

2025 MEDIA GUIDE

SEA THE FUTURE



Giordano
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John Giordano Founder



2025

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DODD STADIUM - 14 STOTT AVE, NORWICH, CT 06360
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DODD STADIUM



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Located in Norwich, Connecticut, Senator Thomas J. Dodd Memorial Stadium has been a cornerstone of the region's baseball landscape since its opening in 1995. The 6,270-seat ballpark was built to host the Norwich Navigators, the Double-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, and has since been home to multiple teams, significant events, and numerous players who have made their mark in Major League Baseball.

FORMER TENANTS

Norwich Navigators (1995-2006)
Double-A affiliate of the New York Yankees (1995-2002) and later the San Francisco Giants (2003-2006)

Connecticut Defenders (2007-2009)
The Navigators rebranded as the Defenders in 2006 and continued as the Giants Double-A affiliate until relocating to Virginia in 2009.

Connecticut Tigers (2010-2019)
After a season without professional baseball, the short season Single-A affiliate of the Detroit Tigers moved to Norwich from Oneonta, New York.

NOTABLE EVENTS HOSTED

Eastern League All-Star Game (1999,2002)
New York-Penn League All-Star Game (2013)
Atlantic-10 baseball tournament (2002-2004)
NCAA Regional tournament (2010)
Northeast Conference tournament (2011-12, 2014-2019, and 2021-22)
ECC Baseball Tournament (2011-present)
Futures League All-Star Game (2024)

LARGEST CROWDS

Minor League Era - (8,002) 7/10/2002 attended the Eastern League All-Star Game
Sea Unicorns Era - (4,524) 8/2/2024 attended Fan Appreciation Night vs. Vermont

OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS

The Beach Boys (8/22/1996)
Bob Dylan/Willie Nelson (6/21/2005)
Clint Black/Dwight Yoakam (6/21/2006)
ESPN miniseries - The Bronx is Burning
Jefferey Osborne Softball Celebrity Classic (8/6/2017)
Professional wrestling (2018 & 2019)

DODD ALUMNI IN MLB

Norwich Navigators - NYY Era

Alfonso Soriano (7x All-Star) Nick Johnson (10 MLB seasons) Jake Westbrook (2004 All-Star, 2011 World Series champion with St. Louis) Ted Lilly (2x All-Star, 15 MLB seasons) Marcus Thames (10 MLB seasons) Mike Lowell (2007 World Series MVP, 2x WS Champion, 4x All-Star)

Norwich Navigators - SFG Era

Matt Cain (3x All-Star, 3x WS champion) Kevin Correia (2011 MLB All-Star) Fred Lewis (6 MLB seasons)

Connecticut Defenders

Madison Bumgarner (3x WS champion, 2014 WS MVP, 4x All-Star)
Buster Posey (3x WS champion, Rookie of the Year, NL MVP, 7x All-Star)
Pablo Sandoval (3x WS champion, 2012 World Series MVP, 2x All-Star)
Sergio Romo (3x WS champion, 2013 MLB All-Star)

Connecticut Tigers

Spencer Turnbull (tossed 8th no hitter in Tigers history 5/8/2021 vs. SEA)
John Schreiber (2022 Red Sox Reliever of the Year)
Tarik Skubal (2024 Cy Young, AL Pitcher's Triple Crown, All-Star, Tiger of the Year)

CORNS IN THE PROS

Jayvien Sandridge - signed with the Reds in 2021 and currently pitches for the Yankees AAA affiliate **Colton Bender** - 2021 10th round pick of the Padres last played High-A with Fort Wayne in 2024 **Kaelen Culpepper** - 2024 1st round selection of the Twins.

STANDINGS



2021 STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT	GB
Vermont Lake Monsters	42	24	.636	----
Pittsfield Suns	38	25	.603	2.5
Brockton Rox	38	26	.594	3.0
Worcester Bravehearts	32	33	.492	9.5
Westfield Starfires	31	34	.477	10.5
Nashua Silver Knights	27	39	.409	15.0
Norwich Sea Unicorns	27	40	.403	15.5
New Britain Bees	25	39	.391	16.0

Norwich did not qualify for playoffs

2022 STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT	GB
Vermont Lake Monsters	44	19	.698	----
New Britain Bees	37	26	.587	7.0
Nashua Silver Knights	33	29	.532	10.5
Westfield Starfires	30	33	.476	14.0
Norwich Sea Unicorns	30	33	.476	14.0
Pittsfield Suns	27	36	.429	17.0
Worcester Bravehearts	26	36	.419	17.5
Brockton Rox	24	39	.381	20.0

Norwich did not qualify for playoffs due to head to head series with Westfield.

