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The Miracle release action-packed 2015 schedule

Six fireworks shows and celebrity appearances highlight this year's promotions

FORT MYERS, Fla. (April 3, 2015) – The Fort Myers Miracle are pleased to announce the release of the 2015 season schedule featuring a promotional calendar that is sure to entertain, dazzle and delight fans at Hammond Stadium this summer. Beginning on April 9 and ending on Sept. 6, the 24th season of Miracle baseball will feature 140 games in 150 days including 70 home dates at the newly renovated Hammond Stadium at the CenturyLink Sports Complex. “Thanks to the Minnesota Twins and Lee County, we now have the finest facility in minor league baseball,” said Miracle General Manager Andrew Seymour. “Not only do we boast a state-of-the-art facility for the ultimate fan experience, but we have a creative front office staff, a fan-first owner and a premier promotional schedule. We proudly cover all of Southwest Florida’s summer calendar for affordable, family fun.”

The newly renovated Hammond Stadium was officially opened on Feb. 23 and hosted 17 Spring Training games. The facility now has a 300 terrace level with drink rail seating, a 400 level SkyDeck, wider concourses, state-of-the-art concession stands, multiple elevators, a new Team Store and a beautiful grand entrance into the seating bowl as well as the outfield boardwalk which was completed prior to Spring Training in 2014.

The Miracle open the season on Thursday, April 9 on the road at Charlotte Sports Park for a 6:30 first pitch with the Charlotte Stone Crabs. On Friday, April 10, the Miracle host the Stone Crabs for Opening Night at 7:05 p.m. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m. and the first of six fireworks shows during the summer will light up the Southwest Florida sky after the game. Opening Night is presented by Wendy’s, MetroPCS, iHeartMedia and FOX 4.

Wendy’s and MetroPCS has teamed up with the Miracle and acquired tickets to Opening Night and will distribute them at no cost to their customers. Fans can pick up a general admission ticket at local Wendy’s restaurants and MetroPCS locations in Lee and Collier counties. For \$2, fans can upgrade a complimentary ticket to a box seat by visiting the Hammond Stadium ticket office beginning today at 9 a.m. The first 5,000 fans to enter the gates will receive a 2015 Miracle magnetic schedule courtesy of the Florida Forest Service and Fresh from Florida.

Five more fireworks shows are on the schedule during the summer. Celebrate Memorial Weekend Fireworks on Saturday, May 23 presented by Dairy Queen, Galeana, iHeartMedia and Coors Light. Breast Cancer Awareness Night, sponsored by Lee Memorial Hospital, MORE-FM and WINK-TV returns on Saturday, June 6 with fireworks following a 6:05 p.m. game with the Bradenton Marauders.

On Saturday, July 4, enjoy a hassle-free patriotic pyrotechnic display with Independence Weekend Fireworks presented by CenturyLink, Budweiser, Beasley Media Group and FOX 4.

The newly renovated Hammond Stadium offers a comfortable seat, assured parking, clean restrooms and plenty of food options to celebrate the birth of the United States!

Join the Miracle to light up the night sky on August 15 with the return of Beer, Baseball and Boom presented by Killebrew Root Beer and Beasley Media Group. The Craft Beer Festival brings a delicious beer-tasting before and during a 6:05 p.m. game against the Palm Beach Cardinals. The final fireworks show of the 2015 schedule our Fan Appreciation Night and set for Saturday, April 29 at 6:05 p.m. presented 94.5 The Arrow.

The 2014 Florida State League Champion Miracle host 11 home dates in April including a giant replica ring giveaway on Saturday, April 11. To commemorate the first ever FSL Championship in team history, the Miracle will give away an oversized replica of the championship ring given to the players to the first 500 fans. On Thursday, April 16, the ballpark will host a Prep/Pro Doubleheader as East Lee High School will battle Gateway High School at 3:30 p.m. prior to the Miracle matching up with the Tampa Yankees at 7:05 p.m.

The first of five Dog Daze of Summer is on Saturday, April 18. Fans are welcome to bring their pooches to the park. The other Dog Daze dates are May 21, June 18, July 24 and Aug. 14. The first Thirsty Thursday in a busy 15-game May is set to be a memorable evening as the Miracle celebrate Irish Heritage Night on May 7. Fans are encouraged to wear their green and there will be Irish-themed drink and food specials.

The highlight of the May schedule comes on Friday, May 8 when Butch Patrick comes to Hammond Stadium. Known for his role as Eddie Munster on the 1960s television show The Munsters, Butch will sign autographs, pose for pictures and throw out a first pitch prior to a 7:05 p.m. game with the Jupiter Hammerheads.

Also on May 8, the Miracle team up with Lehigh Rotary for Take a Kid to the Night. The next evening, the first of two bobblehead fundraisers with Fort Myers' very own duo of debauchery Stan and Haney goes down at the CenturyLink Sports Complex. For a donation that benefits the D.R.A.F.T. fund, fans can pick up a bobblehead of their favorite 96 K-ROCK hosts, Stan or Haney... or both!

