

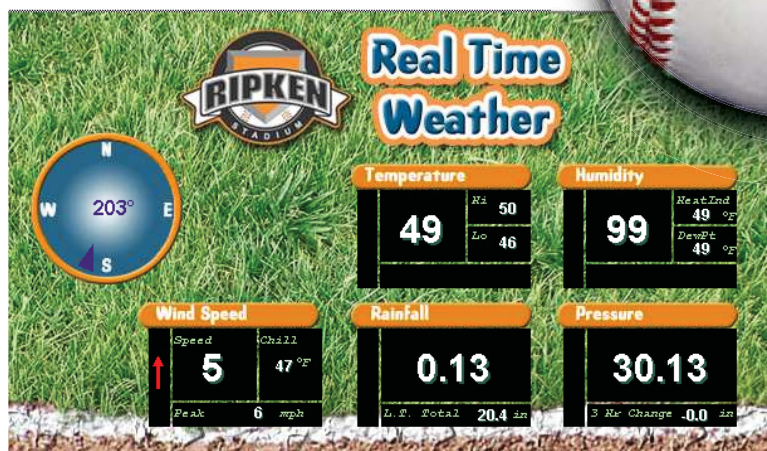
WeatherActive™ in Stadium Operations

Background

Ripken Stadium, located in Aberdeen, MD, is home to the Aberdeen IronBirds. Cal Ripken, Jr. and brother Bill Ripken founded the Ripken Baseball Group in 2001. It includes four distinct entities: Management & Design, Youth Camps and Clinics, the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and the Aberdeen IronBirds minor league baseball team. The 6,000 seat Ripken Stadium, where the IronBirds play is Phase I of The Aberdeen Project, an organization committed to working with the State of Maryland to ensure that future developments around the Aberdeen Complex emphasize baseball, families, and fun. Ripken Stadium opened its doors to fans for their first minor league baseball game on June 18, 2002 and has hosted sell-out home games for five consecutive seasons.

The Challenge

Good weather plays a major role in the sell-out process. Monitoring weather conditions is crucial not only for the safety of IronBirds fans, but also players and operations staff. Officials need to have access to live weather data to make important decisions regarding game delays and cancellations. If a game gets "weathered" out or delayed, the IronBirds need reliable sources to get reimbursed for elements out of their control. If rain is responsible for the cancellation of a game, officials need precise, on-site weather data to obtain reimbursement.



Click On Compass To View Weather History



The WeatherActive™ Solution

Ripken Stadium purchased a PraxSoft WeatherActive system because they needed accurate, hyper-local information for rainout reimbursement and game-day planning. WeatherActive is a complete system for the collection, analysis and display of meteorological sensor data. Supported sensors include temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation, wind speed/direction and other common meteorological parameters. With WeatherActive, staff and team officials can monitor real-time data and local conditions while providing fans access to the live information on the team's Web page.

The Result

WeatherActive has provided Ripken Stadium with the ability to monitor real-time weather conditions for daily use and has supplied crucial rainfall data for rainout reimbursement purposes. Chris Walsh, Head Groundskeeper, Ripken Stadium, says, "We use the weather station for our insurance rainout policy. Plus the system is great for observing local, daily conditions, like humidity, since the information is useful for various aspects of game day planning.

Elly Ripken, Director of Accounting, explains the insurance benefits, "If a quarter inch of rainfall is recorded within a four hour window of game time the stadium can be compensated for a cancellation. For example, if a game starts at 7PM, the window would be from 5-9PM. Sometimes we will still play even if rainfall is 1/4 of an inch, it just depends on overall weather and field conditions. WeatherActive provides valuable information to help in the decision-making process."

