributes at Truist Field, the Knights took the field as the Charlotte Black Hornets. Even more special, the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp donned Jacksonville Red Caps uniforms. It was a weekend that would have made Eddie G.G. Burton proud.

When the Knights opened Truist Field in 2014, a former Negro Leagues player and Charlotte resident was eager to tell his story. He was eager to share his

ideas and visions for a yearly celebration of Negro Leagues Baseball. On the first Negro Leagues Day in Truist Field history on April 15, 2014, Eddie G.G. Burton was honored. All Knights players wore #42 for the game. In the next years, Burton brought some of his legendary friends to be honored. In 2015, the Knights hosted a big celebration. It was the start of something special.

Each year, Ray Banks brings his historic traveling museum from Baltimore to tell the story of the Negro Leagues. Banks was on hand again this year, telling the story of the players and teams that made history. His passion to tell the story of Negro Leagues Baseball is like no other. Local filmmaker

(continued on page 32)



BLACK
HORNETS
CHARLOTTE BASEBALL

Ashleigh Gilliam, along with some of the actors from her film, *Toni. Mami. Connie.*, were also on hand to share their thoughts. Michael Webb, a local Negro Leagues historian who has been a part of the annual tribute event since 2014, was also on hand. He threw out the first pitch at the first event in 2014 and has been an integral part of the event's success.



left to right:
2015 Tribute,
Eddie G. G. Burton,
and 2023 Tribute



Over the years, the celebration continued to grow. More fans came out to hear the stories. More media were on hand to tell the stories. More historians, ambassadors and Negro Leagues' supporters came out. Sadly, over the years, some of the players the Knights have honored have passed away. Even the event's founder, Eddie G.G. Burton left us in 2018. As the Knights continue to keep their memories alive, the team held a moment of silence on April 16 for those who have taken part in this special event that have sadly passed away – Jimmy Bland, Carl "Satch" Forney, Larry LeGrande and Eddie G.G. Burton. As the ceremony came to a close and Council Member James Mitchell read the Proclamation on behalf of the City of Charlotte, the Knights announced that

(continued on page 36)



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**KNOCKING
THIRST
OUT OF
THE PARK.**

the Eddie G.G. Burton Memorial Scholarship would be established. Burton was passionate about sports and athletics, and the Knights are passionate to keep his memory and dreams alive.

The Burton family was once again honored. Eddie's wife, Gaile, and son, Keith, were there to continue his legacy. A big smile on their face as the scholarship was announced. A great way to honor a great man. The annual celebration could not continue without the support of Gaile, who continues to tell the story about Eddie to all who will hear.

All and all, the 8th Annual Negro Leagues Tribute Weekend was one for the ages. Seeing the current players embrace the legends on hand was remarkable. The uniforms. The tributes. It truly was a special day. 





top: Ray Banks with his museum
bottom: Tony Burton viewing the Negro
Leagues Tribute wall at Truist Field



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SCORE REWARD

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SCORE REWARDS

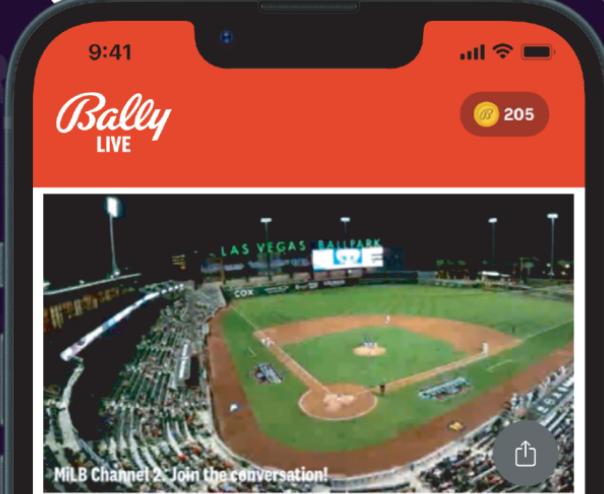
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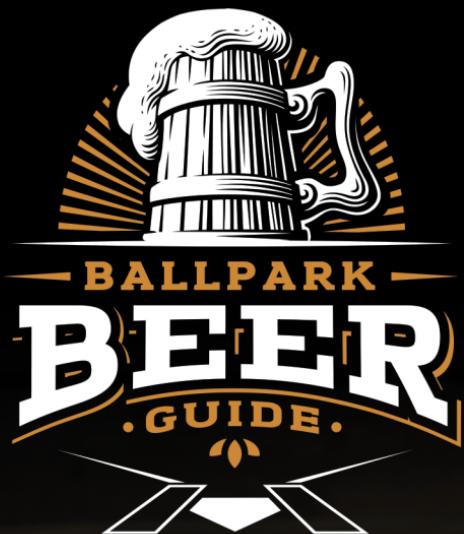
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Blue Blaze Pink Blazer
Blue Blaze Yellow
Bud Light
Golden Road Mango
Stella Artois
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Wicked Weed Pernicious

