

## Archives

### Sarasota Herald-Tribune (FL){PUBLICATION2}

#### Youths take in Reds game as FCAT reward

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KAZUAKI NAGATA CORRESPONDENT

The Housing Authority of the city of Sarasota took 23 children from Janie Poe to a Sarasota **Reds game** Wednesday as a reward for passing the FCAT.

Bill Russell, executive director of HACS, said he wanted to do something to recognize children who are doing well **in** school. "I wanted children to know that we recognize them and there are people who care about them," Russell said.

Russell said he chose a baseball **game** because, "it's a main summer professional sport **in** Sarasota, and a nice fun thing to do **in** summer."

Karen Curry, Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficient Director of HACS, coordinated the event. The Sarasota **Reds** donated 50 tickets to the **game**.

Along with the kids, five Sarasota Police officers who regularly patrol where the children live were invited to the **game**.

They had an opportunity to interact with the children **in** a relaxed setting.

Sarasota Police Lt. Steve Breakstone said he hopes the event would be a positive experience for the children.

With a bus ride provided by Bethesda Outreach Ministries, the group stopped by McDonald's first. The restaurant donated the dinner.

The group arrived at Ed Smith Stadium about a half-hour before the 7 p.m. start of the **game** against the Dunedin Blue Jays.

The Sarasota **Reds'** mascot, RG, played with the children and signed autographs.

The children worked off some of their excitement by chanting "Let's Go **Reds!**" before the **game**.

Many said they were enjoying watching the **game**.

"I like when they hit the ball all the way up," said Alajuwan Belvin, 9.

Roderick Tullis, 10, ran all the way from the first-base side -- where the children were sitting -- to the third-base side of the stands to get a foul ball.

He said he wants to get an autograph on the ball.

Russell said he thinks the turnout was good and the children enjoyed the night at the ballpark.

"This is something that I'd like to continue," he added.

#### Comedy night to benefit sick photographer

A night of comedy is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. July 23 will benefit photographer Ben Shulok, who has a debilitating neuromuscular disease and is now living **in** a long-term care facility.

Comedian Andy Campbell headlines the event at McCurdy's Comedy Theater, 3333 N. Tamiami

Trail

The event will benefit the Kubota-Shulok Fund, and will help cover travel expenses for a trip to Johns Hopkins University Hospital **in** Baltimore.

Because of his medical condition, Shulok must be transported by air ambulance for consultations and doctor visits.

Ticket prices range from \$30 for a single ticket to \$500 for the VIP reception and special seating. Seating is limited. Tickets may be purchased at Kubota Day Spa, 126 N. Orange Avenue, 330-9100, or from Hal Stephan, Hal Stephan Photography, 534 S. Pineapple Ave., 917-0422.

Donation checks for event sponsorships should be made out to the Kubota-Shulok Fund, and mailed to Susan Hentz, P.O. Box 2302, Sarasota, FL 34230.

-- Edna V. Sherrell

Stardust speed skaters scheduled to reunite

A reunion of the Stardust/Sarasota Speed Skating Team is being organized for the weekend of Aug. 19.

This will be the first one **in** about 20 years, since the team dissolved, said Julie Mancini, one of the organizers.

The team of about 75 people competed **in** national, regional and state contests, Mancini said. The oldest members were 19 or 20, and some were as young as 5 or 6.

"We've all gone our separate ways," Mancini said. "I don't live **in** Sarasota anymore, but we want to get together and see everybody. Classmates.com has no section for teams, and we didn't all go to the same school."

Anyone who was a member of the team from 1982 through 1988 is asked to contact Cindy Workman, 812-5298 or [lenslady2@aol.com](mailto:lenslady2@aol.com), or Mancini, (352) 489-5727, for more details.

Some members were together as a team the entire time.

"These were people we grew up," Mancini said. "I don't think any of us were school-oriented. Our family was at the skating rink."

-- Patty Allen-Jones

Caption: (Ben) Shulok

PHOTOS / KAZUAKI NAGATA

LEFT: Roderick Tullis, 10, of Sarasota, gets a foul ball during the Sarasota **Reds** game at Ed Smith Stadium.

ABOVE: From left, Sarasota residents Johnny Belvin, 12, Brandon Williams, 11, and Ernest Arnold, 10, play at McDonald's before the **game**.

LEFT: Matthen Graham, 9, left, Tyvon Graham, 7, Loren Curry, 10, and Simone Curry, 12, have fun at the **game**.

ABOVE: Sarasota **Reds** mascot RG gives an autograph to Johnny Belvin, 12.

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