

February 26, 2010

### MLB Facility Notes: Officials Surprised By Opposition To Cubs Plan

Mesa Mayor Scott Smith and Arizona state House Majority Leader John McComish said that they were "taken by surprise at the level of [opposition to a plan](#)" to keep the Cubs from moving their Spring Training to Florida, and "blamed the reaction on a lack of understanding about what the bill actually does." McComish said that he will "meet with Cactus League teams and others who have criticized his funding bill to hear the alternative proposals." Meanwhile, Smith said that he "believes he is close to an agreement with Goldwater Institute lawyer Clint Bolick," who has said that efforts to "help the Cubs and other Cactus League teams could violate the Arizona Constitution." In Phoenix, Nelson & Walsh noted the legislation to keep the Cubs would "add a \$1 surcharge to car-rental fees in Maricopa County and an 8[%] surcharge to all Cactus League tickets" (*ARIZONA REPUBLIC, 2/24*).



**Officials Facing Opposition To A Plan To Keep Cubs From Moving Spring Training To Florida**

**GRAND OPENING:** MLB.com's Joe Frisaro reported Marlins officials last week "began discussing some possibilities for on-field ceremonies for the first game in the new ballpark, which opens in '12." Marlins President David Samson: "We think about it, and are seeing what we can do." Frisaro noted "tossed around were the ideas of a flyover, and the feasibility of having military personnel parachuting through the open roof and onto the field." Samson added, "We talked about concessions. We'll need all of our employees on Opening Day monitoring concession stands, sort of monitoring the flow of fans -- where they are, and what they're doing" (*MLB.com, 2/22*).

**COLLECTIONS DOWN:** In Milwaukee, Don Walker cited figures released Wednesday as indicating that the amount of tax revenue collected for the Miller Park stadium district "plummeted in 2009, a direct result of a deep recession and lower consumer spending." The district "received just over \$1.85[M] in sales-tax collections from December 2009, 18% below the same time period a year ago." For all of '09, the district "finished the year 9.45% behind 2008's sales-tax collection amount" (*MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL, 2/25*).

**WILLING HOST:** Pirates President Frank Coonelly said that the team has "informed the NHL about their interest in playing host to the next Winter Classic, which, they hope, could star" the Capitals and the Penguins. Penguins VP/Communications Tom McMillan said, "We have two great facilities to hold that -- Heinz Field and PNC Park. That's up to the league to make the choice of where they want it." In Pittsburgh, Chuck Finder noted NHL officials are "expected to confer and make a determination" on the site of the next Winter Classic "next month" (*PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE, 2/22*).

**NEW BOARD INSTALLED:** In Seattle, Greg Johns reported the Mariners "began work Thursday on installation of a new 'out of town' scoreboard above the bullpens in left field that will provide more information in full color while using about one-tenth of the energy of the old board." The new LED scoreboard "will be about the same size (99 feet wide and nearly 12 feet tall) and feature scores of Major League games in progress as before," but the new board "will be able to display additional information such as the current pitcher, bats, outs and runners on base and also will have full-animation capabilities." **ANC Sports** Enterprises is installing the board (*SEATTLEPI.com, 2/25*).