

= Progressive Field =

Progressive Field is a baseball park located in downtown Cleveland , Ohio , United States . It is the home field of the Cleveland Indians of Major League Baseball , and together with Quicken Loans Arena , is part of the Gateway Sports and Entertainment Complex . It was ranked as Major League Baseball 's best ballpark in a 2008 Sports Illustrated fan opinion poll .

The ballpark was named Jacobs Field after team owners Richard and David Jacobs , from its inaugural season in 1994 until 2008 , when its name was changed to Progressive Field after its naming rights were purchased by locally based Progressive Insurance Company . The ballpark is still referred to as " The Jake " , based on its original name .

= History =

The Cleveland Indians previously played at Cleveland Stadium , which they shared with the Cleveland Browns of the National Football League . The Indians first played at the stadium , which seated nearly 80 ,000 people for baseball , for the 1932 and 1933 seasons , then returned to the smaller League Park . From 1936 ? 1946 , they played weekend and holiday games there , and eventually night games and other dates where larger crowds were expected , moving to the stadium full @-@ time in 1947 . Cleveland Stadium was the largest stadium in the American League during its tenure as a baseball facility and was the largest stadium in Major League Baseball for all but a few seasons .

Plans for a new stadium first began in 1984 when Cuyahoga County voters defeated a property tax for building a 100 % publicly funded domed stadium , which would have been shared by the Indians and Browns . Later that year , committee leaders met to re @-@ evaluate these plans , and a location was later agreed upon . The eventual site of the stadium , the location of the Central Market , was acquired in December 1985 . In April 1986 , designs for the new stadium were agreed upon and about a year later , demolition at the site started . In May 1990 , Cuyahoga County voters approved a 15 @-@ year sin tax on alcohol and cigarette sales to finance the new Gateway Sports and Entertainment Complex , which included the ballpark , an adjacent arena for the Cleveland Cavaliers of the National Basketball Association (NBA) , and two parking garages . Construction started in January 1992 , and by May of that year , the concrete construction had been poured . In June 1992 , Mel Harder , who pitched the opening game at Cleveland Stadium in 1932 , and contemporary stars Charles Nagy and Sandy Alomar , Jr . , executed the ceremonial first pitch at the site of the new ballpark before construction began . The installation of seating was completed in October 1993 . The ballpark , which was referred to as " Cleveland Indians Baseball Park " on blueprints , cost approximately \$ 175 million to build , of which \$ 91 million was provided by Indians owner Richard Jacobs . The remaining \$ 84 million was raised by the sin tax .

The ballpark opened on April 4 , 1994 . It was the first new major sporting facility in the city of Cleveland since Cleveland Arena opened in 1937 . President Bill Clinton threw out the ceremonial first pitch , and the Indians defeated the Seattle Mariners 4 ? 3 in 11 innings .

In 1995 , the Indians qualified for the World Series for the first time since 1954 ; it was the first time the World Series was played at Jacobs Field . The Indians lost to the Atlanta Braves in six games . Two years later , Jacobs Field hosted its first All @-@ Star Game and the first All Star Game in Cleveland since 1981 . Later that year , the Indians hosted the 1997 World Series , which they lost to the Florida Marlins in seven games . On July 3 , 1999 , Jim Thome hit the longest home run in Jacobs Field history , with a 511 feet (156 m) hit to center field .

On October 5 , 2007 , in the eighth inning of a playoff game against the New York Yankees , a swarm of insects believed to be midges from Lake Erie , enveloped the playing field , distracting relief pitcher Joba Chamberlain . Chamberlain walked Grady Sizemore , who later scored the tying run on a wild pitch . The incident became known as the " Bug Game " . However , this was not the first time the insects plagued Jacobs Field .

An event called " Snow Days " debuted at Progressive Field in November 2010 . The first day , called " Snopening Day " , was held on November 26 and the event continued until January 2 , 2011

. An ice skating track called the " Frozen Mile " was installed around the warning track , the " Batterhorn " was a snow tubing hill on the bleachers and other events were staged around the field and home run porch . " Snow Days " returned in November 2011 , and closed on January 16 . The Batterhorn was moved to the Toyota Home Run porch and the Frozen Mile was rerouted . The park also added the " Frozen Diamond " , an ice rink covering the infield . On January 15 , 2012 , the park hosted its first ice hockey game , a match between the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Michigan Wolverines , the first outdoor college hockey game in Ohio . On June 1 , 2012 , it was announced that " Snow Days " would not run in 2012 due to low attendance in 2011 . In part , this was caused by the warmest winter on record , with temperatures of 60 ° F (16 ° C) on " Snopening Day . "

= = Attendance records = =

Progressive Field set a major league record between June 12 , 1995 and April 4 , 2001 by selling out 455 straight games . Demand for tickets was so great that all 81 home games were sold out before opening day in five separate seasons . The Indians retired the number 455 in honor of the sellout record . The Boston Red Sox later surpassed this record when Fenway Park recorded 456 straight sellouts on September 9 , 2008 . The record for the largest attendance at Progressive Field was set on Game 3 of the 1997 ALDS when 45 @, @ 274 people attended the game . On Saturday , April 2 , 2011 , the Indians ' lowest attendance record was broken by a crowd of 9 @, @ 853 , and again the following day with an attendance figure of 8 @, @ 726 .

