

# Rutgers Turf Club Tours *FirstEnergy Park*

By Brad Park

The Rutgers Turfgrass Club got a first-hand look at FirstEnergy Park, Lakewood, NJ, home of the Lakewood BlueClaws, on Friday, April 23, 2010. Following the tour, the Club attended the Single-A contest between the visiting Hagerstown Suns and hometown BlueClaws. The Lakewood BlueClaws are a Minor League affiliate of the reigning National League Champion Philadelphia Phillies.

The FirstEnergy Park field tour was hosted by Ryan Radcliffe, Head Groundskeeper and SFMANJ Member; and Mike Morvay, Rutgers Turfgrass Student, BlueClaws Sports Turf Manager, and SFMANJ Student Member. The tour began with an overview of the ballpark's shop, storage facilities, and equipment. The tour progressed to the outfield followed by a mound repair demonstration directed by Mike Morvay in the right field bullpen. The tour concluded at home plate.

Steve Farago, Director of Special Events for the BlueClaws, took the tour upstairs and provided the students with a behind-the-scenes look at the Press Box and luxury seating. Photos of BlueClaws-turned-Philadelphia Phillies filled the hallway walls. The tour concluded with an exit through the BlueClaws' locker room.



Mike Morvay, Rutgers Turfgrass Student, Lakewood BlueClaws Sports Turf Manager, and SFMANJ Student Member, describes techniques employed by the BlueClaws staff to manage the playing surface at FirstEnergy Park.



FirstEnergy Park, home of the Lakewood BlueClaws welcomed the Rutgers Turf Club for a tour of the ballpark on April 23, 2010.



Ryan Radcliffe (right, no hat), Head Groundskeeper, Lakewood BlueClaws and SFMANJ Member, oversees Mike Morvay's repair of the right field bullpen mound during the Rutgers Turfgrass Club tour.

Thanks again to Ryan, Mike, and Steve with the Lakewood BlueClaws for arranging this tour!



The Rutgers Turfgrass Club observes batting practice prior to the game between the hometown Lakewood BlueClaws and the visiting Hagerstown Suns.



Will Reardon, Rutgers Turfgrass Student, and SFMANJ Member and Student Scholarship recipient, attended the tour of First Energy Park, Lakewood, NJ.



Hagerstown Suns' player and future Major Leaguer (far left) stands with the Rutgers Turf Club on-the-field prior to the game.

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