2023 STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT	GB
Norwich Sea Unicorns	39	22	.639	----
Vermont Lake Monsters	38	23	.623	1.0
Worcester Bravehearts	39	24	.619	1.0
New Britain Bees	35	28	.556	5.0
Westfield Starfires	31	32	.500	9.0
Pittsfield Suns	29	32	.475	10.0
Nashua Silver Knights	24	40	.391	17.0
Brockton Rox	13	47	.217	26.0

* percentage determined by points. 2 points are given for each win and 1 point is given for a HR derby loss.

Westfield had 1 HRDL; Nashua had 2 HRDL.

Semifinals: (1) **Norwich** defeated (4) New Britain 2-1 (3-2, 2-3, 12-2)

Semifinals: (2) Vermont defeated (3) Worcester 2-1 (7-2, 5-7, 6-1)

Finals: (1) **Norwich** defeats (2) Vermont 1-0 (2-1)*

Championship shortened to 1 game due to weather during playoffs

2024 STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT	GB
Norwich Sea Unicorns	37	21	.638	----
Westfield Starfires	34	22	.625	2.0
New Britain Bees	30	25	.545	5.5
Vermont Lake Monsters	29	26	.527	6.5
Worcester Bravehearts	28	28	.509	8.0
Nashua Silver Knights	27	29	.482	9.0
Brockton Rox	18	38	.321	18.0
FL Road Warriors	10	24	.294	N/A

* percentage determined by points. 2 points are given for each win and 1 point is given for a HR derby loss.

Westfield had 2 HRDL; Worcester had 1 HRDL.

* Road Warriors played Pittsfield's road schedule only

Semifinals: (1) **Norwich** defeated (4) Vermont 2-1 (4-5, 7-2, 10-3)

Semifinals: (2) Westfield defeated (3) New Britain 2-0 (8-5, 4-0)

Finals: (1) **Norwich** defeats (2) Westfield 2-0 (5-3, 5-4)

BRING HOME THE CHAMPIONSHIP!

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MEMORABLE MOMENTS

PLAY BALL

On April 17, 1995 Dodd Stadium opened its doors welcoming professional baseball as the Norwich Navigators hosted and defeated the Reading Phillies 5-4 in front of a sellout crowd of 6,628 fans.

Double-A All-Star Game

The 2002 Double-A All-Star Game at Dodd Stadium was a historic event, marking the final combined All-Star Game for the Eastern League, Southern League, and Texas League. The event drew a record crowd of 8,009 fans surpassing the venues 6,270 capacity. The American League won in dominant fashion posting an 11-2 victory.

NY-Penn League All-Star Game

On August 13, 2013, Dodd Stadium hosted the NY-Penn League All-Star Game, showcasing the league's top prospects. Connecticut Tigers standouts included Ben Verlander who delivered a sixth-inning single, Jonathon Crawford tossing a scoreless inning with two strikeouts, and Zac Reiningier earning the save in a 4-3 win for the American League.

Futures League All-Star Game

Last season, Dodd Stadium was the host site for the 2024 Futures League All-Star Experience July 22-23.

Home Run Derby (July 22)

The festivities began with the Home Run Derby as Worcester Braveheart Jackson Marshall claimed the title with a dramatic final swing in the championship round to beat out New Britain Bee Gabriel Triado.

All-Star Game (July 23)

Team Rose City, led by Sea Unicorns head Manager Kevin Murphy, defeated Team Three Rivers by a score of 9-1. Norwich outfielder AJ Soldra earned MVP honors with a 2-run double in the 2nd inning and pitcher Liam Carroll was named Most Outstanding Pitcher tossing 2 scoreless innings allowing just 1 hit.

NO HITTER

July 20, 2024, was a historic night at Dodd Stadium when UConn product Hector Alejandro pitched the first no-hitter in Sea Unicorns history and what appears as the first ever by a home pitcher at the ballpark. He struck out five, allowed just two baserunners, and carried a perfect game into the fifth as Norwich beat Worcester 3-1. Alejandro's no-hitter is just the second thrown in league history.

