

# Stings Stadium Renovation Complete

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Baseball stadiums are a lot like fingerprints.

When done right, no two are alike and the harder one looks between the lines the more beauty is revealed.

Such is the case for the Texas City Stingarees and their newly renovated home, Robinson Stadium.

“This is a really nice stadium,” Said Chuck Young, Texas City coach. “You can judge a baseball program by the type of field that they play on. The good programs work on all areas including their surroundings. When you have a nice field people see that you take things seriously.”

In terms of Texas City’s surroundings, they include a stadium that seats 1400 people that the school took over six years ago from the city.

“This is a remarkable facility for a high school program,” Young said. It is the largest high school stadium in the Houston area.”

Part of the stadium’s size is due to the fact that it started its journey as a minor league ballpark in the fifties.

“I keep asking around to see when the stadium was built,” Young said. “No one seems to know for sure but the consensus is that it is over 50-years-old.”

While the pro players left long ago, the game remains the same with a few upgrades to the surroundings.

After playing at the stadium for a few years while it was still owned by the city, the school board decided to take over the facility in 1998.

“When we got the stadium from the city six years ago, that’s when the improvements really started,” Young said. “It’s an ongoing process. You’re never really done with making improvements. You just add a little more each year.”

Among the most noticeable improvements this year was the complete replacement of all of the bleachers and grand stands and a fresh coat of paint.

“It’s amazing what a good coat of paint and new bleachers can do,” Young said.

Among the projects the boosters have funded is pads in front of the dugouts, batting cages, scoreboard, pitching machine and a weight room.

“We don’t just ask for handouts,” Young Said. “We raise a lot of the money ourselves through the Booster Club. The boosters have probably spent well over \$100,000 to improve the field. The School Board also deserves a lot of credit for seeing that we weren’t ignored. They always saw that we got what we needed. As a coach, you see things in tunnel vision, but the board see the whole picture.”

Besides making the field look nicer, the improvements seem to have created a homefield advantage for the Stings.

“We have only lost one game at home this year and that was a tournament game against Clear Lake at the start of the year,” Young said. “You get a feeling that you are unbeatable at home when you have success like that. We practice on the field everyday and know all of its tricks inside and out.”

The Stings will look to capitalize on that fact when they host a playoff game at Robinson Stadium on Wednesday night.

Aside from hosting their own playoff game, Young said the school is looking to be a host site for other playoff games as well.

So, for now the bulk of the improvements seem to be complete, but Young still has a list of improvements from sprinklers in the outfield to a new centerfield sign as he looks to make the field even better.

“A lot of coaches are pretty picky about their fields and they want it done the way they want it done. I wouldn’t trade this field for any other field around,” Young said. “My wife always fusses at me and says that I take better care of the field than my own yard. My response is always, ‘if 200 people came out and played in our yard it would look a lot better.’”