

## Festivities to mark Scott Carpenter renovations

### Wells Fargo Advisors team to honor donors, volunteers Sunday

By Joshua Lindenstein Camera Sports Writer

Posted: 07/14/2010 11:49:00 PM MDT



The completion of new dugouts at Scott Carpenter Park cap a \$400,000 renovation project that spanned five years. ( Jonathan Castner )

What a difference a vision, five years and scores of volunteers and donors can make.

When the Wells Fargo Advisors Legion A players take the field against crosstown rival Hisco Colorado at Scott Carpenter Park on Sunday evening, they`ll do so on a different baseball diamond than the one their predecessors used to call home.

The Advisors, Boulder High`s summer squad, will also be taking the field in honor of all of the people who made the transformation possible.

Earlier this summer, contractors put the finishing touches on new dugouts, the final piece of a roughly \$400,000 renovation project at the field that began with moving home plate back and replacing sod in 2005.

Diamond Baseball, Inc., the summer feeder program for Boulder High, is celebrating the completion of the efforts before Sunday`s 6 p.m. game against Hisco, Fairview`s summer team.

Festivities begin at 4 p.m., complete with a wood bat home run derby and pie and watermelon eating contests. A dedication ceremony just before the game will recognize donors and contractors who took part in the renovations and will also include a ribbon cutting ceremony on the dugouts, where dedication panels will be unveiled listing the names of donors.

"I think it`s great for Boulder High baseball," BHS and Advisors headcoach and DBI executive director Steve Disbrow said this week. "But I think it`s great for the community, too, to have a place like this for high school teams to come in and play. Being able to have a site like this where we can host a tournament like we just did and have teams come in and tell us how nice of a facility we have, that`s really special."

The dugouts proved to be the last hang-up to the project.

Previous phases of the renovation included moving home plate back to make the outfield fences deeper. That also entailed moving the infield and foul poles and led to DBI replacing all of the infield dirt and building a new pitching mound.

New sod was laid down in the infield along with much of the outfield. A warning track was installed around the entire field. Three new batting cages were built. The bullpens were moved inside the fence into foul territory. And a \$25,000 scoreboard was installed.

Wachovia, which is now Wells Fargo Advisors, donated the money for the scoreboard. And the Suitts family put up a \$100,000 matching donation to provide much of the funding for those renovations. The diamond was renamed Suitts Field at Scott Carpenter Park in 2007.

But fundraising efforts slowed and, along with DBI's flood plain permit with the city expiring, that put the dugouts in jeopardy.

Disbrow and DBI board member Maggie Sredojevic said it was board member Mark Spiegel -- a construction manager at the University of Denver -- who really got the project back on track, enlisting the Beck Group to donate its services as general contractor for the dugouts.

The city of Boulder, which owns Scott Carpenter Park, donated \$30,000 toward the dugouts. And several other subcontractors, including BHS alumni Tim Black and Adam Michoff, donated their services so that DBI ended up paying only about \$45,000 -- including the money from the city -- toward the \$107,000 dugout phase.

The dugouts are now nearly double the size and tall enough that people taller than 5-foot-10 can actually stand inside them. There is also a utility room attached to the home dugout and new two-tiered benches in both. Both dugouts are also wired with power and data capabilities.

"All of these people stepped up in a very down economy," Spiegel said. "It stretched us all but we managed to meet expectations. They really did a first-class job, and it's going to be a nice facility."

Sunday's festivities will honor not just the Beck Group and others who donated services and money to the dugouts, but all who chipped in over the five-year project. Some of the other major donors include the Suitts family, Wells Fargo Advisors, the city of Boulder, the Boulder Valley School District and the Jared Polis Foundation.

All fans Sunday will receive free hot dogs and balloons, and a booth will be set up to take donations for Attention Homes, a Boulder non-profit that provides treatment, counseling and housing for at-risk youth.

Disbrow said the transformation at Scott Carpenter is always evolving. The coach hopes to one day have new netting to replace the chain-link fence in front of spectators, and he'd also like to replace the fence.

But the dugouts marked a major milestone, and Disbrow said the time was right to recognize everyone who has helped shape the park. He credited former BHS coaches Jack Taylor and Alan Schulz for first getting the project off the ground, along with the many board members who put in countless hours and the donors.

"I kind of had a vision with where I wanted this to go," Disbrow said. "But I'm not really the one who deserves the credit for this. There were a lot of volunteers out there who made this happen much more so than I did."

Read more: [Festivities to mark Scott Carpenter renovations - Boulder Daily Camera](http://www.dailycamera.com/ci_15519826?source=email#ixzz0zWs2FBTW)

[http://www.dailycamera.com/ci\\_15519826?source=email#ixzz0zWs2FBTW](http://www.dailycamera.com/ci_15519826?source=email#ixzz0zWs2FBTW)

DailyCamera.com