BILLY MCMILLON TAKES THE REINS OF THE DRIVE, AND BRINGS ALONG SOME NEW FACES FOR THE RIDE

FROM THE SOUTH TO THE SHOW

REDDICK, BOWDEN, BARD & BUCHHOLZ QUICKLY ASCEND TO THE MAJORS
Find all of the information you need to order tickets, find your seats at Fluor Field and when the Drive will be home next.

A month before the Drive’s own Opening Day, Fluor Field was buzzing with Clemson Tigers and South Carolina Gamecocks for the first annual Reedy River Rivalry.

Fans helped the Drive select the 5th Anniversary All-Star Team... Kevin Boles and Bob Kipper head for parks north... Casey Kelly chooses pitching... Homers to help charities in 2010.

It’s hard to believe, but the Drive and Fluor Field are into their 5th season in Downtown Greenville. Let’s take a look down memory lane and reminisce about how it all got started, who’s come and gone, and what’s in store for the future.

Not only does the Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas serve as the official team doctors of the Drive, they are the team doctors for 55 schools in the Upstate.

Two catchers, both in line to possibly take over for Jason Varitek once he decides to retire. But who will it be? Wagner is known for his defensive skills while Exposito has the perfect makeup for a big league catcher.
IT MAY TAKE MORE THAN A HOME RUN TO COVER ALL YOUR BASES

We understand that not every injury takes place before five o’clock. In fact, with school teams and club leagues in full swing, most players are taking the field later in the day. That’s why we keep our doors open weeknights from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for Evening Sport Care, our afterhours urgent care program. It’s just one more way Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas provides the most comprehensive orthopaedic care — when you need it most. Our physicians, therapists and trainers utilize the latest research and technology to get athletes started on the path to recovery, from diagnosis to treatment to rehabilitation. If you’re ready to get back in the game, we’re your team. Let’s go.

THE ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALISTS OF STEADMAN HAWKINS CLINIC OF THE CAROLINAS ARE PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL TEAM PHYSICIANS OF THE GREENVILLE DRIVE.
(864) 454-5100 (7422) steadmanhawkinsc.com
That’s right fans, 2010 marks the 5th Anniversary of the Drive and Fluor Field. What better way to mark this momentous occasion than to have the fans vote for the 5th Anniversary All-Star Team? During each Sunday home game, a new position will be voted on - 11 in total with a starting pitcher, relief pitcher, each position, and then a manager. With six former Drive players already having reached the majors, and certainly more to follow, who will get your vote? With guys like Clay Buchholz and Michael Bowden for starting pitcher, Josh Reddick and David Mailman in the outfield, it’s not going to be as easy as it sounds!

Go Figure

6 Number of former players that have gone on to make their Major League debut with the Boston Red Sox since Drive’s inaugural season in 2006 - pitchers Clay Buchholz, Michael Bowden, Hunter Jones, and Daniel Bard; outfielder Josh Reddick; first baseman Aaron Bates

4 Rehabilitation appearances by Major Leaguers at Fluor Field. Pitchers Jon Lester and John Smoltz have both played for the Drive, while pitchers Carl Pavano and Phil Hughes played for the Charleston RiverDogs.

7,105 Fans for the inaugural Reedy River Rivalry game, played between the Clemson Tigers and South Carolina Gamecocks at Fluor Field on March 6th.

24 Number of fans the Reedy River Rivalry fell short for the largest crowd ever at Fluor Field. That record belongs to the May 31st, 2009 Drive-RiverDogs game when 7,129 fans witnessed future Hall of Famer John Smoltz pitch for the Drive.

23 Combined seasons spent in the Major Leagues by the Drive’s 2010 coaching staff. Both manager Billy McMillon and pitching coach Kevin Walker spent six seasons in the bigs, while hitting coach Luis Lopez is a veteran of 11 seasons.

Boles Heads to Salem, VA as Kipper Goes Further North to Portland, ME

While only 1/3 of last year’s Southern Division Championship coaching staff remains, the other two pieces of the puzzle head north. Kevin Boles, who managed the Drive in 2008 and 2009, will now lead the Salem Red Sox into battle, while Greer resident and pitching coach Bob Kipper will serve in the same role for the Double-A Portland Sea Dogs. After the Drive’s success over the past two seasons, it’s really no surprise that all three coaches received a promotion in 2010.

