



NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2009

PITTSBURGH PIRATES FINALIZE PURCHASE OF FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE TEAM AND WILL RELOCATE CLUB TO BRADENTON

-- New Era of Bradenton Baseball Begins on April 8 Under the Lights at McKechnie Field --

The Pittsburgh Pirates today announced that they have purchased the Florida State League team located in Sarasota, Florida, and will be relocating the team north to Bradenton, Florida. The move became official following a vote of approval by Florida State League owners this afternoon at their League meetings in Daytona Beach.

The purchase of the Florida State League affiliate from the Cincinnati Reds organization strengthens the Pirates core baseball operations by locating the club's High-A team in the hub of its player development facilities in Bradenton. The City of Bradenton's investment in lights at McKechnie Field in 2007 allowed the Pirates to bring Florida State League baseball to the area and solidify a year-round commitment by the Pirates to the City and the region.

"The purchase of the Florida State League team is the latest investment by the club to improve its core baseball operations. This will allow our Baseball Operations staff to take further advantage of our world-class facilities at Pirate City, as well as allow for the increased usage of our Spring Training home of McKechnie Field," said Bob Nutting, Pirates Chairman of the Board. "Thanks to the leadership of Mayor Wayne Poston and the members of City Council, this also deepens our commitment to Bradenton, increases the impact we can have in the community and brings even more entertainment options to the City."

While the official team name and logo will be announced in the coming weeks, the inaugural game of the new Pirates affiliate is scheduled to be played on the evening of April 8 under the lights at McKechnie Field. The Pirates will mark the occasion with a post-game fireworks celebration. The full 140-game schedule will be announced shortly.

"We are extremely excited to bring our High-A team to Bradenton," said Pirates President Frank Coonelly. "This was an investment that our General Manager Neal Huntington and Director of Player Development Kyle Stark believed would further enhance the development of our minor league players by stabilizing this critical level of player development in an outstanding environment for teaching and instruction."

"In addition to the benefits to our minor league players and our development staff, the move of our High-A team to Bradenton allows us to have rehabbing Major League players begin their return to work in Bradenton where we have our rehab coordinator and rehab facilities," added Coonelly.

Season Tickets will cost \$210 for reserved seats, which will include:

- Reserved seats for 70 games at a significant discount
- A season ticket holder name plate sticker on your seat(s)
- Invitations to all VIP Season Ticket Holder events
- A VIP card good for 10% off of merchandise at the team store
- Discount on parking
- Access to Season Ticket Holder only special giveaways
- The ability to use unused past tickets for any future game (subject to availability)
- A Florida State League Pass, which is good for any Bradenton road game (subject to availability)
- First choice on seats for playoff games and for 2011 renewals

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N. L. CHAMPIONS 1901 • 1902 • 1903 • 1927

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Season ticket deposits of \$25 are now being accepted by calling (941) 747-3031. Current Pirates Spring Training season ticket holders will have the first opportunity to purchase their same seating location for the Florida State League season.

The Pirates commitment to the Bradenton community has been strong during the 41 years that the City has served as the Club's Spring Training home, and will grow even stronger with the addition of a full-season minor league team.

The Pirates have already developed tremendously close bonds with both the Bradenton Boys & Girls Club and Wakeland Elementary School during their time in Florida. Each Spring Training season and throughout the summer, Pirates players and front office staff make countless visits to both organizations to assist in the betterment of the lives of these children.

In addition, the Pirates organize fundraisers such as the Pirates Charities Spring Training Golf Classic, the annual children's book drives at McKechnie Field, in-park silent auctions, as well as partnering with Dick's Sporting Goods to host the Gloves for Kids event, which allows people to make a monetary donation to take pictures with and receive autographs from Pirates players. All funds and goods collected are donated to the Bradenton Boys & Girls Club and Wakeland Elementary School and other non-profit organizations throughout the Bradenton community. In October, the Pirates, through the work of Pirates Charities, partnered with the Tampa Bay Rays to renovate two Little League fields at the Norma Lloyd Park in Bradenton.

"Now more than ever before, Bradenton is truly the Pirates home in the South. A great tradition of Pirates Spring Training baseball has taken place there for decades, and now we are pleased to have a much greater presence in the community on a year-round basis," said Nutting. "With the addition of our Florida State League affiliate, not only do we hope to increase tourism and entertainment in the area, but we also look forward to further enhancing our involvement in the Bradenton community."

For more information, please contact the Pirates offices in Bradenton, Florida by calling (941) 747-3031.