

# Stadium new look for Cleveland team

**By Jim Bebbington**

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Indians showed off their new stadium Tuesday for the first time to the media. It was two weeks before Opening Day, and about 100 years removed from the Indians' old lakefront park, Cleveland Stadium.

Paint still was wet on the railings and wires spewed from what will be telephones and light fixtures. But enough of Indians Park is in place to show that games this summer will provide better views and have swankier surroundings than any played in Cleveland in a long time.

"It's a fan-friendly, intimate environment that provides Cleveland Indians fans with a setting they so richly deserve," said Dennis Lehman, the Indians' executive vice president for business.

On Tuesday, crews scrambled throughout the stadium, putting the rubber floor down at the new children's play area behind right field and tightening the protective screen in front of the 10 field-level, \$1 million luxury boxes that are closer to home plate than pitchers will be.

The atmosphere around the stadium neared mayhem. With construction trucks whizzing by, workers hauled into place a statue of Bob Feller, the Indians' pitching great, which was unceremoniously wrapped in black plastic bags and duct tape. Union pickets also protested outside over the use of non-union workers in the stadium's new restaurant. At noon, scores of Clevelanders peered through the iron gates for a glimpse of the field.

The 42,400-seat park was designed by the same architectural firm, HOK Sport, that planned the nostalgic Camden Yards in Baltimore. In planning Cleveland's stadium, the firm used a more modern design.

"Unlike Baltimore, Cleveland was a city looking forward and was interested in the future," said Joe Spear, HOK Sport's principal-in-charge.

It is also a complete change from the gigantic Cleveland Stadium, where the Indians played for 61 years. "Before, it was so closed in," said Bart Swain, a media relations assistant for the Indians. "It was

SEE GATEWAY/5D



# Baseball binge suddenly fare game

## Weekend trek hits new parks

By Jim Bebbington

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When Southwest Airlines recently announced \$19 flights between Cleveland and Baltimore, a unique opportunity arose for the true baseball adventurer.

For about \$250 — plus food and drink — two people can spend a two-day spree seeing games in two of America's newest baseball stadiums. You can see the Indians in Cleveland and the Orioles in Baltimore, and be back home in time to catch the 11:20 p.m. sports.

It wouldn't be easy, but nothing worthwhile ever is.

Times and availability will vary depending on when this junket is taken. For example, the \$19 fares are already booked on some

### HOW TO GO

■ **Games:** The Indians and Orioles are at home at the same time:

□ Weekend dates: June 17-19; July 1-4; Aug. 12-14; Sept. 2-4 and 16-18

□ Midweek dates: May 17-19; May 30-June 1; June 13-16; Sept. 20-22

■ **Tickets:** Tough to get at both parks, so call ahead:

□ Jacobs Field — (216) 241-8888

□ Camden Yards — (410) 685-9800

flights, leaving some \$49 fares available.

One such spree works out this way:

■ On June 18 (a Saturday), drive to Cleveland, (\$10 for gas), park (\$3) and buy two bleacher seats (\$12) for the Indians' 1:05 p.m. game against Boston.

After the game, drive to the

Cleveland airport, park (\$5), and board the Southwest flight leaving at 5:35 p.m. (\$38 tickets plus \$6 airport fees). Ticket reservations were going fast this week.

Depending on how well you and your companion get along, the place to stay in Baltimore that night might be the Red Roof Inn at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. It has rooms available with double beds for \$56.98, total.

The hotel shuttle will drop you off the next morning at the Baltimore-area light rail system, which will take you directly to Orioles Park at Camden Yards (\$1.25 fare each) for the 1:30 p.m. game.

Now, it gets hard. Orioles games are phenomenally popular. As of last Thursday afternoon, there were only scattered single seats available for the Orioles' June 19 game against the Minnesota Twins.

So call ahead, reserve two seats

(\$6 each, plus \$5 handling charge), split up when you get to the stadium and get away from each other for a few hours. Make new friends; Baltimore residents are supposed to be pleasant folk.

After the game, loiter downtown for a while and light-rail it back to the airport (\$2.50) in time for the 7 p.m. flight back to Cleveland. This will cost you \$49 each, plus \$6 in fees, because the cheapies were all reserved by Thursday.

The flight will put you in Cleveland around 8:10 p.m. on a Sunday night, and with a little luck you could be back in Dayton by 11:20 p.m.

The total for two people: \$256.48. Add on a little more for food and drink, and it would make for a weekend to remember.

Call it the Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum Tour, after the architecture firm that designed both parks.