

BLOWFISH BASEBALL



IT'S ALL ABOUT LEXINGTON COUNTY!

by Bill Shanahan

Many of these players have grown up right in Lexington County and attended local high schools like Lexington High, River Bluff, Gilbert, Dutch Fork, Irmo, Pelion, Chapin, Airport and others in Lexington County. These are truly “Homegrown Players” like USC Gamecocks David Cromer (Lexington High) and Cade Austin (Chapin), Tyler Berry (Gilbert) and Ricky Williams (River Bluff), as well as Winthrop’s Aaron White (Irmo).

When the Blowfish relocated from Columbia to Lexington County in 2014 and as the new stadium was under construction, local owners Vicki and Bill Shanahan wanted to attend each town council meeting in Lexington County to share the good news and get to know each community personally.

Bill enjoys telling the story of traveling to the town of Summit and attending their town council meeting. Never having been to Summit (population 402) he relied on smartphone map directions. Wandering through neighborhoods thinking they were lost, Siri said “You are Here”. Immediately stopping the car in front of a home, suddenly a garage door opened and there to greet them was the Mayor of Summit, Town Council and the Police Chief.



As they walked into the garage and sat down at the folding table and chairs, the Mayor turned to Vicki and Bill and said, “We are all so excited that the Blowfish are coming to Lexington County- my best friend’s son is going to play for the Blowfish this coming summer”. This was truly a key moment in realizing they had hit a home run, realizing the emotional connection of having local players on the home team at the “Green Diamond Jewel” we call Lexington County Baseball Stadium.

Each year the Blowfish create a theme that promotes and highlights Lexington County from designing pinstripe jerseys of the five Lexington high school colors, to promoting the “Centerline” of the Total Eclipse that went over Lexington County Baseball Stadium, to becoming the Lake Murray Blowfish with specially designed jerseys featuring the lake. Each season the Blowfish players wear these one-of-a-kind jerseys and on Fan Appreciation Night they are auctioned off with pro-



ceeds benefitting local Lexington County charitable causes.

This season’s theme is “It’s All About Lexington County” and its cities and towns. Each player jersey bears the name of a city or town in Lexington County. These player jerseys will be worn throughout the season starting with Opening Night through the final night of the regular season Saturday July 31st.

Fans have the opportunity to bid on these unique player jerseys all season long until Fan Appreciation Night when they will be auctioned off. Proceeds will benefit each Lexington County town/city for the charitable cause that will be selected by their Mayor and city officials. Each Lexington County city and town will have an opportunity to have their own Town Appreciation Night at the Blowfish games. This season’s player jerseys are presented in part by Carolina Comfort Heating and Air and

the Lexington County Farm Bureau.

The Blowfish season continues in July with Independence Fireworks shows on Saturday July 3rd and Sunday July 4th with their “Patriotic Concert in the Sky” Fireworks Spectacular. Blowfish baseball is affordable family entertainment. Groups are welcome of 10 more with a number of our popular All-You-Can-Eat Nights still on the upcoming schedule. You can learn more about the Blowfish at GoBlowfish.com ■