2002- Navigators Championsip

The Norwich Navigators won the 2002 Eastern League title in their final year at Dodd Stadium. Norwich swept New Haven in the North Division Playoffs to advance to the Eastern League Championship. The Navigators claimed the championship after defeating the Harrisburg Senators 4-2 in a decisive Game 5 at Dodd Stadium.

2023- Norwich Wins Futures League Championship

After missing the postseason during their first 2 seasons in the Futures League, Norwich captured their first league title in 2023. The Sea Unicorns paced the league with a league best 39 wins in the regular season. Norwich eliminated in-state foe New Britain with a convincing 12-2 victory in Game 3 to propel themselves into the league championship. Mother nature forced a winner take all at Dodd Stadium to determine the champion. The Sea Unicorns defeated Vermont with a 3-2 thriller in front of their home fans.

2024- Norwich Repeats as Futures League Champions

Following a championship in 2023, Norwich repeated as Futures League champions in 2024, finishing with a league-best 37-21 record. The Sea Unicorns dropped Game 1 of the semi-finals to Vermont but rallied with a big offensive showing in Game 2 and a first-inning grand slam by Alex Irizarry in Game 3 to return to the finals. In the championship, Norwich took Game 1 at Westfield 5-3, then walked off Game 2 at home as Bo Yaworski tied it in the 8th and Nick Tomasetto produced the game-winning double down the line in right to score AJ Soldra.

Dodd Stadium MLB Rehas

Aug. 21, 1996 - David Cone
May 19, 1997 - Darryl Strawberry
May 23, 1997 - Dwight Gooden
Jul. 14, 1998 - Bernie Williams
Jun. 31, 2001 - David Justice
Jun. 7, 2002 - Andy Pettitte
Aug. 1, 2002 - Roger Clemens

Promotional Appearances

George Brett
Dave Winfield
Carlton Fisk
Bob Feller
Al-Kaline
Jim Leyritz



ALL-TIME PITCHING

SEASON PITCHING RECORDS

*to qualify a player must pitch a minimum of 15 innings

EARNED RUN AVERAGE

PLAYER	ERA	SEASON
Christo Garrelts	0.00	2023
Andrew Rondini	0.00	2024
Clark Gilmore	0.69	2023
Andrew Gaines	1.72	2024
Alistair Morin	1.75	2023

WINS

PLAYER	W	SEASON
Gavin Hawkes	6	2024
Hector Alejandro	5	2024
Ryan O'Connell	5	2022
Bryan Albee	4	2022
Matt Wootton	4	2023
Teo Spadaccini	4	2023

* led league in wins in 2024

SAVES

PLAYER	SV	SEASON
Jimmy Mulvaney	6	2024
Spencer Fox	4	2021
many tied	3	N/A

* 2nd most in 2024

STRIKEOUTS

PLAYER	SO	SEASON
Spencer Fox	60	2021
Ryan O'Connell	55	2022
Jack Kabel	53	2022
Bobby McBride	45	2021
Justin Marks	42	2024

APPEARANCES

PLAYER	GP	SEASON
Tommy Hughes	21	2021
Spencer Fox	17	2021
Finn Doherty	16	2022
Eddie Kaftan	16	2021
Ryan Mueller	16	2021

STARTS

PLAYER	GS	SEASON
Brad Lombardi	11	2021
Justin Marks	11	2024
Tim Lewis	11	2024
Cameron Varney	9	2021
Alistair Morin	9	2023

* T-2nd most in 2024

COMPLETE GAMES

PLAYER	CG	SEASON
Matt Wootton	1	2023
Hector Alejandro	1	2024
Luke Matthewson	1	2021
Jordan Marot	1	2021

- Alejandro's complete game is the only no-hitter in team history

- Marot's complete game is the only CG shutout thrown by a Sea Unicorn pitcher

INNINGS PITCHED

PLAYER	IP	SEASON
Brad Lombardi	42	2021
Ryan O'Connell	42	2022
John Ruggiero	41	2022
Cameron Varney	37.2	2021
Spencer Fox	37.2	2021

