

SAVAGE Pacer



"Dan Patch" Stadium Dedication

Savage Pacer & Prior Lake American; Friday, September 09, 2005

Dan Patch Stadium at Prior Lake High School was dedicated Sept. 2.

The dedication program included a musical introduction by the Prior Lake High School Band and the raising of the colors by the Old Guard, a special color guard unit of the Dan Patch American Legion.

The on-field dedication ceremony ran into technical difficulties when a wireless microphone would not work. Part of the ceremony was delayed until halftime and took place from the press box so the crowd could hear the speakers.



Dan Patch Stadium Scoreboard

Will Williams of the Dan Patch Historical Society spoke about Dan Patch's athletic excellence, noting the pacer's prowess has never been matched by any other athlete, human or animal since that time. Dan Patch paced a world-record time of 1:55 in the mile at the Minnesota State Fair in 1906, a record that wasn't tied until 1938 and stood the test of time until 1960.

Williams told the crowd Dan Patch exemplified three attributes – heart, pride and to win well – all of which should be emulated by athletes at Dan Patch Stadium, he said.

Williams also presented the school district with a Dan Patch story board, which details the pacer's life and accomplishments. The story board will be mounted near the track and field records board just inside the stadium. It will be protected with a Plexiglas cover and highlighted with special lettering, according to Athletic Director Mary Haugen.