

Spotlight on



Meet Tom Lenz, President of Lenz Sales & Distributing. Tom is also the developer and owner of Lenz Fields & Sports Complex on West Walnut. Tom, a former baseball coach at MacMurray College ('95-'98), saw an opportunity to give something back to the youth in Jacksonville.



"I built it because I have children, because I wanted to be involved in the community and because I wanted to make something that draws people."

Following the completion of the original field in May of 2007, an additional 16.5 acres was purchased and Lenz added 3 fields to the Complex. The new sports complex was completed in May of 2009. The Complex has bleachers, 20 foot scoreboards, batting cages, concession stands, concrete dugouts, a sound system and universal lighting. Tom doesn't manage all this alone, he has 3 full time employees and during the season has 12 part time employees.



In preparation for building the new complex, Lenz visited the University of Illinois baseball field and the Cal Ripkin Experience Fields in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. These facilities are state-of-the-art and he is confident that his fields rank right up there with these fine complexes. The field is covered in a special turf making it virtually rain out proof and allowing for a variety of different levels of play.

Tournaments are hosted on over 25 different weekends each year between March and October and are comprised of approximately 500 different teams. The main outreach has been on the USSSA & ASA competitive tournaments. These tournaments host traveling baseball and softball teams for boys and girls ages 8-18. A new addition to the season is the hosting of 2 high school tournament weekends, for both softball and baseball. Lenz is hopeful that Lenz Fields & Sports Complex will become one of the premier tournament locations for teams from all over the Midwest.

During the summer, on a tournament weekend, plan on seeing a lively crowd at the hotels, restaurants and other businesses in Jacksonville. Lenz reports the sale of approximately 5,000 - 6,000 hotel rooms during the summer alone. Tom estimates that 70% of the visiting teams stay here in town. There has been the occasion when hotels have been sold out forcing teams to seek lodging in nearby communities.



A very conservative estimate of the weekend economics...for 1 team with 12 players is \$4,000. Multiply that by 500 teams and the economic impact of 29 tournaments is \$2 million spent in the Jacksonville area hotels, restaurants, gas and convenience stores, and other retail and commercial businesses during the season!

While many may just think of Lenz Fields as just a ball park, the economic impact of the Complex is quite surprising! When you consider they host 29 tournaments - that's 500 plus teams - of 12 players each - that means Jacksonville is hosting over 6,000 players a season!! And that's not counting mom and dad!!



Here's what people are saying about Lenz Fields & Sports Complex....

"We had a great time and the kids loved playing on the fields. The facilities and atmosphere was top notch. Thanks again! ~ Chillicothe Crush team member ~

As someone who has played baseball and softball for the past 30 years all over the United States and Canada, this is one of the most unique venues I have ever seen. The fields were unbelievable. It was a major league experience! ~ Parent of a Champaign Tribe 13u player ~

Great facility! I have a son on the U13 team from Highland that played this weekend and really enjoyed your facility. With the storms from Friday, I was really shocked that the facility was ready for the event! ~ Team parent ~

As coaches of the Naperville White Sox, we competed in a tournament this past weekend. The complex, the competition and especially your fields were great. The boys had a fantastic time and we'll be back ~ Naperville White Sox coaches ~

We've played in tournaments at Lenz Field every year and obviously the facilities are second to none, but as important, the staff and umpires are also first class! ~ Springfield Cyclones team member ~



In addition to tournaments, Lenz Fields & Sports Complex offers camps, youth leagues, clinics, private lessons, adult softball, indoor batting cages and practice areas. In the Jacksonville area, there are over 400 boys and girls involved in the youth leagues who are proud to call Lenz Fields & Sports Complex home!!

The Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation is proud to recognize and spotlight LENZ FIELDS & SPORTS COMPLEX. We appreciate the economic development and tourism dollars they bring to our region!