Drive Solicit Fans’ Help in 2010 to Select the 5th Anniversary All-Star Team

Never underestimate the power of a volunteer! Fluor volunteers – 130 strong - participated in HOG Day 2009 and renewed the grounds and structures at the Boys Home of the South. Armed with paint brushes, wheelbarrows, shovels, rake, and a chain saw, Fluor volunteers transformed Boys Home of the South. The army of red was scattered about the Boys Home Campus giving the cottages a new coat of paint, painting the dining hall, clearing debris on a trail, spreading sand in the volleyball pit and at the horse barn, weed eating, cutting down dead limbs and trees, and organizing the clothes closet. Volunteers of all ages worked side-by-side to make a difference for the residents and staff of the Boys Home.
In one way, it was a difficult decision. In another, it was the easiest one Casey Kelly has made. Starting pitcher or shortstop?

Kelly, widely regarded as the Red Sox’s top prospect, had been weighing that question in his mind since he was drafted in the 2008 First-Year Player Draft. When it finally came down to picking one over the other, Kelly essentially asked himself this: “How will I get to the Major Leagues the fastest and how will I stay there the longest?”

“It’s such a unique situation that I’ve been in for the last five years by doing both positions and everything,” Kelly said in a conference call with reporters on Wednesday. “The biggest thing for me was, I just sat down and asked myself -- put the emotion aside -- and asked myself what my main goal was with baseball, and it was to make it to the big leagues. Pitching just seemed like it was going to be faster and a longer career in the big leagues for me. Once I asked myself that, it was a pretty easy decision.”

Though he is 20 years old, Kelly has seemed more advanced all along from both a pitching and maturity standpoint. Kelly admitted that making a firm decision has taken a burden off him.

“It’s been a huge burden -- I think ever since the pitching was done last year and me going to play shortstop,” said Kelly. “Since I was so successful as a pitcher, everyone couldn’t figure out why I wanted to play shortstop.”
Pick up the world's most refreshing beer at your local Bi-Lo
Has it really been five years? How can that be?

Doesn’t it feel like just yesterday that the groundbreaking ceremony for Fluor Field took place? And just 11 months later, the facility we are now in opened, welcoming baseball fans from across the Upstate as “Shoeless” Joe emerged from the Green Monster on April 6th, 2006.

My, oh my has the world changed since then – Pluto is no longer recognized as a planet (8/24/06), the United States welcomed its 300 millionth resident (10/9/06), the final book in the Harry Potter saga was released (7/22/07), Barry Bonds became Major League Baseball’s home run king (8/7/07), oil prices hit a record high causing pain at the gas pump (Summer ’08), Michael Phelps won a record 8 gold medals at the 2008 Summer Olympics, the stock market tanked (September-October ’08), Barack Obama was elected President of the United States (11/4/08), the

“The Miracle on the Hudson” (1/15/09), The “King of Pop” Michael Jackson dies (6/25/09), and on and on.

With everything that has happened over the past four seasons, Terrence Mann’s (played by James Earl Jones) quote in Field of Dreams seems quite fitting. “The one constant through all the years, has been baseball. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It has been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt and erased again. But baseball has marked the time. This field, this game: it’s a part of our past. It reminds us of all that once was good and it could be again. Oh…people will come. People will most definitely come.”

Since its gates opened, Fluor Field has been and will continue to be a symbol of pride for the Upstate community. While there were naysayers before the Drive’s first game, it didn’t take them long to come around. A region which is rich in baseball heritage, beginning in the late 1800s with the textile and mill leagues, felt burned when the Double-A Braves up and moved to Pearl, Mississippi.

It seemed unfair that an area that can claim “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, Jim Rice, Joe Anders, and Lou Brissie, while hosting the likes of Nolan Ryan, Ryne Sandberg, and Curt Schilling during their minor league careers, would be without professional baseball.

But in swooped the ownership group of Craig Brown, Roy Bostock, and Paul Raether, moving the franchise from Columbia to Greenville, and committing the funds for a brand new downtown ballpark, which was named the 2006 Ballpark of the Year.

