

Near 5,000 Attend Dedication of New Kalida Ball Park

Governor Lausche Gives Address

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The colorful dedication program at Kalida's new ball park last Thursday evening was attended by an estimated crowd of nearly 5,000. The new grandstand was filled to capacity. Permanent and temporary bleachers were filled and spectators found space along the sidelines and in automobiles parked on streets circling the baseball diamond.

The climax to the evening's program was the brief dedication address made by Governor Frank Lausche, after which he pitched the first ball to start the game between the New Bavaria and Kalida teams.

Governor Lausche praised the citizens of Kalida and community on the success of their program. He said that baseball diamonds, football fields, basketball and tennis courts and other recreation centers provide a place for youths to enjoy their favorite sports and games. They serve as an outlet where young Americans can expend their excess energy which might otherwise be spent in places and at things which would lead them astray and to become juvenile delinquents.

The ceremonies opened with a parade moving into the park led by the High School band. Mayor Robert VonderEmbse gave the welcome address, and C. J. "Cash" Johnson served as master of ceremonies. Short addresses by Rev. E. M. Gengler, pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Rep. Joseph Logan and D. M. "Whitey" Amspaugh, president of the Kalida Athletic Association, preceded the raising of the flag by the O. N. G. of Ottawa and the playing of the National Anthem by the band. Former Baton Whirling Champion Victor Faber of Findlay entertained the crowd between halves of the seventh inning.

The only humiliating part of the evening program was the 14 to 3 defeat handed the Kalida team by the New Bavaria baseball players.

Nemire, first to appear on the mound against Neuber, allowed three hits for two runs in the first inning. In their half of the stanza, Kalida scored three runs off Bayliff, pitching for the visiting team.

Both teams went scoreless until the sixth inning when New Bavaria tied the score, but after that point, the Henry county boys started to wallop the Kalida pitchers and New Bavaria scored four runs in the seventh, three in the eighth and four more in the ninth. New Bavaria connected for 18 hits and Kalida secured 7.

The Kalida ball park is one of the finest in this section of the country and Thursday night's dedication program and ball game was the first under the powerful lights which circle the field.

In addition to Whitey Amspaugh other officials of the Kalida Athletic Association are Alphonse Hohenbrink, secretary-treasurer, and Vincent Kahle and Cletus Recker, trustees; the officials had the support of the citizens of the community in sponsoring the programs and many contributed of their time while the park, grandstand and lights were in the course of construction.

This baseball diamond is still the same field that Kalida High School has used for the past 59 years. This past year new underground dugouts were added. The entire field was also enclosed by chain-linked fencing.