



NEWS

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

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College Baseball Spring Training Event Attracts Teams From Across the Globe



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission partners with Diamond Management Group and Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation to host the Palm Beach Challenge, a spring training forum for college baseball where NCAA and NAIA baseball teams travel to Palm Beach County during spring break to practice and compete in official games. Over 35 college baseball teams will travel to Palm Beach County, during their spring breaks, to play over 70 baseball games in 25 days at the 2013 Palm Beach Challenge.

The month-long event will take place at Santaluces Athletic Complex, the former Spring Training facility for Major League Baseball's Montreal Expo's, from February 28-April 6, 2013. Among the notable college programs represented are Mercyhurst University, Long Island University and Wilmington University. In addition to great collegiate talent, the event brings numerous Major League Baseball scouts. Last year, over 40 of the event's participants were drafted by Major League Baseball (MLB) franchises in the annual MLB first year player draft.

In 2013, the Palm Beach Challenge will expand to an international event as teams from across the United States and the globe will visit Palm Beach County to play baseball. Teams from 10 different states, Canada, and Russia will participate. This marks the first time that a sports team from Russia has competed in any international baseball tournament that has taken place in South Florida.

This year marks the 10th anniversary for the Palm Beach Challenge. The Palm Beach County Sports Commission worked with Diamond Management Group to establish the Palm Beach Challenge in 2004. Last year this event generated over 2,000 room nights and over \$2 million in estimated economic impact. Nearly 17,000 room nights have been generated with an overall estimated economic impact of over \$16 million in the nine years this event has taken place in Palm Beach County.

Opening Day will take place on Thursday February 28, 2013 at 6pm with Queens College (NY) vs. St Thomas University (FL) and Mercyhurst University (PA) vs. Palm Beach Atlantic University. Prior to the

opening games, a free youth baseball clinic begins at 5:00pm with a special appearance by Billy the Marlin.

Baseball fans must visit the Santaluces Athletic Complex this spring. The Challenge will feature up to 8 baseball games per day. Daily admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children. For more information on the Palm Beach Challenge visit www.palmbeachchallenge.com.