



Our Towns

Baseball field to get new dugout, backstop Upgrades among last big items for Oak Hill facility

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Published: Wednesday, April 6, 2011 2:05 AM EDT

Oak Hill High School fans attending the first home baseball game on Monday won't be able to miss noticeable changes to the Golden Eagles playing field.

Instead of a chain-link fence, the new backstop is brick 3 feet high, with another 17 feet of netting above that. The new dugout is twice as long as the former one and 2 feet wider.



Oak Hill junior varsity baseball player Lionel Fuller takes a practice swing before the start of batting practice Tuesday afternoon. Rob Edwards / redwards@chronicle-tribune.com

Oak Hill baseball coach Shane Edwards has worked to improve the ball field since 2002 and is particularly pleased with the latest projects. The field sits just off Ind. 18 and east of the high school building.

"I wanted a facility more like a ballpark than a baseball diamond," he said.

Edwards said the improvements "tell kids we care about what they do."

He hopes the team will be inspired to "play with a little more pride and passion."

The school spent \$10,000 from a larger donation from Central Indiana Ethanol on the improvements.

However, Edwards said the project depended heavily on significant donations of material and labor by CCI of Converse, Central Industrial Contractors of Marion and Irving Materials Inc., headquartered in Greenfield.

John Pearce, co-owner of Central Industrial Contractors, said he is new to the Oak Hill area and wanted to help out after hearing about the project and Edwards' enthusiasm for it.

Edwards had asked Irving Materials for help a few years back, said Mike Graft, who does sales and marketing for the company in Grant County.

Company leaders felt the request was a good match because the school is near Pipe Creek Jr. quarry, where the company got its start, Graft said. He added the company generally avoids publicity for its efforts to support the community.

With the new dugouts and backstop almost done, Edwards said, "What we do from here on out won't be as noticeable."

Past projects included a new scoreboard and pitching mound.

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Monday's season home opener against Wabash High School starts at 5 p.m.

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