



LawCrossing Weekend

[By Judith Earley]

“Pitchers and catchers report today.”

Those are the sweetest five words in the English language for a baseball fan like me. Fortunately, being a rich and successful attorney affords me the ability to buy pricey season tickets in a luxury box. But this weekend, I’ve got something else in mind: buying my own baseball team.

The Las Vegas 51s, who will begin their seventh season as the Triple-A baseball franchise of the Los Angeles Dodgers, are up for sale. Mandalay Baseball Properties is the majority owner of the team; it has hired Lehman Brothers to broker the sale. So I’m off to Las Vegas this weekend to check out my potential new investment.

The 51s have become profitable in recent years, and many offers have come their way. But ever since the rumors started that Major League Baseball may place a franchise in Las Vegas, the 51s have gotten even more popular.

Still, rumored to be set at \$20 million, the asking price may be a little high.

Nevertheless, I plan on having a nice trip to Las Vegas. As usual, my BFF is going to drive me back and forth from the airport, so I will save on gas. I got a decent package deal on a roundtrip ticket, two-night stay at the Luxor

Hotel and Casino, and SUV rental for only \$1,110.18. Styx is performing tonight and tomorrow. (You remember their hits, don’t you? “Lady,” “Come Sail Away,” “Fooling Yourself,” and “The Best of Times.”) Anyway, I snagged a front-row ticket for tonight for only \$85.

My plan for tomorrow is to get up early and drive out (yes, I’m actually going to drive; no BFF to take advantage of on this trip) to look into my potential investment. The 51s have been operating in Southern Nevada longer than any other sports franchise. The team has lots of changes this season. They just named Lorenzo Bundy as the manager for the 2007 season—he’s the 18th manager in the history of the franchise. Also, they’ve created a really...let’s say, unique...logo to commemorate this season.

See, the original nickname for the team was the Stars. They used that name for the first 18 seasons, from 1983 to 2000. Also, when they were the Stars, they were affiliated with the San Diego Padres. Then the team came up with a new alien-themed logo. Why? Well, the semi-secret government base known as Area 51, which is located 160 miles northwest of Las Vegas, was their inspiration. There are always reports of UFO sightings and alien activities around the

base, and the franchise changed the team’s nickname from the Stars to the 51s to open the 2001 season in honor of the aliens! They also signed a player-development contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers and became their Triple-A affiliate.

After I complete that absolutely exhausting trip, I’ll come back to the hotel and relax at The Luxor Spa. And for dinner, filet mignon at the Luxor Steakhouse.

It’s so good to be me.

ON THE NET

Las Vegas 51s
web.minorleaguebaseball.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20061101&content_id=141549&vkey=news_t400&fext=.jsp&sid=t400

Luxor Hotel and Casino
www.luxor.com/?CMP=KNC-Google-Luxor_Corp

TEAM FOR SALE: 51s Owner Fielding Offers
www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2005/Jun-11-Sat-2005/sports/26704140.html