

Sal Maglie Stadium: Niagara Falls rededicates historic Hyde Park venue



Clockwise: Frank Grenga Jr., Frank Grenga Sr., Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino, Joyce Grenga and Maria Rizzo were on hand to celebrate the rededication of Sal Maglie Stadium in Niagara Falls. Frank Grenga is Sal Maglie's nephew. Rizzo is his niece. • Niagara Power second baseman Billy Morris, a sophomore at D'Youville University, steps up to the plate at the upgraded and rededicated Sal Maglie Stadium. The entire field has been converted to artificial turf. The Power Play in the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League. • Niagara Power owner John DiCarlo and concessions manager Kira Verada at Sal Maglie Stadium.

BY PATRICK BRADLEY

Senior Contributing Reporter

A landmark ballpark with a long and storied history has been rededicated as a tribute to Niagara Falls native and former major league pitcher Sal "The Barber" Maglie.

The rededication ceremony was held June 23 prior to a game between the Niagara Power and the Jamestown Tarpskunks of the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League. Sal Maglie Stadium is the Power's home field.

The celebration began with a reenactment of the world's shortest baseball bus excursion, a 37-second trip held 40 years ago on the day the stadium was named. This year's "excursion" was a trip on the Discover Niagara Shuttle that began at DeFazio's Stadium Grill and ended across the street at the stadium, which was dedicated in Maglie's name in 1983.

The event doubled as the unveiling of stadium upgrades that include the installation of an artificial turf playing field. The \$1.4 million improvement project was paid for by the City of Niagara Falls with funds from the federal government's American Rescue Plan.

"If Sal were here today, he'd be proud of this stadium," Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino said during a brief ceremony held at

Sal Maglie Stadium

- ✓ Dedicated for football use as Hyde Park Stadium in 1939 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- ✓ Adapted for baseball in the 1950s
- ✓ Temporary home of the International League's Buffalo Bisons (1967-68)
- ✓ Home of the New York-Penn League's Niagara Falls Pirates (later called Niagara Falls Sox) and Niagara Falls Rapids of the New York-Penn League; was later home to the Niagara Falls Mallards of the North Atlantic League
- ✓ Now home to Niagara University Purple Eagles Club Baseball and the Niagara Power
- ✓ Has a seating capacity of 4,000 people

home plate. "He came from Niagara Falls and never left Niagara Falls."

On hand were members of Maglie's family, including nephew Frank Grenga and niece Maria Rizzo.

"I think it's a great thing," Grenga said.

Opened as a football venue in 1939, when it was simply called Hyde Park Stadium, Sal Maglie Stadium is now used primarily for

baseball and also serves as home for Niagara University Purple Eagles Club Baseball.

The refurbished stadium is quickly becoming a community asset. Power owner John DiCarlo credits Restaino for the city's renewed support of "not just of the stadium but of amateur baseball in Niagara Falls."

"We're in process of talking to Niagara County Community College and D'Youville University to have them establish this as their home field," DiCarlo said. "And the mayor is working with NYPA, hoping to upgrade the lights. We'll be the premier baseball facility in Western New York."

Maglie pitched in the major leagues from 1945 to 1958. He recorded 119 wins, 862 strikeouts, and a 3.15 earned run average. He was the only player ever to pitch for all three New York City teams - the New York Giants, New York Yankees and Brooklyn Dodgers.

Maglie died in a Niagara Falls nursing home in 1992 at the age of 75.



OLD FORT NIAGARA

The Siege of Fort Niagara

Sat July 1st, 2023 to
Mon July 3rd, 2023 - All Day

Experience the 1759 siege of Fort Niagara during the French and Indian War.

LEARN MORE HISTORY ABOUT OLD FORT NIAGARA ON THE WEBSITE

www.oldfortniagara.org
716-745-7611

The Youngstown Village Diner

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

~ WEEKLY SPECIALS ~

MON CLOSED

TUE 6AM-NOON - Open for breakfast only.. Closing at Noon.. **Happy 4th!**

WED 6AM-2PM - Chicken Salad Sandwich or Fish: *Battered-Breaded-Baked*

THURS 6AM-2PM - Meatloaf or Fish: *Battered-Breaded-Baked*

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

With a View of Niagara River

WXRL CLASSIC COUNTRY
1300 AM & 95.5 FM

WXRL RAMBLIN' LOU TOURS BOOK NOW!

September 20 Sprague's / Seneca Alleg. Casino w/\$25 Casino bonus

September 27 Lucy Tour - Jamestown, NY

October 3-9 Great Smoky Mts./Nashville/Grand Ole Opry/Dollywood

October 15-19 Vermont/N. Hamp/Maine - Portland Lighthouse

October 25 Sprague's / Seneca Alleg. Casino w/\$25 Casino bonus

November 14-16 Fest of Lights - Oglebay Park - Wheeling, WV

November 27-29 (New Dates) Lancaster, PA - 2 Shows "Miracle of Christmas" & Amer. Music Theatre

★ Don't miss "WNY's First Family of Country Music" ★

The Ramblin' Lou Family Band

July 17 (Mon) Canal Fest - New Pavilion (near Walgreen's) along the canal Tonawanda 6-8pm

Aug 8 (Tues) M&T Bank Summer concert series, One M&T Plaza Noon-1pm

Aug 6-16 Erie County Fair - Hamburg, NY - Appearing first 8 days of the Fair - Ave. of Flags Stage 6-7:15pm

"Buffalo's Home for Country Classics"
WXRL 1300 AM / 95.5 FM
& Streaming LIVE @ WXRL.com
For a FREE brochure, call 716-681-1313

2315 Braley Road, Ransomville, NY
716-791-3602

RANSOMVILLE SPEEDWAY

Friday, July 7th

Tezos All Star Circuit of Champions!

410 Winged Spirits w/Sportsman Street Stocks

Gates open at 6pm • Racing 7:15pm
www.ransomvillespeedway.com