

Sanford Sports and Bismarck Youth Baseball Announce Facility Expansion to Enhance Player Development Opportunities

Bismarck, ND — Sanford Sports and Bismarck Youth Baseball (BYB) are excited to announce a significant expansion at the Sanford Sports Academy in Bismarck, increasing indoor training space dedicated to the Ben Berg Baseball Academy. Sponsored by Bismarck Youth Baseball, this project reflects the organizations' strong, ongoing partnership and commitment to the community.

This facility expansion is designed to support BYB's growing program, which serves nearly 1,200 young athletes, ages 6-19, amid increasing demand for high-quality baseball training and development resources. With the added training space, BYB will be able to expand its off-season development initiatives, offering players greater access to Sanford Sports' proven training programs. Construction on the training space is set to commence in early 2025.

"Bismarck Youth Baseball and Sanford Sports have shared a collaborative vision for advancing youth baseball development in our community, and this expansion represents another milestone in that partnership," said Michael Salwei, Vice President of Operations of Sanford Health-Bismarck. "As we continue to grow together, we are proud to offer a space that meets the needs of local athletes and families."

Both organizations have worked closely over the years to provide essential opportunities for young athletes, and this project reinforces their shared commitment to delivering top-tier training and development. With Sanford Sports' experienced coaches and robust sports performance programs, combined with BYB's active player base, this partnership creates a synergy that benefits the entire Bismarck baseball community.

"This expansion is a direct response to the needs of our players and families," said Andrew Feist, Executive Director of Bismarck Youth Baseball. "With this additional space, we're better positioned to support our players' growth and development, ensuring they have the resources they need to reach their full potential."

The expanded Sanford Sports Academy-Bismarck facility underscores both organizations' dedication to fostering youth development and serving the growing demand for sports facilities in the community.

About Sanford Health

Sanford Health, the largest rural health system in the United States, is dedicated to transforming the healthcare experience and providing access to world-class healthcare in America's heartland. Headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the organization serves more than one million patients and 220,000 health plan members across 250,000 square miles. The integrated health system has 47 medical centers, 2,800 Sanford physicians and advanced practice

providers, 170 clinical investigators and research scientists, more than 200 Good Samaritan Society senior care locations and world clinics in 8 countries around the globe.

Sanford Sports is the modern athletics arm of Sanford Health, the premier rural health system in the United States. Rooted in science and health care, Sanford Sports offers a combination of programs, services, events, facilities and partnerships intended to make active lifestyles accessible and rewarding for people of all ages and abilities. Sports have been changing the way athletes play for 25 years. With operations in four states, more than one million athletes use Sanford Sports facilities each year. The Sanford Sports Academy in Bismarck is home to the Ben Berg Baseball Academy.

About Bismarck Youth Baseball

Since 1991, Bismarck Youth Baseball (BYB) has fostered the development of youth baseball players in Bismarck. Keeping baseball fun, encouraging good sportsmanship, teamwork, grit, respect for teammates and opponents, all while learning, playing, and enjoying the game of baseball are at BYB's core. A non-profit, BYB offers the opportunity for nearly 1,200 youth (ages 6-19) to develop a love for the game through learning the fundamentals, having fun with their friends, and the opportunity to compete against other teams locally and regionally.