



Husky Dugout Club Newsletter

Volume 1

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Husky Baseball Releases 2009 Schedule

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Head Coach Pat Dolan and the 2009 Husky Baseball squad released its 2009 slate of games today, featuring 10 games in the Metrodome, the annual spring break trip to Phoenix, Ariz., and a full slate of Northern Sun Conference contests.

"We are very fortunate to again get 10 games in the Metrodome," said Dolan. "With the NCAA Basketball First Round games there for two weekends in March we were worried we wouldn't get too many games there this year. It really helps give us a jump start before our spring trip at the RussMatt Greater Phoenix Invitational."

All 10 of the scheduled Metrodome games will take place in February, as the Huskies will start their season early as ever. Not including the RussMatt contests (which will be announced at a later date), the Huskies will be on the road or at neutral sites for their first 14 games. As of now, the Huskies schedule features 50 games strictly against Division II opponents.

"We are also excited to be playing a 100% NCAA Division II schedule," added Dolan. "Our late hiring last year made it very difficult finding games anywhere and we had to play more NAIA and

Division III teams. Having a 55 game schedule starting February 1 will keep us busy throughout the spring and hopefully prepare us for a postseason appearance."

SCSU will make its first appearance of the season in St. Cloud on March 21 against Minnesota, Crookston. Along with UMC, Minnesota Duluth, Wayne State, Northern State and Minnesota State Mankato will be appearing at Joe Faber Field this spring. The Northern Sun Conference Tournament will also be played at the MAC, culminating SCSU's first season in the league.

The Huskies are coming off their best season in years after a posting a 27-23-1 record in Dolan's first season at the helm.

Home Game Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Mar. 21	University of Minnesota-Crookston	Faber Field
Mar. 22	University of Minnesota-Crookston	Faber Field
April 4	University of Minnesota-Duluth	Faber Field
April 5	University of Minnesota-Duluth	Faber Field
April 22	Wayne State College (NE)	Faber Field
April 25	Northern State University	Faber Field
April 26	Northern State University	Faber Field
May 2	Minnesota State University Mankato	Faber Field
May 3	Minnesota State University Mankato	Faber Field
May 7-9	Northern Sun Conference Tournament	St. Cloud

Additional Dates to Mark Your Husky Calendar

Saturday Oct. 25	Rent a Husky fundraiser
December 22-23 and 29-30	Holiday Baseball Camps
Saturday Jan. 24	1st Pitch Banquet
Saturday Feb. 7	Coaches Clinic and Pitcher/Catcher- Hitters Clinic





St. Cloud Times Features Article on Turf at Faber



It didn't rain a week ago during St. Cloud State's football game at Husky Stadium. It poured. It was torrential. In other words, it was a pretty typical fall day (or spring day, for that matter) in Central Minnesota. Other than raindrops getting in the eyes of kick returners and wide receivers, though, the rain didn't seem to affect anything. No one slid around. No one got hurt when a spike got stuck on an island of dirt in a sea of mud. And that's why Pat Dolan is so eager to get Field Turf installed at Joe Faber Field. Football, after all, doesn't have to be the only sport that rain doesn't affect in St. Cloud.

The second-year St. Cloud State baseball coach is at the head of a push to install FieldTurf on at least one of the fields at the Municipal Athletic Complex; he and athletics director Morris Kurtz facilitated a trip last Wednesday for about 25 local baseball people to FieldTurf fields in the Twin Cities.

"Baseball is meant to be played on grass," Dolan said. "I'd rather have wood bats and no DH, and I'd rather play on grass. But the reality is that it's about what's best for student-athletes and what's best for the people who use the field, and this pretty much eliminates rainouts.

"It creates more revenue, but more important, it creates more playing opportunities for everybody."

When St. Cloud State's baseball team was scheduled to open its conference schedule last spring, it was 70 degrees and sunny — but the grass at Joe Faber Field still wasn't dry after rain the previous week. It wasn't until two days later that the field dried out enough for the Huskies to play. But Field Turf fields always are ready.

"If they tell you to come, if I'm the visiting coach, I expect to play," Minnetonka baseball coach Paul Twenge said. "On a given day at Veterans Field (in Minnetonka), we have five or six baseball games, and the only thing that has to be touched up or regroomed is the mound."

The issue — there's always an issue — is the price tag. To replace the entire grass field at Faber with FieldTurf would run around \$750,000. But Dolan cited the leadership of Mayor Dave Kleis and St. Cloud State President Earl Potter on the National Hockey Center project as an example of how the city, the university and the private sector can work together for something that can benefit the entire community.

And the investment could ultimately pay for itself.

"The bottom line is, if you're in a northern-tier state, No. 1, this is perfect," Twenge said. "I have nothing bad to say about it. It's great.

"No. 2, if you have some economic issues up-front, the money is significant but the long-range dividends are superior. There's no mowing, no painting, no watering — all those things are thrown out the window."