WHIP

PLAYER	WHIP	SEASON
Christo Garrelts	0.54	2023
Charlie Costello	0.79	2023
Hector Alejandro	0.84	2024
Andrew Gaines	0.89	2024
Andrew Rondini	0.90	2024

OPPONENT AVG

PLAYER	BAA	SEASON
Christo Garrelts	.125	2023
Alistair Morin	.138	2023
Andrew Rondini	.152	2024
Hector Alejandro	.162	2024
Brad Lewis	.165	2023

POSTSEASON

Gavin Hawkes (2024) Hawkes was a vital piece of the Norwich bullpen surrendering just 1 run in 6.1 IP over 4 appearances. He finished with a 1.10 ERA, struck out 7, and a WHIP of 0.79.

Mark Capell (2023) Capell shined in the bullpen for Norwich allowing no earned runs over 6.1 IP while striking out 6 and held opposing hitters to a meager .176 BAA.

Daniel Cohen (2023) Cohen also was lights out in relief helping the Sea Unicorns capture their first championship. He allowed 1 run in 6.0 IP finishing with a 1.16 ERA, struck out 5 including the final out to clinch the title.

ALL-TIME BATTING

SEASON BATTING RECORDS

*to qualify a player must play in 35 games and 2.7 AB/game

BATTING AVERAGE

PLAYER	AVG	SEASON
<i>Dean Ferrara</i>	.422	2023
AJ Soldra	.336	2024
Nick Sturino	.314	2022
Tyler Kipp	.306	2022
Kaelen Culpepper	.301	2021

* *indicates league record*

HOME RUNS

PLAYER	HR	SEASON
Andrew Bianco	7	2023
Andrew Bianco	4	2022
Tremayne Cobb	4	2021
Korey Morton	4	2021
many tied	3	N/A

RBI

PLAYER	RBI	SEASON
Andrew Bianco	35	2023
Dean Ferrara	30	2023
DJ Perron	28	2023
Alex Irizarry	27	2024
Anthony Tirado	27	2024

STOLEN BASES

PLAYER	SB	SEASON
<i>CJ Egrie</i>	49	2023
Anthony Tirado	20	2024
AJ Soldra	20	2024
Ray Leonzi	18	2022
Dean Ferrara	17	2023

Egrie's 49 steals are 2nd most in league history, led league in 2023

RUNS

PLAYER	R	SEASON
CJ Egrie	35	2023
Dean Ferrara	32	2023
Ray Leonzi	30	2022
Kaelen Culpepper	30	2021
AJ Soldra	29	2024
Nick Sturino	29	2022

HITS

PLAYER	H	SEASON
Dean Ferrara	65	2023
Hunter Yaworski	54	2021
Ray Leonzi	47	2022
Andrew Bianco	46	2023
Tyler Kipp	45	2022

DOUBLES

PLAYER	2B	SEASON
Hunter Yaworski	12	2021
CJ Willis	12	2022
Dean Ferrara	10	2023
Andrew Bianco	10	2023
Brennan Hyde	10	2023

TRIPLES

PLAYER	3B	SEASON
<i>AJ Soldra</i>	8	2024
Matthew Bucciero	7	2023
DJ Perron	5	2023
Jackson Ferrigno	4	2022
many tied	3	N/A

* *indicates league record*

- Bucciero's 7 triples are 2nd most in league history

ON BASE PCT

PLAYER	OBP	SEASON
<i>Dean Ferrara</i>	.461	2023
CJ Egrie	.442	2023
AJ Soldra	.441	2024
Nick Sturino	.434	2022
Kaelen Culpepper	.423	2021

* *led the league in 2023*

SLUGGING PCT

PLAYER	SLG	SEASON
AJ Soldra	.523	2024
Dean Ferrara	.513	2023
Andrew Bianco	.471	2023
Tremayne Cobb	.425	2021
Hunter Yaworski	.422	2021

POSTSEASON

Alex Irizarry (2024) Irizarry hit .278 with a .667 SLG % crushing 2 home runs and drove in 7.

Nick Tomasetto (2024) Tomasetto hit a team-best .333 with a .667 SLG, driving in four—including the walk-off double that clinched the championship for Norwich.

Johnny Knox (2023) Knox powered the Sea Unicorns to their first league title, batting .537 with a triple, two homers, a 1.655 OPS, and 1.067 SLG in the playoffs.