

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Play It Forward

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Play It Forward Breaks Ground on Roanoke Youth Sports Complex

ROANOKE, TEXAS – On Wednesday morning, Play It Forward broke ground on a new 122-acre complex, which will serve as the heartbeat of youth sports in North Texas.

Former Texas Ranger David Murphy emceed the event and shared the impact youth sports had on his life and career. Roanoke Mayor Scooter Gierisch and State Representative Ben Bumgarner also spoke in support of the project and its importance in the fast-growing community. They stood alongside the World Series Trophy, provided by the Texas Rangers as a demonstration of their ongoing commitment to youth sports in North Texas.

Former MLB pitcher and Co-Founder of 114 Development and Play It Forward Foundation, Blake Beavan, spoke about the importance of youth sports in his life and in the community, saying **“As someone who has benefited from quality facilities, mentorship, and community support in professional baseball, I’m excited to help provide the same opportunities to the next generation. This project will make a lasting impact on young athletes and the Roanoke community.”**

The Roanoke Sports Complex will have five full-sized baseball fields and three soccer fields. This project will fill a significant need in North Texas for places where young athletes can practice and compete at the travel, club, recreational, and community levels.

Dave Dickson, Co-Founder of 114 Development and Play It Forward Foundation, also spoke to attendees, sharing his vision for the project.

“This park is about more than athletics—it’s about fostering growth and opportunities for our youth. It’s about creating a hub for community engagement and economic opportunity. I’m excited to see the positive impact it will have,” said Dickson..

Play It Forward will use the state-of-the-art facilities to inspire young athletes, teach them the value of teamwork, and give back with scholarships. It will provide an ideal place to play Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Lacrosse, Football, and more.

“This dynamic complex will provide top-notch training and playing opportunities to athletes from all backgrounds,” said David Mansdoerfer, Board Member for Play It Forward. **“We thank the attendees, the Texas Rangers, and our philanthropic partners for their support.”**

In addition to the athletic fields, the Roanoke Sports Complex is built on 122 acres of serene property that will be connected to the surrounding community’s beautiful parks and trails through its own trail network. Located just minutes from downtown Roanoke, the complex will also feature a walkable retail and mixed-use facility anchored by a hotel, offering a high-end dining and shopping experience.

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For more information on Play It Forward, visit: playitforwardntx.org