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## Batters swing at Fenway like 'Little Monsta' at SouthField in Weymouth



Sports fans stand in front of the "Little Monsta" at SouthField in Weymouth. Courtesy photo

A “green monster” looms over the outfield of a wiffle ball diamond at SouthField where local children are enjoying their own field of dreams, which bears a likeness to Fenway Park.

“Kids are playing wiffle ball with no grownups and having a blast,” said LStar Management partner Kyle Corkum on a recent weekday afternoon.

LStar and town officials from Weymouth, Abington and Rockland dedicated the field Sept. 20.

Corkum said LStar staff initially planed to create a miniature baseball diamond on a lawn across the street from the Shea Fitness Center and said the green monster was added as an afterthought.

“Adam Ashbaugh (LStar vice president) said lets built a little baseball field and put a wall out in left field,” Corkum said. “We put the wall out in left field and then we said lets paint it green.”

The 12-foot wall emulates Fenway Park’s scoreboard of Game 4 of the 2004 American League Championship Series between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees.

The Sox came from behind in the game to tie the Yankees in the ninth inning and went on to win in the 12<sup>th</sup> inning when designated hitter David “Big Papi” Ortiz hit a walk-off two run home run.

The Sox, who were on the verge of being eliminated from the playoffs, won the next three games to win the American League championship and then swept the St. Louis Cardinals in four games to win the World Series.

Corkum said the scoreboard also features the town names of Weymouth, Abington and Rockland in recognition of SouthField proximity to the three communities.

“This facility more than anything made us realize our responsibility to the communities,” Corkum said. “We love what happens when the kids come. They are laughing, arguing with themselves and having fun.”

The wall height dips slightly as it extends along the outfield perimeter to right field where the numbers of Sox Hall of Famers Bobby Doerr, (1) Joe Cronin, (4) Johnny Pesky, (6) Carl Yastremski, (8) Ted Williams, (9) Jim Rice, (14) and Carlton Fisk (27) are prominently displayed.

The wall also honors Jackie Robinson, a Brooklyn Dodger who was the first African-American major leaguer, by displaying his number 42.

“The kids respect the place,” Corkum said. “They bring their own equipment. It is healthy to see that.”

Corkum said the field is part of a series of new recreation improvements being done at SouthField to make the site inviting for passive activities, organized sports, and pickup games by youngsters from Weymouth, Abington and Rockland.

“This is small town all American fun,” Corkum said.

The gymnasium where Navy personnel exercised and enjoyed pickup basketball games is also undergoing renovations, according to Corkum.

“They have finished all the interior painting,” Corkum said. “Renovations are going on outside. They are putting down a new gymnasium floor.”

Corkum said the gym floor is made of a material that allows a wide range of uses.

“We could use it for just about everything,” Corkum said. “We could play basketball, soccer, volleyball, have street hockey games, dances and kick-boxing. We are having people come to use daily with ideas on how to use it. We love it. The Weymouth Street Hockey League has said they would like to have two small games going on at once in the gym and residents are asking us if we could schedule pickup basketball games. The schools have got in touch with us about using

the gym for their basketball program. The idea is to make the floor versatile so everyone can use it.”

Corkum said the gymnasium and wiffle ball diamond are also located near a multi-purpose field where youth lacrosse, soccer and football is being played regularly.

“We have had a food truck rodeo and a farmer’s market,” Corkum said. “We had a movie night on the field it is getting used for all kinds of things. We are putting playground equipment that is handicap accessible. It has all kinds of tunnels and it is ADA (American With Disabilities Act) compliant. It will be extremely safe for all the kids.”

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