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BASEBALL A HIT IN HISTORIC WARREN BALLPARK

America's oldest ballpark hosts Bisbee Copper Kings, Copper Tournament

COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZ. (June 14, 2007)—Fans longing for baseball at its best can enjoy family fun and wholesome entertainment in Cochise County's Warren Ballpark. This intimate setting is the oldest continuously run ballpark in the U.S.

The players on Bisbee's Copper Kings ball club don't play for the money. Heck, there is none! They play for the love of the game. And the fans benefit. The Centennial Baseball League brings a hometown feel to the game, with local athletes playing the sport they love.

Players include former minor leaguers working their way back up, college players who missed being drafted and those cut from spring training rosters. Previous semi-pro players from the league have gone on to sign professional contracts.

The League

The Centennial Baseball League is the highest amateur level baseball along the Arizona, California, New Mexico border. The league is geared toward player development and clean, wholesome family entertainment. The league requires that a percentage of the players are from the local area. Individual teams can also recruit top notch high school and collegiate players from throughout the U.S.A. and Mexico. Athletes who have graduated from college are also eligible to participate.

The Ballpark

Warren Ballpark is one of the oldest, if not THE oldest ballparks in the country. Built as recreation for mining employees in the early 20th century, the park opened in 1909 with a minor league team, the **Bisbee Bees**. Many parks have fallen victim to the wrecking ball, but Phelps Dodge donated it to the local school system.

The Tournament

The Bisbee Copper Kings will have home field advantage when the Warren Ballpark hosts the Copper Tournament June 20-26. The team that wins gets an automatic berth to the NBC National tournament, July 29 through Aug. 11 in Wichita, Kansas.

Fun Fact

Each ticket stub sports a player's bio. Fans will learn the athlete's hometown, favorite hobby (the most popular response? Playing baseball, of course!), favorite foods and other fun facts.

The Games

Tickets to the games are \$5. The Warren Ballpark is located at the corner of Ruppe Ave and Arizona St. in Bisbee. Call 520-432-3540 or visit www.warrenballpark.com for the season schedule, team rosters and more information.

Located in southeastern Arizona, Cochise County is one of the most culturally, historically and geographically diverse areas in the American Southwest. Its legendary communities—Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Tombstone, Sierra Vista and Willcox—were strategically located less than a day's journey by stagecoach and are now just a short drive from one another.

For more information about Cochise County, contact the Cochise County Tourism Council at 1-800-862-5273 or visit their website at www.explorecochise.com.

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