

City of Paducah renames field in honor of Hideg

Staff report

The city of Paducah honored longtime baseball man Frank “Doc” Hideg on Tuesday by naming the field at Brooks Stadium after him.

Players will now come to play at Brooks Stadium, but on Doc Hideg Field.

“I never in my wildest dreams imagined my name would be on Brooks Stadium, but it has always been close to me,” Hideg said in a ceremony during the commission meeting. “To think of my name being on there is unbelievable.”

Hideg, a local chiropractor, coached Paducah’s American Legion Post 31 team for 23 years, from 1972-94. During that time, his teams compiled a record of 831-279, won six state championships and produced four future major league players — Gene Roof, Steve Finley, Terry Shumpert and Joe Hall.

He is the chairman of the Brooks Stadium Commission and is also credited with rejuvenating the stadium, which is the home for Paducah Tilghman and Post 31 and was refurbished after nearly being condemned in the mid-1990s.

Paducah and Brooks Stadium now host of the Ohio Valley Conference baseball tournament each spring and has hosted other high-profile events over the last decade, including the 1998 state high school tournament and this week’s Mid-South Regional tourna-



Hideg

ment for American Legion teams.

“Even when his coaching days ended, his love for the kids, the game and Brooks Stadium never went away,” said Paducah businessman Greg McKeel, a member of the stadium commission. “Doc could not and would not let Brooks Stadium be torn down and fade away to history. He led the effort to save it and make it a showplace.

“It has risen from the brink of extinction to what it is today — a beautiful setting for baseball that has brought many major events to Paducah.”