

N.C. fans and foes rally as Twins win

*Letter of intent on
team's sale expires*

By Jay Welner
Star Tribune Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — They held a political rally at Ernie Shore Field on Tuesday and a Twins game broke out.

Nearly 9,000 fans jammed the 6,000-seat minor league ballpark to watch the Minnesota Twins — listed as the “home team” — defeat the Montreal Expos 9-8 in their final spring training game.

Filling the seats and wearing “Vote Yes!” stickers on their short-sleeved shirts, the spectators basked in the 80-degree afternoon and showed their support for a proposal to fund a \$210 million stadium in the Triad region that, presumably, would house the Twins.

Names were collected for a pro-stadium get-out-the-vote effort for the May 5 referendum. “Vote Yes!” lawn signs were distributed at the game’s end. Bumper stickers were handed out. Referendum organizer Mike Solomon, seeking to put the Winston-Salem/Greensboro/High Point Triad area on the major league map, called it a “grand slam day.”

North Carolina Gov. James Hunt offered a spirited pregame pep talk. “Baseball is our national pastime,” he said, standing beside Don Beaver, the businessman who wants to buy the Twins. “And I think we need Major League Baseball in North Carolina!”

But outside the cocoon of the ballpark, hard realities stared “Vote Yes!” organizers in the face.

Turn to TWINS on B4 for:
— Clark Griffith says he’ll try to contact Pohlad.

Twins home team in NC in game versus Expos



Clipped By:
jjswol
Sun, Jan 9, 2022