



The Highlanders and the Newark Bears — a partnership that's all "aces" for Joe

ALL ACES — NJIT Baseball and the Bears

"This partnership is nothing but aces. It's a partnership between two class organizations that will mean a lot of fun for everyone." That was the enthusiastic endorsement voiced by New York Yankees manager Joe Torre during a December press conference held on campus to announce a long-term partnership between NJIT's baseball team and the Newark Bears. Torre, long a friend of the Bears and college baseball, was on hand as the Highlanders signed a ten-year contract to play their home games at Bears & Eagles Riverfront Stadium in Newark.

Under an earlier two-year agreement, the Highlanders have played their home games at the stadium since 2004. The team's ten-year commitment comes as NJIT elevates its winning baseball program from NCAA Division II to Division I. The Highlanders will play a full Division I schedule in the spring of 2007.

Hundreds of Highlanders supporters, Yankees fans, and other friends of NJIT packed the Campus Center atrium to celebrate the new agreement. Torre was not

the only Yankee to appear at the signing and share traditional ballpark fare — hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts and Cracker Jack™. He was introduced by a familiar voice of the Yankees — broadcaster John Sterling. Also in the lineup were Yankees bench coach Lee Mazzilli, Yankees broadcaster Suzyn Waldman and Yankees scout Gene Michael.

"NJIT is bringing Division I baseball to a great stadium, which will generate the highest level of excitement," said NJIT President Robert A. Altenkirch. "It's a partnership that allows NJIT to play intercollegiate baseball in what may be the best facility of its kind in the country." Altenkirch also emphasized the clear mutual benefit of the new agreement for NJIT, the City of Newark, and the Bears. "Our students really enjoy watching their team as well as the Bears play in this great venue — a keystone of Newark's renaissance." ■

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(Clockwise from top left) Bears mascot Rippin' Ruppert and the NJIT Highlander gathered four all-stars for a special photo to commemorate their ten-year contract. Left to right are Steve Kalafer, NJIT President Robert A. Altenkirch, Marc Berson and Joe Torre. Kalafer and Berson are co-owners of the Bears.

Words of managerial wisdom from a university president for an American League manager? Or vice-versa as NJIT President Altenkirch greets Joe Torre? Offering another American League perspective was Vincent J. Naimoli (far right), '62 NJIT grad (MSME) and chairman of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. To Naimoli's left in the front row are Marc Berson, co-owner of the Bears, and Gene Michael, former Yankees great on the field and now a scout. At the far left is Yankees memorabilia for a fan—Joe Torre signs an autograph for NJIT Trustee Elizabeth Garcia, who is also a '73 alumna.

Joe Torre and the NJIT Highlander with the real stars of the day – the Highlanders Baseball Team.

