

New baseball plans taking shape in Niagara Falls

BY PATRICK J. BRADLEY
Senior Contributing Writer

CAN-USA Sports and the City of Niagara Falls have reached an agreement making CAN-USA managing partner of historic Sal Maglie Stadium. The three-year agreement is effective immediately and contains a five-year renewal option.

A major component of the arrangement will be summer baseball. CAN-USA also has purchased the city's Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League team, which played the last several seasons at the stadium as the Niagara Power. The team will be renamed the Niagara Falls Americans.

CAN-USA co-owner Robbie Nichols said the Americans will bring the excitement of summer baseball back to Niagara Falls.

"We look for big crowds and quality baseball so we have fun for all the children," he said.

"I love to see families getting together, and there is nothing better than going to a sporting event as a family," added Nichols's wife and CAN-USA co-owner Nellie Nichols.

The stadium, originally Hyde Park Stadium, was rededicated last year as a tribute to Niagara Falls native and former major league pitcher Sal "The Barber" Maglie following completion of \$1.4 million in upgrades that included installation of an artificial turf playing field.

"This really is a community asset," said Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino, who spearheaded efforts to bring CAN-USA to the city. "Sal Maglie Stadium is a huge part of this community, a beautiful stadium, and our city has a rich tradition of baseball."

In addition to the Americans, D'Youville University and Niagara County Community College have



From left: New York State Senate Minority Leader Rob Ortt, CAN-USA Sports co-owner Robbie Nichols, Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino and CAN-USA Sports General Manager Matt Witt announce the new management agreement for Sal Maglie Stadium and Can-USA's purchase of the Niagara Falls Americans baseball team. The team will begin play at the stadium next June.

signed to play their home games at the stadium. Plans are also in the works to host regional baseball tournaments and hold youth baseball camps and clinics there.

"We are the holder of the keys," Robbie Nichols said. "We want to see the field used as much as possible."

CAN-USA's baseball pedigree includes ownership of the Elmira Pioneers and Batavia Muckdogs, both of which compete in the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League, or PGCBL.

Nichols and his wife first partnered with the Pioneers in 2012 and assumed full ownership in 2017. Since then, attendance at the team's games has grown from 500 to more than 3,000 at the

4,020-seat Dunn Field.

CAN-USA Sports purchased the Batavia Muckdogs in 2021 and became managing partner of its home field, Dwyer Stadium. Muckdogs attendance has grown from 950 to more than 2,100 fans per game.

CAN-USA Sports was born in 2018 with the arrival of partner and General Manager Marc Witt, who previously worked for the National Hockey League's Columbus Blue Jackets and was vice president of sales for Binghamton Devils of the American Hockey League.

Although league play won't begin until June, the Americans have already begun to assemble their roster. Managing the team

will be Lewiston native and former Niagara University infielder Mike Gabriele. Gabriele has been an assistant coach at Missouri Western State University and was head coach of last year's Niagara Power.

"I'm incredibly blessed to have this opportunity," Gabriele said.

The first player to commit to the Americans is Western Michigan University catcher Mike Huff. The North Tonawanda native attended Niagara Wheatfield High School and was a first-team Niagara Frontier League selection.

"Michael is a great foundation

About the PGCBL

The Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League has seen more 180 prospects sign with Major League Baseball since it started in 2011. Eligible players must have remaining college eligibility or be a high-level graduate with MLB scout interest. Graduated high school seniors who will attend a two-year or four-year college in the fall also are eligible, subject to league approval.



ABOUT SAL MAGLIE STADIUM

- Sal Maglie Stadium opened in 1939 as Hyde Park Stadium. The Depression-era WPA project was dedicated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
- Designed for track and field and used for football, it was adapted for baseball in the 1950s and renamed Sal Maglie Stadium in 1983.
- It previously served as the home field for minor league affiliates of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Chicago White Sox and Detroit Tigers.

for our franchise," Gabriele said. "Not only is he skilled at his position but he is a local talent, which means he wants to win for his city even more."

Season tickets for the 2024 season are now available starting at \$99. Sponsorship packages are also available. For more information, contact Witt at mwitt.canusa@gmail.com.