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 Shoobie
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

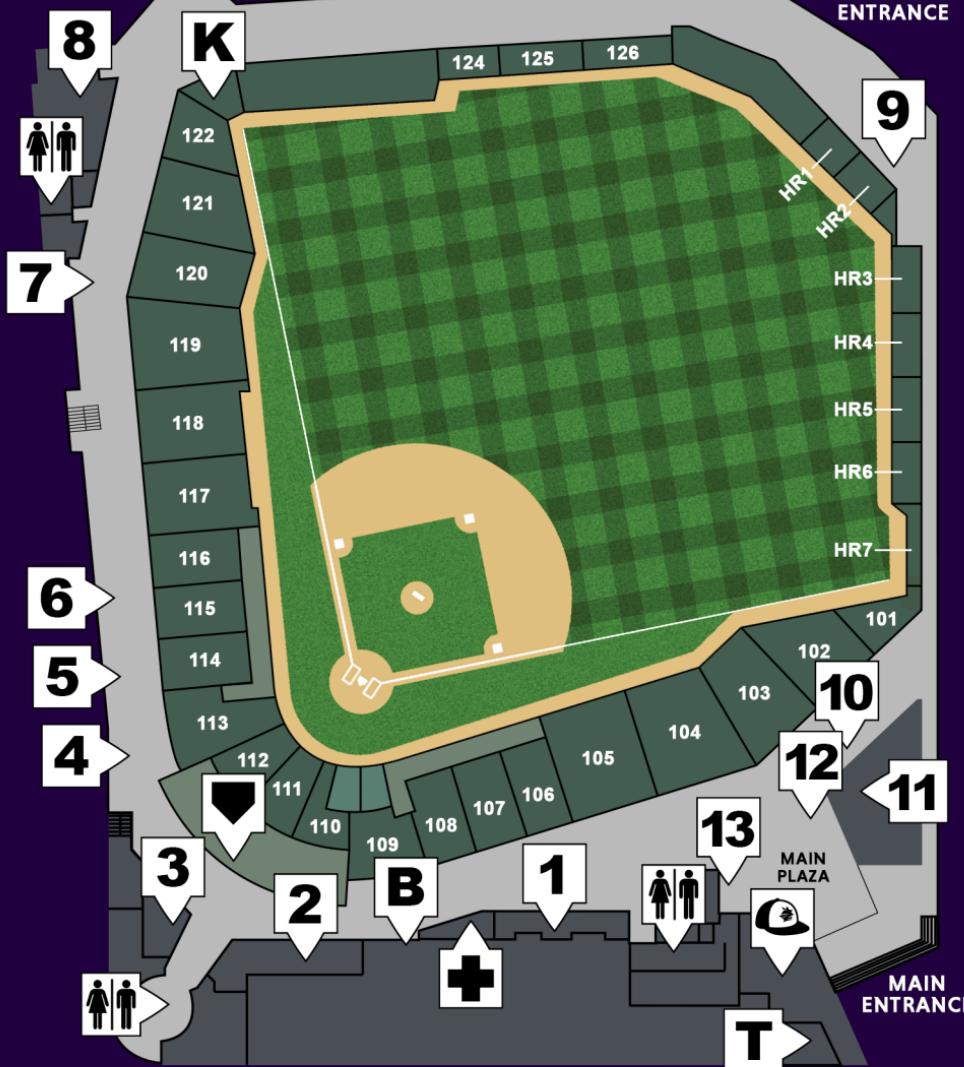
CONCESSIONS AND FACILITY LOCATIONS

- 1** Flashpoint Grill
- B** Budweiser Wagon
- 2** Beers of the World
Steakadelphia
- Smokies Sausage Shack
- Sweet
- 3** Domino's Pizza
- 4** Grab 'N Go
Kona Ice
- 5** Franx
Beer Portable
- 6** Salsa
BBQ
- 7** Draft Beer & Liquor
Beer Portable
Burgertopia
- 8** The Show
- K** Circle K Corner Club
- 9** Flashpoint Express
- 10** Popcorn & Dippin' Dots
- 11** Crafts of the QC
Grab 'N Go
- 12** Beer Portable
- 13** Wicked Weed
- ▼ Budweiser HP Club
- Knights Team Store
- Knights Ticket Office
- Restrooms
- ✚ First Aid Room



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

Bringing care to banking? That's a home run.

**When you start with care,
you get a different kind of bank.**



Official Bank of the Charlotte Knights

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