



World Champions 1983, 1970, 1966
American League Champions 1983, 1979, 1971, 1970, 1969, 1966
American League East Division Champions 1997, 1983, 1979, 1974, 1973, 1971, 1970, 1969
American League Wild Card 1996

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2009

ORIOLES REACH AGREEMENT TO MOVE SPRING TRAINING FACILITY TO SARASOTA

***Club to utilize Ed Smith Stadium, continue use of Twin Lakes Park
in combined facility beginning in 2010***

***Year-round partnership includes establishment of Orioles youth initiatives
and Ripken Youth Baseball Academy at Twin Lakes Park***

The Orioles today announced that they have reached an agreement with the County and City of Sarasota, Florida to move their spring training operations to Ed Smith Stadium, effective for 2010 spring training. The Orioles will play spring training games in Ed Smith Stadium and will continue to utilize nearby Twin Lakes Park for their minor league spring training operations. The long term agreement includes the establishment of a Cal Ripken Youth Baseball Academy on the Twin Lakes Park grounds.

The Sarasota County Commission today approved the agreement, which includes a series of extensive renovations to both Ed Smith Stadium and Twin Lakes Park. Together, the sites comprise nearly 89 acres of usable space. Major upgrades to both facilities are expected to begin following 2010 spring training.

“It is with great excitement that we announce that Sarasota will be our new long-term spring training home,” said Orioles Executive Vice President **JOHN ANGELOS**. “We thank the Sarasota County Commission, City Commission, local business leaders and our good friends at the Chamber of Commerce who worked tirelessly to make this partnership a reality. We look forward with great anticipation to becoming an important part of the civic fabric of the Sarasota community and to bringing Orioles baseball to the residents of the Greater Sarasota area. This is a true partnership that is in the best interest of the Orioles and the community of Sarasota. The Orioles will have a long-term facility that brings together its major and minor league baseball operations in one location. We are proud to play our part in continuing Sarasota’s rich baseball tradition, while providing the benefit of year-round tourism and an economic development engine that will contribute mightily to the local economy. Our important promotional support will bring Orioles fans from throughout the mid-Atlantic region to the outstanding community of Sarasota.”

In addition to Orioles spring training and minor league baseball, Twin Lakes Park will also be home to a newly established Cal Ripken Youth Baseball Academy. "I am thrilled that the Orioles have found a new comprehensive spring training home and that Ripken Baseball will be a part of the facility in Sarasota," said **CAL RIPKEN JR.** "I have always liked the idea of the kids playing side by side with the professional ballplayers as it really enhances their experience. We are excited to partner with the Orioles and bring our youth academy model to the Sarasota community."

This marks the third time the Orioles have conducted spring training in Sarasota. The club also trained in the city in 1991 and 1993-95. The Orioles spent 14 seasons at their previous spring training site in Fort Lauderdale, beginning their spring training operations at Fort Lauderdale Stadium in 1996.

"We have great respect for the elected officials of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County and for the long working relationship that we have enjoyed with the Broward County Convention and Visitors Bureau as well as the charitable and non profit community and residents who hosted us for 14 years," said Angelos. "We will always have positive memories of our time in South Florida, and we greatly appreciate the support from the community over the years."

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