

Big Train Fan Focus Group – Povich Field 2021 Outlook -- Tuesday, April 13, 2021 – Summary Report

Big Train President Bruce Adams welcomed the 15 participants to the third and final Big Train Fan Focus Group held this Spring to gather fan input as part of our planning for the 2021 season. Bruce explained that the new Board of the reconstituted Bethesda Community Base Ball Club (BCBBC) is dedicated to being one of the country's most welcoming and fan friendly environments in all of baseball.

Bruce explained that the goal for the 2021 season is to make it as fun and safe as possible, so we can all enjoy Big Train Baseball again. Bruce explained that we are working hard on a plan to submit to the County to allow for about 250 fans for each game at Povich – about one-third capacity.

As part of the Povich Field Outlook we had Board and staff members – Secretary-Treasurer and Food Work Group Chair John Daniel; Vice President and COVID-19 Work Group Chair Eric Cole; General Manager Chris Rogers; Host Family Coordinator Emily Waldman; and Director of Baseball Operations Sal Colangelo – explain what the season at Povich Field is going to look like.

John Daniel (BCBBC Secretary-Treasurer/Food Work Group Chair): Food Overview

John explained that our concessions operation for this season will be a dramatic upgrade from what Povich Field has had to offer in the past.

Gregorio's Trattoria will offer pizza, subs, and other delicious menu items at Povich Field this summer. They will oversee the Home Run Café operation. Gregorio's is helping us raise money to upgrade our concessions stand by hosting a series of fundraisers at their restaurants over the next months. The next fundraiser is Monday, April 26 at the Cabin John Village location. If fans mention Big Train when they order, 15% of their bill goes toward the upgrades.

Catalyst Hotdogs will be the second vendor available at Povich Field this summer. They serve New Jersey style hotdogs and will also serve burgers.

Bruster's Ice Cream will be the third vendor at Povich Field this summer. They will have several different flavors each night, including the fan-favorite Graham Central Station and the special Big Train flavor.

We are trying to make ordering food more efficient so that fans can watch more baseball rather than standing in line. We have come up with a mobile ordering system so that fans can order their food before they leave home and it will be ready for them when they walk into the ballpark. The app will also allow you to order from your seat and someone will bring your food to you.

Eric Cole (BCBBC Vice President/COVID Work Group Chair): COVID-19 Safety Overview

Eric explained that the COVID-19 Work Group has met with representatives of a number of summer college and minor league teams to learn COVID-19 best practices and develop a plan.

The plan includes guidelines on:

- Players/coaches safety
- Host Families
- Response to a positive COVID-19 test
- Ongoing training for staff will be required
- In and out exits in the ballpark
 - We have developed a plan to open the side gate to minimize cross traffic
- Rain Protocols
 - Everyone must go to their cars until its acceptable to come back.
- Seats will be purchased in pods of 2-5 people
- There will be no more than 110 players/coaches/staff/umpires in the park
- Sanitizing stations
- Making sure the stands are disinfected before every use.

Eric thanked Community Radiology Associates for its generous \$5,000 contribution toward our COVID-19 safety expenses.

Big Train fans suggested:

- Possibly bringing in more security to ensure everyone is being safe
- How will the team handle COVID-19 safety if they are traveling to away games?
 - Ensuring no more than 3 people per car
 - Must wear masks at all times
 - Will have a policy for the players to follow
 - League standards that must be followed.
- Will there be visiting team limitations for seating?
 - Plan to assign 19 seats in a section near the visiting team dugout.

Chris Rogers (General Manager): Ticketing System

Chris unveiled the 2021 season schedule and presented a new online ticketing system for fans to reserve and purchase their seats online in advance of the scheduled games. Big Train season pass holders will get the first opportunity to reserve tickets for all the home games (with exceptions of Team Israel and playoffs). The way the ticketing system will work is:

- There will be an online portal that gives directions on how to reserve tickets.
- You will be able to choose the game you want to attend as well as choosing the size pod you want.
- After you choose the size pod, the website will show you where the available seats are.

For season pass holders:

- An email will be sent a week in advance of each game to provide season pass holders with priority on seating.
- Each group will get up to four seats for their group.
- Each pass holder will receive a discount code they can enter on the reservation page in order to get free tickets.

Once the tickets are purchased, an email will be sent with a QR code that will be needed to enter Povich Field, then an usher will assist you to your seat.

Big Train fans suggested:

- Can you reserve more than one game at a time?
 - No, we will open registration for each game throughout the season, rather than all at once before the season.
- Will we have to show ID to redeem the ticket?
 - The QR code on your phone or printed ticket will take the place of an ID.

Emily Waldman (BCBBC Board Member/Host Family Coordinator): Host Families

Emily explained that the host families will have their own protocols to help ensure host families and players are comfortable. Players will have to follow not only team protocols, but also the rules of their host family.

If you are interested in becoming a host family please contact Waldmanemily@gmail.com

Sal Colangelo (Manager/Director of Baseball Operations): Team Protocols/Summer Camp

The team this year will have 38 players rostered with eight local players and a few returners from 2019. Sal mentioned that all the players are going through similar protocols with their universities, so they are used to all these rules.

In order to keep players safe, we are going to ensure that:

- Keeping them away from fans
- Making sure they are masked except when playing
- Keeping them together as a team and making sure they are educated about Covid-19
- Ten players in the dugout plus:
 - Bat Kid
 - Trainer
 - Coaches

For camp to ensure that everyone stays safe, we are going to:

- Have all campers staggered and not bunched together
- Clean the balls frequently
- Have the campers spaced out during lunch
- Only allow a maximum of 25 campers per pod

Bruce thanked the Big Train fans for their input and thanked our Board and staff members for their participation. Bruce reiterated that Big Train is dedicated to bringing the fun back to Povich Field this summer and running a fan-first operation.