

Feb. 6, 1997

Ed,

Attached are the calendars for Tokay and Lodi for Feb. and March. I talked with Ron W. at noon today and he indicated that the scenario I should address would be to be at Zupo for practices and maintenance would be done in March.

Therefore my request as shown on the calendar would be to have Salas park available for practices on 3/5, 3/7, 3/10, 3/12. We would want to practice at Kofu before or after Tokay on 3/17 and 3/20 and before their game on 3/18 (AM) while we are on spring break. We would have to change our 3/19 game with Chris. Bros. to away. The DeBenedetti tournament would be rescheduled for Kofu. I would request the regular field preparation take place at Salas, bullpen mounds be built on both sides of the hardball diamond, electricity and storage be available, and either the batting practice batting cage be brought over from Zupo or a tarp be hung in the back of the backstop so players aren't pelted by balls bouncing off of the cement area of the backstop.

We also should be allowed to use the batting tunnel at Zupo in the right field area during March and request consideration be given to hitting ground balls in the infield late in March after the rightfield work is completed, with the understanding of course that we would stay off of that area.

Ron indicated the first week of April would be a question mark. If we had to change our league games to away for that first week, I would at least want to be able to practice at Zupo with the understanding that we may have to stay off of right field (e.g. they may want to fence that area off behind that side of the infield).

Doubleheader on 3/1 would be played at Kofu if Zupo work were being started on that Saturday.

We do want to cooperate and feel that this would work for us with a minimum effect on our season.

Don

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February 5, 1997

To: Lodi City Council
Dixon Flynn, Lodi City Manager

RE: Use of Zupo Field by the Modesto A's

As chairman of the Lodi Sports Foundation, I am pleased that you are considering improving Zupo Field so that it can be used by the Modesto A's and I urge you to move forward with the plan assuming it is nearly revenue neutral for the City.

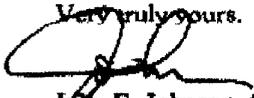
As you may know, the Lodi Sports Foundation is concerned about the general maintenance of our sports facilities. In fact, we have attempted to organize a committee to work with City staff specifically on Zupo Field. Committee formation meetings have been held and we are supporting the efforts of individuals who will continue to work to make Zupo what it once was, a great baseball facility.

Regarding the conflict with the Lodi High School baseball team, I believe both you and the team need to consider the long term benefits. As the former freshman baseball coach at Bear Creek High School, I know that practices and games can be done when a school has two teams using one field. (I am assuming that the sophomore team will continue to use the Blakely Park field and that the two teams would be the freshman and varsity using the Lodi High School field.)

At Bear Creek, we had two teams sharing one field during the first season of baseball at the school. As such, the varsity coach and I worked together so that each team spent time on the field for certain drills. Many things in baseball such as batting practice, outfield fielding practice and situation drills can take place on any large open piece of ground. I am sure that the Lodi High School field is large enough to accommodate two teams while still allowing the track team to practice. It just takes a little imagination, a tape measure to measure a pattern for bases, a temporary backstop, and some throw-down bases. I know that it can be done, we did it at Bear Creek.

Once again, I urge you to move forward with the plan to allow the Modesto A's to use Zupo Field and I would encourage you to work with and assist the Lodi High School baseball team in finding alternatives while they are displaced. Should you have any questions, please call.

Very truly yours,



John E. Johnson, CFA