

Sussex County Miners to Commemorate 30th Ballpark Anniversary with Charity Auction for Developmentally Challenged

AUGUSTA, NJ, UNITED STATES, April 11, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- To

celebrate the 30th anniversary of Skylands Park, Al Dorso, owner of Skylands Stadium and the [Sussex County Miners](#), and [Rob Hilliard](#), the ballpark's founder and developer, are collaborating on a charity auction of Hilliard's sports memorabilia. Proceeds will benefit SCARC, an area non-

profit organization dedicated to empowering and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and the non-profit University of Virginia Club of Northern NJ.



What would Fathers' Day weekend be without dad and his family attending a baseball game? In the northwest corner of New Jersey, the Sussex County Miners and Skylands Stadium are perfect together."

*Rob Hilliard,
founder/developer of
Skylands Park in Sussex
County, NJ*

The auction is being held in two phases: an initial on-line phase, accessed via www.jerzeywahoomedia.com from April 16 to June 9, and an in-person "silent" phase at Skylands Stadium June 14 and 15, when the Frontier League's Miners take on the Evansville Otters.

"I have always been community-oriented and believe in 'paying it forward,'" said Hilliard. "My older son, Jeffrey, really came out of his social shell during our family's years in Sussex County. He was part of SCARC's clean-up crew at Skylands Park and became a good-luck charm for the '94

New Jersey Cardinals during the club's championship season by doing the "Y-M-C-A" and "Macarena" on the home dugout during our traditional 7th inning stretch."

Hilliard's approach as Skylands' first leader has been taken to the next level by the Sussex County Miners, whose Community-First series is a robust program of themed games, each dedicated to supporting a specific social cause or local organization. The [SCARC Foundation](#), primary beneficiary of the charity auction, dovetails perfectly.

"SCARC has had a long tradition of involvement with community baseball," said Foundation CEO Chris Hemmer. "We're pleased to be a part of the celebration and fortunate to benefit from the efforts of Al Dorso, Rob Hilliard, Vin Sangemino and the Skylands/Miners team.

Auction items range from one-of-a-kind pieces from Hilliard's time as a member of New Jersey Cardinals' ownership group, to autographed limited edition lithographs from international Formula One auto racing he acquired while working in metro Detroit. "There's something for every participant, from yearbooks and team trading-card sets of the 1994 New Jersey Cardinals to game-worn jerseys and autographed photos from some of the biggest Major League stars of yesteryear."



Skylands Park as originally designed for the New York-Penn League's NJ Cardinals. (Photographed by Thomas Sullivan, Sr.)

A Jersey City native and former resident of Vernon Township now living in Charlottesville, Hilliard will also be marking his 50th Reunion Weekend at the University of Virginia at the end of May. "I was fortunate to have spent time as president of the UVA Club of Michigan, so I'm pleased to help the UVA Club of Northern NJ serve prospective and current students, their parents and fellow University of Virginia alumni."

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