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Marty Brennaman Field to be unveiled 7-25

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ANDERSON TWP. - The unveiling of Mary Brennaman Field at Juilfs Park in Anderson Township is set for 11 a.m. Friday, July 25.

Brennaman, an Anderson resident since 1974 and the Cincinnati Reds' hall of fame broadcaster, will be on hand for the celebration of the diamond's opening.

"Of all the good things that have come my way professionally, I don't know if there's anything that's meant any more to me than having a baseball field in my name," Brennaman said.

"For a guy whose athletic ability was limited as a kid, this was something I never dreamed of," Brennaman said.

Sponsored by the Reds Community Fund, the field renovation project included numerous improvements.

The installation of dugouts and a seating area capable of holding roughly 150 people were two of the biggest additions, said Matt Crawford, Reds Community Fund outreach and sales manager.

A new infield surface and a new backstop were also installed.

"Our goal is clearly to grow the game of baseball through our financial means and programming," Crawford said. "Making the fields safer and better looking hopefully gets more kids out there."

Reds' theme signs in honor of Brennaman will also be installed around the field, Crawford said.

"It finally recognizes (Brennaman) for all the things he's done for the community and Little League through the years," J. Jay Lewis said, president of Anderson Township Little League.

"(Brennaman's) been coming to our (Anderson Township Little League) opening day for at least the past five or six years. He does a great job getting people to come out and get excited for the season," Lewis said.

All told, the Reds Community Fund spent \$55,000 on the renovation of Juilfs No. 1, soon to officially become Marty Brennaman Field, Crawford said.

"We decided to renovate a field in his name and he drives by (Juilfs Park) every day, so it was the perfect location," Crawford said.

Added Brennaman: "I can walk to the field. Having a field dedicated in my name in an area where I've lived for such a long time makes it even more special."

By the end of 2008, the Reds Community Fund will have renovated 225 fields at a cost of \$1.5 million since the start of 2006, Crawford said.

"We renovate fields all throughout Reds' country. The Reds Community Fund is dedicated to encouraging young athletes to get involved in (baseball)," Crawford said.

Anderson Township Little League has been affiliated with the Reds Community Fund for several years through its Inner-city Match Program.

Each summer athletes from the ATLL and the Madisonville Knothole Association come together for a day of baseball and festivities.

"We put our collective heads together to figure out what we could do to honor Marty and came up with a good idea," Lewis said.

The Reds Community Fund partnered with the ATLL and the Anderson Township Park District to hammer out details, Lewis said.

"The field itself is in prime condition for playing," Lewis said. "Hopefully next year (Brenneman) can stop by and announce some games.

"He's a big fan of Little League and he's always saying great things about the organization on the radio." Lewis added.

Juilfs Park is located at 8249 Clough Road.