Hope for the holidays: Give blood or platelets

Long-sleeved T-shirt for donors through Jan. 5

Submitted by the American Red Cross

When blood products are fully stocked on hospital shelves, patients don't have to wait for critical care. Giving blood or platelets with the American Red Cross in December can help those in need make more holiday memories with loved ones.

This is a busy time for many. Holiday gatherings, travel and seasonal illnesses can all impact donor availability, making it hard to collect blood and platelets. Unfortunately, trauma patients in the emergency room, those undergoing cancer treatment, and new parents in need of lifesaving transfusions can't take a holiday break. Donors

are needed every single day.

Those who come to give blood, platelets or AB Elite plasma through Jan. 5, 2024, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. To extend a special thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood, platelets and plasma during the critical post-holiday time, those who come to give Jan. 1-31, 2024, National Blood Donor Month, will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Making and keeping appointments throughout the month can

help safeguard the national blood supply into the new year. Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross blood donor app, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a non-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more, visit redcross.org.

North Tonawanda Youth Parks & Recreation

PILATES 2024

SESSION
JANUARY 10TH - MARCH 20TH

*No class on February 14, 2024

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT DRAKE SCHOOL
7:00PM-8:00PM

- 10 WEEK PROGRAM
- RESIDENTS - \$40
- NON-RESIDENTS - \$50

*an exercise pass is also available

Registration forms can be obtained at the N.T. Recreation Department located at 500 Wheatfield St., N. Tonawanda. You may also register on line at NTParksrec.com

The Youngstown Village Diner

425 Main St., Youngstown • 716-745-9858

~ WEEKLY SPECIALS ~

MON CLOSED

TUE 6AM-2PM - Spaghetti and Meatballs, Chicken Parm, Eggplant Parm, Penne Parm

WED 6AM-2PM - Goulash or Fish - Battered, Breaded, Baked

THURS 6AM-2PM - Polish Sausage with Parsley Potatoes and Sauerkraut

FRI 6AM-2PM - Haddock, Fish Sandwiches, Tuna Melts & New England Clam Chowder

SAT & SUN OPEN AT 6AM - Eggs Benedict, Banana Walnut Pancakes, Spinach & Feta Omelet & Our Full Breakfast & Lunch Menu

Check us out on FACEBOOK - Become a fan

Learn Something "NEWS" Every Day! wnypapers.com

ATTENTION
Village of Lewiston Residents
Scan the QR code below or visit wnypapers.com for your 2023 Newsletter

SYROS
Greek Restaurant
869 Cayuga St. Lewiston
716-754-1900
Mon - Fri 7am - 8pm
Sat & Sun 7am - 4pm

Daily Specials Served All Day Home of SOUVLAKI & WRAPS

10% OFF BILL
With This Ad. Good Until 1/30/24 NOT VALID ON HOLIDAYS

SPECIAL
Baby Back Ribs, Lamb Shank & Full Menu

Friday **FISH FRY** Broiled Breaded • Baked
Wine, Beer & Mimosas Available

Order take-out from syrosrestaurant.com our facebook page or pickup and delivery through DoorDash

Real Help For Your Health

Presented by **Dr. Glenda R. Rose**
Chiropractor

Prevent Holiday Weight Gain

Here are some tips:

- Keep a food journal to stay in control of what you are eating and help you make better decisions.
- Bring a healthy dish with better ingredients that you can eat so you can avoid or at least eat less of the high sugar and white flour goodies.
- Eat good fats first. Olives, olive oil, coconut oil, butter and nuts, will help you feel full and stimulate your metabolism.
- Take a walk after the meal and before dessert. It gets you away from the food and helps support your digestion and metabolism. The physical activity will also help lower your blood sugar and insulin.

In the Spirit of the Season, we are offering our readers the opportunity to come in for an initial Chiropractic or Nutrition Response TestingSM Evaluation and Consultation as our gift to you from December 26th to 29th. Find out how we can help you reach your health goals for the New Year. Call (716) 754-9039 for an appointment.

Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is located at 435 Ridge St. in Lewiston. Throughout the holiday season, if your HO, HO, HO becomes OH, OH, OH. Give us a call. Wishing you and yours, Happy, Healthy Holidays... naturally!