

Nobleton Sports Park gets a facelift

By Jeff Doner

Also causing some excitement for the upcoming season is the fact that King will now be able to enjoy the benefits of a refurbished baseball park.

The Nobleton Sports Park baseball diamond went through a major overhaul in the fall and is now ready to host games for the 2014 season.

The upgraded park will include a completely new infield and a revamped outfield; a new 40-foot backstop; a bullpen; replaced all of the surrounding fencing; and put in new dugouts and bleachers.

Chris Fasciano, director of parks, recreation and culture, said the Township wanted to give Nobleton a suitable hardball diamond and that it's a step in the right direction even though it's not exactly the size they wanted.

"I think that from the prospective of a short-term opportunity for development, it really at least started to upgrade the standard of field that we play at, so it gives the league and the teams a little bit more credibility when they're playing in town," he said.

"I think it's probably just phase one of a longer term plan to really make hardball a focus. It's not even really all about hardball, but as the kids start to age, when they're getting into the higher age groups, they need a higher caliber field to play on and one that will meet the physical needs that they have."

The project cost approximately \$460,000, but Fasciano said there aren't any plans for further upgrades to any sports parks for this summer, other than the joint operation with the King United Soccer Club at the King Bible Church.

As for the new diamond, the senior men's Nobleton Cornhuskers club in the North Dufferin Baseball league and the King Township Baseball Association are both excited to set foot on their revamped diamond.

"We're very much looking forward to getting out there," said KTBL president David Long. "It has been a long, hard winter and it's great to finally see the snow melt, especially anxious this year, because the township did a great job last fall in rebuilding the Nobleton West field.

"It has been a lot of years that there hasn't been a lot done with baseball fields and council and parks and rec. came together and I'm thrilled with what they did. This spring we'll be playing our first game on the revamped Nobleton West field. We're anxious about that one."