The second D.R.A.F.T. fundraising bobblehead brawl will be Sunday, Aug. 23. The Stan and Haney bobblehead giveaway is sponsored by 96 K-ROCK and National Deli. The first year of the Strike Out Bullying campaign also falls on May 9. Kids that sign the anti-bullying pledge at their schools will receive a complimentary general admission ticket and can participate in a pregame parade.

Wake up early on Wednesday, May 13 for Education Day! Breakfast and baseball starts at 10:35 a.m. and Friday, May 22 brings Tobacco-Free Lee Night back to Hammond Stadium sponsored by the Florida Department of Health.

June boasts 12 home games including an appearance from Twins legend Tony Oliva. On Saturday, June 13, Oliva and the Miracle will celebrate Latino Heritage Night presented by Mundo FOX. Oliva played in 1,676 games in the Major Leagues and won the American League

batting title three times. Tony will be taking pictures with fans and signing autographs prior to a 6:05 p.m. first pitch with Bradenton.

Two June dates jump off the calendar and return from a year ago. On Tuesday, June 2, the Miracle bring back 10-cent Beer Night. Fans will pay by the ounce for their brew and the cost is just 10 cents per ounce! On Friday, June 26, the Miracle, Earth Elements Landscape Supply and Y100 bring fans a Miracle cap giveaway. The first 750 fans through the gates will receive a snazzy new lid.

For the kids, the first of two Books & Bats Nights presented by Sylvan Learning Center is in June. On Monday, June 15, kids that complete their summer reading program will receive a free general admission ticket. The second Books & Bats date is Friday, Aug. 14. Later in June, the Miracle turn the CenturyLink Sports Complex into a wet and wild waterpark with Big Splash. Huge water slides, fire hoses and other saturation stations will be set up at 9 a.m. and the Miracle host the Palm Beach Cardinals at 11:35 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24.

Baseball Camp for kids ages 6-8 begins on Tuesday, June 16 and ends on Thursday, June 18. The second camp for ages 9-12 starts on Monday, July 27 and goes until Wednesday, July 29.

July brings 16 games to the CenturyLink Sports Complex including another great giveaway. Friday, July 10 is Youth T-Shirt giveaway night presented by CenturyLink. The first 500 fans, ages 12 and under, will receive a Miracle t-shirt jersey.

Great Scott! The Miracle are taking you Back to the Future with a tribute to Marty McFly himself on Saturday, July 11 presented by Good Deals Appliances, Whirlpool, Jenn-Air and iHeartMedia. It's been 30 years since Back to the Future hit the silver screen, and the Miracle will don special themed jerseys that will be auctioned off during the game.

A second giveaway for kids highlights the tail end of the month on Saturday, July 25. Sponsored by Kohl's and B-103.9 FM, the Miracle will hand out a "back to school" backpack stuffed with supplies and great deals to the first 500 fans, ages 12 and under.

The Miracle wrap up the regular season schedule with 16 games in August and September.

The Miracle return daily special favorites like 2-for-1 Tuesday, Ladies Night Wednesdays, Thirsty Thursdays, Fill'er Up Fridays and SINK or SWIM Saturdays. New this year are Dairy Queen Sundays, where fans can pick up complimentary tickets for Sunday home games this season. For more information on daily specials, visit www.miraclebaseball.com.

For the fourth year, the Junior Miracle Kid's Club is 100 percent FREE to join for children 12 and under. The club membership includes free admission to all Friday and Sunday home games. Kids are invited to run the bases following Friday and Sunday games and partake in pre-game catch in the outfield on Sundays. At each Kid's Club game, members will receive a voucher for each game in which they are in attendance and the first 150 registrants receive a coupon from Dick's Sporting Goods.

“The defending Florida State League champion Miracle, led by Southwest Florida’s own Jeff Smith, are ready to show our fans another fantastic summer,” said Seymour.

Standard start times for games at Hammond Stadium in 2015 are 7:05 p.m. for Monday through Friday games. Saturday games will begin at 6:05 p.m. and Sunday games will start at 4:05 p.m. Please visit www.miraclebaseball.com to see the 2015 schedule as some dates have special start times.

Ticket prices in advance for 2015 remain the same: \$8.50 (\$9.50 for fireworks nights) for Box Seats/Drink Rail Seating and \$6.50 (\$7.50 for fireworks nights) for General Admission/Lawn Seating sections. All ticket prices increase by \$1.50 on day of game. For more information on the 2015 season, visit www.miraclebaseball.com or call the Miracle offices at [\(239\) 768-4210](tel:2397684210).

Media Contacts:

Brice Zimmerman, Fort Myers Miracle Baseball, bzimmerman@miraclebaseball.com, 239-768-4210, 803-509-0363 (cell)

Holly Boldrin, Priority Marketing, holly@prioritymarketing.com, 239-267-2638 or 239-887-9335 (cell)

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