Artificial turf doesn't just mean that St. Cloud-area teams — the River Bats, the Huskies and the countless high school and amateur baseball teams that use the facilities — will benefit. With the Metrodome on the verge of closing up shop as a baseball facility, teams all over the state are going to need a place to play games in March and April. There's no reason why teams from Brainerd or Bemidji that are willing to travel to the Metrodome wouldn't be willing to travel to St. Cloud to use a field that weather won't affect.

When Dolan's Huskies were in Omaha for the NCC Tournament last season, the Huskies played on a Field Turf field at a local high school when rain threatened to derail the entire tournament at Nebraska-Omaha's natural-grass facility.

"Other than the balls being wet and me being drenched at third base by the second inning — you can't play in lightning, but you can play in down pour rain," he said.

St. Cloud State is already slated to host the NSIC Tournament for the next two seasons. If the school and the city can all but guarantee the games will be played, there's no reason the conference won't keep coming back. The same holds true for tournaments like the Babe Ruth regionals that were held at Faber and Dick Putz this summer. It'd be expensive. But with baseball such an integral part of the culture of this area — and such an easy avenue for economic stimulus — it would be more than worth it.



University Chronicle Features Dolan



SCSU baseball manager Pat Dolan was just about to go out and throw batting practice to his Homer Hanky team in the Aug. 22 Twins Alumni game at Joe Faber Field when he noticed a man sitting all alone in the dugout. It was Harmon Killebrew.

"I stopped everything and went over to talk to him," Dolan said of his encounter with the Hall of Fame member. "It is one of the highlights of my baseball experience. He was so humble and such an easy-going guy and I had a blast talking to him."

For Dolan, the second-year Husky coach, it's another sign that he is back home.

"This is where I grew up and fell for the game," said Dolan, a Cold Spring native and Rocori High School graduate. "Coming back to family and friends is always great and I think I am getting to enjoy it a little better."

Dolan now takes his rebuilding process of the baseball program into its second year.

"At this point it is way easier compared to last year," he said. "We can concentrate more just on baseball and not all the tasks of being a first-year coach."

Dolan already took strong steps in his inaugural 2008 season. He led the Huskies to a 27-23 third place NCC finish. It was the most wins for the program since 1999.

"(Dolan) came in there and really turned the program around," said Kyle Resser, a graduate who went on to a brief stint with the St. Paul Saints this summer. "With his practices and mentality he made it all about winning. They are going to become a powerhouse under him and that great coaching staff."

Dolan is trying to be ahead of schedule.

"It usually takes you two to three years to turn a program around. We are trying to do it in one to two years," Dolan said. "It used to be such a big tradition of Husky baseball in the '70s and '80s. They won championships and did it with local guys playing a big part. Dolan put an emphasis on recruiting in the area.

"We want to establish ourselves in Central Minnesota," he said. "We are working to get the community excited about Husky baseball."

The optimism of another strong season in 2009 now looms for the Huskies. They return all but six seniors (four starters) and the pitching staff comes back fully intact.

"The biggest change from last year is our pitching depth," Dolan said. "We feel confident with everyone returning and for them to be another year into my and (pitching coach Pete) Pratt's system."

The roster is so full that Dolan is refusing walk-ons. A move that is tough for him to make.

"I don't like telling a kid he can't play or walk-on he said," he said. "It's a tough thing to deal with but it's a decision we had to make."

Last year the team ran an open tryout and had more than 150 participants. While the roster is set and the team returns largely in-tact, they know they still have to beat the elite teams to be considered an elite team.

"You have to go out and play the top teams and beat them," Dolan said. "That's the only way you can get to the top."





Welcome to the Husky Dugout Club



Welcome to the Husky Dugout Club Newsletter. This newsletter is designed to provide you with the current information about the Husky Dugout Club, and how you can help support St. Cloud State University baseball.

The Board of Director's number one goal is to have Husky baseball parents, Husky baseball alumni and Husky baseball boosters join in the excitement and camaraderie of Husky baseball.

The proceeds, as designed in our by-laws, will go directly to the operations of the baseball program. There are a number of projects that we need financial help with to update our program and we feel this club can give us the funds to keep our program competitive as SCSU moves to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference in 2008.

We are asking for your contribution to support our ability to remain competitive with the best Division II baseball programs in the country. We thank you for your support and hope that you will follow the exciting Husky baseball season.

For complete information about becoming a member of the Husky Dugout Club, please contact Pete Pratt, Husky Dugout Club Vice President at: p.pratt18@yahoo.com or call the SCSU baseball office at (320)-308-3541.



A Letter From Head Coach Pat Dolan



It's an exciting time to be involved with the SCSU Husky baseball program!

The Huskies are primed to be a strong competitor in the very competitive Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

We are excited to be entering our second year of the Husky Dugout Club. The Dugout Club has been very instrumental in a number of endeavors that have benefited the Huskies. Hope to see you at the Ballpark!

Head Coach Pat Dolan



Starz of Tomorrow Father/Son Clinic Photos

