



This is Hooks Baseball.

Whataburger Field: Best on the Continent

Venue Again Voted Tops Among Minor League Facilities

BOCA RATON, Fla. -- For the second consecutive year, Whataburger Field, home of the Corpus Christi Hooks, has been voted the premier minor league sports facility in North America.

The top venue poll was one category in Minor League News' 2009 MLNVote4TheBest awards. For additional details, go to www.minorleagueneews.com

Fans of minor league franchises across the country cast votes in the competition. California's Stockton Arena, home to hockey's Stockton Thunder and the arenafootball2 Stockton Lightning, was second in the survey. Arenas dominated the top 10, an interesting trend since many of them host hockey teams currently out-of-season.

Here's a look at the final top venue vote percentages:

- 1 Whataburger Field Corpus Christi, Texas 24.2
- 2 Stockton Arena Stockton, California 7.5
- 3 Sovereign Center Reading, Pennsylvania 6.2
- 4 Rabobank Arena Bakersfield, California 6.1
- 5 Gwinnett Arena Gwinnett, Georgia 5.7
- 6 Germain Arena Estero, Florida 5.5
- 7 AutoZone Park Memphis, Tennessee 4.8
- 8 The Dell Diamond Round Rock, Texas 4.8
- 9 Cambria County War Memorial Johnstown, Pennsylvania 3.1
- 10 Sullivan Arena Anchorage, Alaska 2.2

Whataburger Field and The Dell Diamond are operated by Ryan Sanders Baseball. Corpus Christi is Double-A Texas League affiliate of the Houston Astros. The Round Rock Express, Houston's Triple-A Pacific Coast League affiliate, calls The Dell Diamond home.

"We are excited, pleased, humbled and honored to repeat," Hooks president Ken Schrom said. "None of this happens without our loyal, passionate fans, sponsors and event staff. It's sweeter than last year, and I didn't think that was possible."

Last year, Whataburger Field garnered 38.9 percent of the vote.

"To be quite frank with you, I was concerned about our ability to repeat," Hooks communications director Matt Rogers said. "I knew we had the support, I just wasn't sure about the window of opportunity to promote the vote. We only had six nights to reach fans in-stadium because of the way our schedule fell. "But I've been wrong before and I'm glad I was this time. Our fans are the best and this just underscores how blessed we are to have them. We are thankful."