

Baseball Always in Season in Arizona

Arizona Fall League Offers Affordable Family Entertainment at Sports Complex

By Bob Barrett,

Football season is upon us; basketball and hockey aren't far behind. But for low-cost family entertainment, you might want to consider baseball, which is always in season in Arizona.

No, I'm not talking about the Diamondbacks. Sadly, they'll be done about the time you read this.

I'm talking about the Arizona Fall League, which will "play ball" from Oct. 12 through Nov. 20 at the Peoria Sports Complex. Here's how it works:

Each major-league team sends six of its top prospects – mostly AA and AAA players, but occasionally a Class A player too – to one of six Fall League teams. Past participants include Derek Jeter, Jimmy Rollins, Alfonso Soriano, Jermaine Dye, Ryan Howard, Dustin Pedroia and Albert Pujols. This year there will be 30 former first-round draft picks playing in the league, including the Seattle Mariners' first-round pick of 2009, Dustin Ackley. Also expected to appear is the Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper, the top pick in the 2010 Major League Baseball amateur draft.

The Peoria Sports Complex is the only site to host two teams – the Javelinas and the Saguaros – so the Fall League plays in Peoria almost every day. The Javelinas comprise prospects from the Boston Red Sox, Cleveland Indians, Houston Astros, Seattle Mariners, and Toronto Blue Jays; the Saguaros players are from the Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati Reds, Minnesota Twins, Tampa Bay Rays, and San Diego Padres. The D'backs prospects, in case you're wondering, will play for the Scottsdale Scorpions, who visit Peoria seven times this fall.

Fun for All Ages

Fall League baseball is affordable, family friendly entertainment, so take the kids or grandkids. It also provides a great venue for birthday parties or other special occasions.

Day games are at 12:35 p.m.; night games at 6:35 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and minors and \$3 for members of groups numbering 30 or more. Season passes are \$75 for adults, \$65 for seniors and \$105 for families of up to six. Parking is free.

If that's not enough incentive, Tuesdays offer two-for-one admission and Wednesday is \$1 hot dog night. On "Thirsty Thursdays," fans can purchase 12 oz. beers for just \$2.75. Friday and Saturday games feature Family Fourpacks: four tickets, four hot dogs, four sodas and four bags of chips for just \$30.

For more information or a schedule, visit www.peoriasportscomplex.com and click on the icon for the Arizona Fall League.

The Peoria Sports Complex is at 83rd Avenue and Paradise Lane, in the heart of the city's entertainment district, so there are plenty of options if you want to hit a restaurant or tavern before or after a game. And remember, the money you spend stays in Peoria.

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