Consider this, the Drive’s yearly attendance in each of their first four seasons has surpassed any total the G-Braves ever had during their 19-year run at Municipal Stadium. And while the Braves major league parent may have been just a two-hour jaunt down I-85, they can’t match the fan base nor the farm system juggernaut that is the Boston Red Sox.

Through four seasons, seven former Drive players have already made their Major League debut with the Red Sox – pitchers Clay Buchholz, Michael Bowden, Daniel Bard, Hunter Jones and Dustin Richardson, outfielder Josh Reddick, and first baseman Aaron Bates.

“The Red Sox continue to be one of the top teams in Major League baseball in terms of investing in scouting – both amateur and international – drafting, and developing young players into Major Leaguers,” noted Drive Co-Owner and Team President, Craig Brown. “The Drive has been a beneficiary of that as we have seen seven of our former players reach the majors over the past four years, and we will continue to have the organization’s brightest young prospects during the 2010 season.”

In just his second big league start, Buchholz fanned Orioles outfielder Nick Markakis in the top of the ninth at Fenway Park to complete a no-hitter. When the right-hander accomplished the feat on September 1st, 2007 he was less than 13 months removed from donning a Greenville Drive uniform.

With his blazing fastball, Daniel Bard has been Boston manager Terry Francona’s go-to guy before visiting

“Has it really been five years? How can that be?”

“Doesn’t it feel like just yesterday that the groundbreaking ceremony for Fluor Field took place?”

“With everything that has happened over the past four seasons, Terrence Mann’s quote in Field of Dreams seems quite fitting.”

“Since its gates opened, Fluor Field has been and will continue to be a symbol of pride for the Upstate community.”

“The Drive’s yearly attendance in each of their first four seasons has surpassed any total the G-Braves ever had during their 19-year run at Municipal Stadium.”

“Through four seasons, seven former Drive players have already made their Major League debut with the Red Sox.”

“‘The Red Sox continue to be one of the top teams in Major League baseball in terms of investing in scouting – both amateur and international – drafting, and developing young players into Major Leaguers,’ noted Drive Co-Owner and Team President, Craig Brown.”

“Has it really been five years? How can that be?”

“Doesn’t it feel like just yesterday that the groundbreaking ceremony for Fluor Field took place?”

“With everything that has happened over the past four seasons, Terrence Mann’s quote in Field of Dreams seems quite fitting.”

“Since its gates opened, Fluor Field has been and will continue to be a symbol of pride for the Upstate community.”

“The Drive’s yearly attendance in each of their first four seasons has surpassed any total the G-Braves ever had during their 19-year run at Municipal Stadium.”

“Through four seasons, seven former Drive players have already made their Major League debut with the Red Sox.”

“‘The Red Sox continue to be one of the top teams in Major League baseball in terms of investing in scouting – both amateur and international – drafting, and developing young players into Major Leaguers,’ noted Drive Co-Owner and Team President, Craig Brown.”
We’ll field your dreams.

Want to be a nurse, a paralegal, a welder, or a Clemson student? Whether your goal is to prepare for one of today’s most promising careers or to transfer to a four-year college or university, we’re college that works.

or to transfer to a four-year college or university, we’re

Whether your goal is to prepare for one of today’s most promising careers

Want to be a nurse, a paralegal, a welder, or a Clemson student?

We’ll field your dreams.

www.gvltec.edu

7,129 fans, the longtime Atlanta Braves

of a standing room, record crowd of

pitched for Drive on May 31st. In front

when future Hall of Famer John Smoltz

it was not in Charleston.

It’s as nice a baseball venue to play in,

enjoy the vibrant downtown atmosphere.

forward to every opportunity we have to

play there, as do our fans, who really

enjoy the vibrant downtown atmosphere.

It’s as nice a baseball venue to play in,

and a tremendous asset to Greenville and our community.”

