



KINO SPORTS COMPLEX
2500 E. Ajo Way • Tucson, AZ 85713
www.kinosportscomplex.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 22, 2011

Contact: Chris Bartos, Director
520-434-1346

KINO SPORTS COMPLEX GETTING READY FOR A 2012 CALENDAR FULL OF SPORTS, CONCERTS AND EVENTS

Kino Sports Complex is kicking off the new year with Major League Soccer, college football, Korean baseball and the Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase.

And that's just January.

Pima County's premier sports and entertainment venue at 2500 E. Ajo Way is gearing up for Major League Soccer spring training hosted by FC Tucson, starting Jan. 30, followed by the Desert Diamond Cup professional soccer tournament in February.

Groundskeepers have sodded infields and warning tracks to convert four baseball fields north of Ajo Way to soccer. They've done the same with the field in Kino Veterans Memorial Stadium for:

- January 16 – **Casino Del Sol All Star Football Game**
- February 22, 25, 29, and March 3 – **Desert Diamond Cup Professional Soccer Tournament**

"A multipurpose venue opens tremendous opportunities," said Chris Bartos, director of the Pima County Stadium District. "It is not easy to transition fields from one sport to the next, especially with a limited window of time, but that's our strength. We have the operational expertise it takes to effectively manage back-to-back events and make sure everything looks perfect and there is a safe playing field come game day."

Clubhouse interiors will be spruced up and painted for the teams, and new bleachers will be positioned on the field so fans can enjoy that close-to-the-action atmosphere during the sporting events. "We encourage the community to come out and show the same support they did for the spring training baseball games," Bartos said.

Also in January, **two Korean baseball teams** – the NC Dino's and the Hanwha Eagles – have rented the south clubhouses and fields for training and conditioning of their athletes.

The Electric Park Gem Show and **The Rock Show**, formerly the RV Gem Show, welcome the public to the Kino Sports Complex parking lots from January 28 through February 12 for their part of the annual Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase.

The **Tucson Invitational Games** has registered over 20 college baseball teams from across the nation for its premier event that will run March 3-26. The **Jack Howell Baseball Classic**, a junior college event, is scheduled March 14-17. **Copa Budweiser**, a tournament series presented by Major League Soccer and played across the country, will be here in mid-March.

Save these dates:

- The **Tucson Padres** will launch their second season at Kino Stadium with their season opener scheduled for Thursday, April 5.
- **Fiesta de Garibaldi**, a traditional re-creation of the sights and sounds of the Garibaldi Plaza in Mexico City, will feature live mariachi music and baile folklórico acts on Saturday, April 28.
- **KFMA Day**, an all-day concert that attracted more than 13,000 fans last year, will wrap up the month on Sunday, April 29.

Kino Sports Complex is the largest professional sports and entertainment venue of its kind in Pima County. It includes the 11,000-seat Kino Veterans Memorial Stadium, 12 baseball fields (five with lights) and lighted softball and soccer fields. With its panoramic view of the Santa Catalina Mountains, it is a natural fit for youth, high school and collegiate sports. Plus, it makes a great setting for social gatherings, concerts, and community events. To learn more, or to schedule an event, go to www.kinosportscomplex.com or call 520-546-KINO.