= = Naming rights = =

Naming rights were acquired in 1994 by team owner Richard Jacobs , who paid for rights until the end of 2006 . The Jacobs Field name gave rise to the nickname " The Jake " for the ballpark .

The Indians announced on January 11 , 2008 , that naming rights to the park had been purchased by Progressive Corporation , an insurance company headquartered in nearby Mayfield , Ohio . Removal of the iconic Jacobs Field sign on the front of the building began the morning of January 18 , and the replacement sign was installed on March 25 . Progressive agreed to pay \$ 57 @. @ 6 million for the naming rights for 16 years . There were discussions about instead naming the ballpark " Progressive Park " , but it was later realized that this name belonged to a picnic facility in Council Bluffs , Iowa , so the name " Progressive Field " was used instead .

The Indians extended their lease agreement with Gateway Economic Development Corp. for the stadium in August 2008 from 2013 to 2023 . The agreement gives the team four five @- @ year renewal options after 2023 .

= = Design = =

The ballpark was designed by HOK Sport , now known as Populous , a division of Hellmuth , Obata and Kassabaum . HOK designed it as the second retro @- @ modern ballpark , with asymmetrical fences of varying heights , a smaller upper deck , and stepped tiers . It is similar to HOK 's Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore , which was the first retro @- @ modern ballpark . The ballpark was sited to give a favorable view of Cleveland 's downtown skyline . The structural engineering was done by a Cleveland company , Osborn Engineering , which helped design League Park , Cleveland Municipal Stadium , " Old " Yankee Stadium and Fenway Park . It was designed to blend in with the city of Cleveland with its exposed steel design and the vertical light towers .

= = Features = =

The ballpark has numerous unique structural features . The field is situated on 12 @- @ acre (4 @. @ 9 ha) of Kentucky Bluegrass . It is illuminated by 19 white vertical light towers ; three behind the scoreboard , six behind first base , six behind third base and four in right field , which stand 200 feet (61 m) above street level and 218 feet (66 m) above the playing field and are said to

resemble toothbrushes . The distinctive light towers were incorporated into a version of the original Jacobs Field logo and the 1997 MLB All @-@ Star Game logo .

The park features distinctive dimensions ; left and right field are both 325 feet (99 m) from homeplate , but left field has a 19 @-@ foot (6 m) high wall , known as the " Little Green Monster " . The center and right field walls are 9 feet (3 m) high . The park features traditional hunter green seats angled at 8 @-@ 12 ° on three tiers around the park except for center field which has no seats and left field which uses bleachers .

The bullpens , reconfigured between the 2014 and 2015 seasons , are raised above the playing field , which allows fans to see players warming up . Both bullpens are located adjacent to section 103 behind right @-@ center field , with the Indians ' bullpen closer to the field . Unlike most ballparks , the Indians ' dugout is along the third base line and the visitors ' dugout is located along the first base line . When the ballpark was built it contained 121 luxury boxes . A remodel and renovation between the 2014 and 2015 seasons removed six of them for a total of 115 , the second most in Major League Baseball .

Prior to the start of the 1997 season , two sections with 480 seats were added onto the ends of the bleacher section . In 2004 , South Dakota @-@ based company Daktronics installed the then @-@ largest video display at a sports venue in the world , measuring 36 feet (11 m) high by 149 feet (45 m) wide . The out @-@ of @-@ town scoreboard along the left field wall was also replaced . A new scoreboard system was installed for the 2016 season . The main scoreboard above the bleachers measures 59 feet (18 m) high by 221 feet (67 m) wide with 13 @, @ 000 square feet (1 @, @ 200 m²) of screen space .

In 2007 , the Indians became the first American League team to install solar panels on their stadium . They also spent \$ 1 @. @ 1 million to convert a picnic area behind the center field fence into " Heritage Park " , which features 27 plaques honoring the Cleveland Indians Hall of Fame and 38 bricks , representing the team 's most memorable moments . There is also a memorial plaque commemorating Ray Chapman that was originally installed at League Park . The area is shielded by plantings so it does not interfere with the batter 's eye . Prior to Opening Day 2012 , the Indians installed a corkscrew @-@ shaped wind turbine atop Progressive Field , the first major league team to do so . The corkscrew ? shaped wind turbine , however , was subsequently removed prior to Opening Day 2013 .

= = = Amenities = = =

The ballpark features several eateries from which spectators can watch the game . A glass @-@ enclosed multilevel restaurant named the " Terrace Club " is located along the left field foul line on the suite level . Spectators need a valid game ticket and a pass to enter to the Terrace Club . On non @-@ game days it is used for private and corporate events , such as business meetings , parties and weddings . The " Budweiser Patio " is a buffet eatery used mostly for corporate or private parties , located just behind the right field foul pole between the visitors ' bullpen and section 117 . A new children 's play area named " Kids Clubhouse " , located on the mezzanine level , opened in May 2012 . It includes arts and craft areas , a climbing wall , a mini field where children can practice sliding and fielding , and a batting cage . There are large windows where adults can watch the game from the Kids Clubhouse .

= = Awards and honors = =

2008 - named Best MLB Stadium by Sports Illustrated

= = Ballpark firsts = =

All firsts are by the Cleveland Indians unless otherwise stated