

## Coast to Coast

### ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

#### ■ City wants to keep all-American game

■ The city of Albuquerque and Sports Link Inc. officials are hoping to keep the annual All-American Baseball Game in the city permanently. The 2004 all-star game featured the top 35 high school seniors from across the country and was played at Isotopes Park. It was also carried live on Fox Sports Net.



Todd Van Poppel pitches against the Astros.

### CINCINNATI

#### ■ Reds seeks funds for Florida home ■ Attendance up with team's success

■ Even when the new Hall of Fame at the Great American Ball Park is complete this September, the Reds will have more building ahead. The team is seeking funding from the state of Florida for a \$30 million upgrade for its spring training home in Sarasota. The Reds' lease at Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota ends in 2008, and Chief Operating Officer John Allen said it needs a dramatic makeover. The upgrade would include a new field and an expanded administration building, along with an overall facelift for the stadium, Allen said. It would be funded primarily through money from the state of Florida and other government entities with a little kicked in by the Reds, he said. "I've got to save my hard hat," said Allen, who presided over negotiations with Hamilton County for the team's new \$290 million riverfront ballpark. The Sarasota project hinges on action by Florida's Legislature. Proponents weren't able to get the money during this last legislative session but will try again when lawmakers convene next March, said David Cardwell, executive director of the Florida Grapefruit League Association.

■ The Reds' great start this season has been tempered by what happened last year, when the team fell short of planned attendance revenue and traded key players to save money. But the club's unexpected success has the team ahead of attendance projections. Reds sources said in published reports that the club's projected attendance for Great American Ball Park this year was 1.8 million, but the team is on pace to top last year's attendance of 2,355,259. After 22 home dates this season, the Reds were averaging 25,081 a game. At that point last season, they were averaging 25,970.

### COLUMBUS

#### ■ Jackets to host draft party

■ The Columbus Blue Jackets will host the club's fifth annual NHL draft party, presented by Bud Light, on June 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Buffalo Wild Wings in



Gahanna, a suburb of Columbus. The Blue Jackets have the fourth pick overall at the 2004 draft, to be held at the RBC Center in Raleigh June 26-27. Also for the fifth consecutive year, the club's Web site, [www.bluejackets.com](http://www.bluejackets.com), will provide analysis on top prospects and potential Blue Jackets picks beginning June 20 through the draft weekend.

### DALLAS

#### ■ Penney isn't only Cowboys retailer ■ RadioShack gives

■ Come February, no longer be the Cowboys apparel of a three-year deal will probably be jersey, hats and other retailers with the stuff in Texas. Penney, which a deal to be extended, be able to choose wants to stock. It reported the Cowboys merchandise in 2003.

■ RadioShack national sweepstake a trip for four to the Star Game in Des Moines. In the award that NBA, along with is an merchandise. RadioShack is the electronics retailer.

### DETROIT

#### ■ Dietz starts sports marketing firm ■ Singing vendor

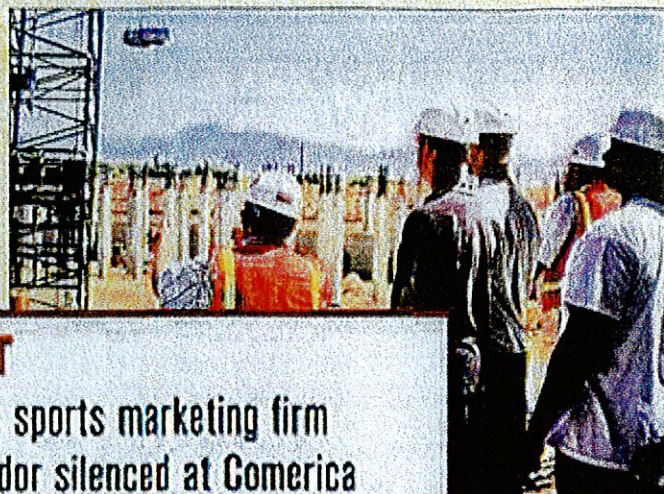
■ Mike Dietz, with Little Caesars Pizza, Olympia Entertainment, the Detroit Red Wings and, most recently, the Detroit Tigers as vice president of sales and service, has formed a new company, Dietz Trott Sports and Entertainment. Attorney David Trott is also part of the firm, which will concentrate on small and medium-size businesses wanting to connect with the sports and entertainment industries.

■ For the past few years, the offerings of hot-dog vendor Charlie Marcuse have "entertained" the box seat patrons at Comerica Park during Tigers games. Apparently, however, more fans were not entertained, and enough complaints were received that the team has instructed Marcuse not to serenade the customers any longer.

### FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

#### ■ Park to feature cricket field ■ Panthers hire play-by-play man

■ Broward County commissioners approved the design for a 109-acre, \$60 million regional park in Lauderdale, featuring a cricket field that's big enough for Broward to host World Cup matches in



team's stadium site.

■ Superintendent Jim Garrison Construction Group led the bid tour and explained the process to the first group of players to visit the stadium. Approximately 42,000 cubic yards of earth have already been placed. Construction crew is on the milestones, starting on the foundation and the steel roof.

### APOLIS

■ American Race Parts sells operation. American Race Parts, an Indianapolis distributor of wheels, safety performance braking systems, Greenville, N.C., operation to go Parts LLC, a North Carolina specialist in NASCAR and brake parts and accessories, not disclosed. The sale of the division of NARP represented its business. Indianapolis investment banking firm Maxus handled the sale in mid-May. In aftermarket products for cars and motorcycles.

### KANSAS CITY

#### ■ boost Royals', Chiefs' revenue

■ state tax passes in November, in five counties will pay about a year in new sales taxes to help boost the Kansas City Royals' and Chiefs' revenue by a combined \$30 million a year. A representative from each team confirmed the estimated revenue increases May 25 at a news conference discussing the



ballot proposal, which was not yet written or available for review. Half of the \$1.2 billion bi-state tax would finance, including interest, \$300 million worth of bonds to renovate Jackson County's Truman Sports Complex and \$20 million worth of bonds to complete capital improvements mandated by previous lease agreements with the teams. The other half would finance arts programs. The Royals will spend \$15 million to expand club and suite seating; the Chiefs will spend \$50 million.