

Renegades have new treats for the 'ballpark foodies'

By Morgan E. Maier

I remember when ballpark food was simple - soda, popcorn, ice cream helmet, maybe a spot of fries. Even as a Little Leaguer, post-game meals were hamburgers and hot dogs. Simple. This or that.

But a welcome shift is upon the fans who hold baseball's beauty and gastronomy in equal regard. The Hudson Valley Renegades have caught the ballpark food bug this season, offering plenty of new menu items outside of the classics. Footlong Cuban sandwiches in Miami and the signature Yankees chicken bucket are just the beginning. These are not your father's Cracker Jacks.

In 2025, Heritage Financial Park remains a delight for every appetite. Focusing on local flavors, the new menu additions highlight the culture of the Hudson Valley and New York alike. Even the classics are getting revamped. At Rene's Popcorn Pavilion (located by the Main Gate), fans will be faced with seasoning options to customize each kernel, if they so choose.

While the Renegades were out of town, Executive Chef Mark Woinoski served some bites to this beat writer-turned-culinary evaluator, along with suite holders and WMCHHealth Club members. Note to future self: Arrive at such a tasting with a stomach larger than the eyes.

The corned beef and cabbage made me wish every day could be Saint Patrick's Day. With Gotham Deli open for the remaining 60+ home games, I realize it can.

This is a slice of the new butcher on the block, Gotham Deli, where the meat is smoked in-house every two days. Yup.

Chef Woinowski designed the all-new

menu, which includes (among others) an Italian combo, a knish (pastry dough filled with mashed potatoes, then fried), and the king sandwich of New York, the Reuben. A mountain of corned beef, sauerkraut, Thousand Island, Swiss cheese on marbled rye. Whether one believes it was invented in Omaha or the Big Apple, the flavors are New York classic through and through.

The Jägerschnitzel was delightful, each bite swirling with gravy and buttons. One tablemate shared a dislike for mushrooms, but took no offense at this cutlet. Positive reviews across the board.

Finally, white cake and carrot cake. Wishing not to exit such a fine dining experience early with a bout of anaphylaxis, I skipped dessert. Top notch, say my fellow connoisseurs. I take their word for it. Find these in the WMCHHealth Club Lounge.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the local beverage options. The Sloop Brewing Co. Beer Balcony (located in right field) offers the all-new Cruiser Golden Ale, brewed in Hopewell Junction at Sloop HQ. Beacon-based breweries Liquid Fables and Industrial Arts Brewing Co. are joining the roster with their selections of canned ales and cocktails. Among others, the classics: domestic brews and hard seltzers.

Hudson North Cider Co.'s exclusive Renegades Big Apples Cider will be served in a 19.2 oz double-fist friendly can, so fans can traverse the concessions Matrix with both food and drink.

Baseball can easy as ball/strike, safe/out. Other decisions are not as simple as hot dog/nacho helmet when Jamaican patties, Bavarian pretzels, and pastrami



From Jägerschnitzel to Corn Beef sandwiches to salads and Carrot cake desserts, the chefs at Heritage Financial Park will have a variety of new treats for Renegades fans this season.

-Photos by Morgan E. Maier



are also options.

This is just a single path to eating one's way through Heritage Financial Park. Tommy Lasorda once said, "When we lose, I eat. When we win, I eat. I also eat

when we're rained out." Whether the home team is up a pair of runs or no-hit through 7 innings, heed the call for gustatory celebration. They're serving up quality eats with a side of baseball.

HEADS UP, HIKERS!

BREAKNECK RIDGE AREA CLOSURES BEGIN 4/21/25

CLOSED TRAILHEADS:

- **BREAKNECK RIDGE** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- **WILKINSON MEMORIAL** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- **BROOK** closed from trailhead to Cornish Connector



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DCC honorees recognized at Bridge to the Future Gala



Honorees at the DCC Bridge to the Future Gala included, back row, from left, City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers, Poughkeepsie City School District superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, Wappingers Central School District superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk and Gala co-chair Michelle Barone-Lepore. In front are, from left, Eleanor Charwat, Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati, Gala co-chair Susan Scivolette-McCormack, Dutchess BOCES superintendent Dr. Jodi DeLucia and Dr. Peter Grant Jordan, president of Dutchess Community College.

-Courtesy photo

Honorees at the Dutchess Community College Foundation's Bridge to the Future Gala on March 29 were recognized for their lasting impact on the Dutchess County community.

Honorees Yvonne Flowers 1990 and Kirk Imperati 1989 were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame for their outstanding professional contributions and commitment to our community.

The "Bridge to the Future Award" recognized Dutchess BOCES, Poughkeepsie City School District and the Wappingers Central School District for enhancing the

quality of life for DCC students and so many others in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Eleanor Charwat received the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award for her outstanding service, volunteer work and executive leadership for nonprofit organizations throughout Dutchess County.

The Gala raised more than \$172,000 through sponsorships and donations which are critical funds to advance the Foundation's mission, providing scholarships and resources to empower the next generation of DCC students.