The hardest ticket in town to come by

thus far in 2010 was the first annual

Reedy River Rivalry, a matchup between

rivals Clemson and South Carolina. A

highly contested bout that was eventual-

ly won after a Gamecock rally, drew the

highest ticket prices in the state after venue for top collegiate action. Clemson, the University of South Caro-

лина, Furman, Presbyterian College, Ten-

nessee, Michigan State, Miami (Ohio), Xavier, and Quinnipiac have all raved about their experiences at Fluor Field. Just last season the Southern Conference Baseball Championship was decided at Fluor Field, the first time in 19 years that

it was not in Charleston.

Economic development advocates have also emphasized the advantages the Drive has provided for promoting the Upstate as a premier place to live, work and enjoy life. Fluor Field and its amenities are one of the top quality of life advantages consistently mentioned when companies are encouraged to move to the Upstate and out-of-area talent is being recruited by local employers.

Indications are that the Drive’s popularity and fan support continues to be on the upswing, as each season has seen a steady flow of first-time guests making the short walk from Downtown or riding the Drive Trolley from County Square to the ballpark opened! Just last season the Southern Conference Baseball Championship was decided at Fluor Field, the first time in 19 years that it was not in Charleston.

While Buchholz and Bard are obviously the most notable former Drive to reach the big leagues, there will be more – the Red Sox field a solid pitching staff at the Major League level when you look at the Red Sox current roster, and how many of them are “home-grown” – pitchers Jon Lester, Pablo Almonte, Bard, and Manny Delcarmen; infielders Kevin Youkilis, Dustin Pedroia, and Jed Lowrie; outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury.

Fluor Field and its amenities are one of the top quality of life advantages consistently mentioned when companies are encouraged to move to the Upstate and out-of-area talent is being recruited by local employers.

It was a homecoming of sorts in 2009 when future Hall of Famer John Smoltz pitched for Drive on May 31st. In front of a standing room, record crowd of 7,129 fans, the longtime Atlanta Braves hero stepped on a mound in Greenville for the first time since 2001.

While the Drive’s 70-game home sched-

ule is the bulk of the activity at Fluor Field, the ballpark has become a sought after venue for top collegiate action. Clemson, the University of South Caro-

lna, Furman, Presbyterian College, Ten-

nessee, Michigan State, Miami (Ohio), Xavier, and Quinnipiac have all raved about their experiences at Fluor Field. Just last season the Southern Conference Baseball Championship was decided at Fluor Field, the first time in 19 years that it was not in Charleston.

It’s easy to envision each of these players producing solid statistics at the Major League level when you look at the Red Sox current roster, and how many of them are “home-grown” – pitchers Jon Lester, Pa-

pelbon, Bard, and Manny Delcarmen; infielders Kevin Youkilis, Dustin Pedroia, and Jed Lowrie; outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury.

Fluor Field has even served as a destina-
tion for rehabbing Red Sox, making their way back to the majors. Lester’s road to recovery after having his rookie season

began in Greenville a year later. The southpaw made three starts for the Drive in 2007, before winning Game 4 of the World Series as the Red Sox claimed their second championship in four sea-

sons. The next season Lester added a no-hitter to his accomplishments.

It was a homecoming of sorts in 2009 when future Hall of Famer John Smoltz pitched for Drive on May 31st. In front of a standing room, record crowd of

7,129 fans, the longtime Atlanta Braves

since making his Major League debut

last May. He’s even been dubbed as the heir apparent as the Sox’ next closer due to his electric stuff.

While Buchholz and Bard are obviously the most notable former Drive to reach the big leagues, there will be more – the Red Sox field a solid pitching staff at the Major League level when you look at the Red Sox current roster, and how many of them are “home-grown” – pitchers Jon Lester, Pablo Almonte, Bard, and Manny Delcarmen; infielders Kevin Youkilis, Dustin Pedroia, and Jed Lowrie; outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury.

Fluor Field has even served as a destina-
tion for rehabbing Red Sox, making their way back to the majors. Lester’s road to recovery after having his rookie season

began in Greenville a year later. The southpaw made three starts for the Drive in 2007, before winning Game 4 of the World Series as the Red Sox claimed their second championship in four sea-

sons. The next season Lester added a no-hitter to his accomplishments.

It was a homecoming of sorts in 2009 when future Hall of Famer John Smoltz pitched for Drive on May 31st. In front of a standing room, record crowd of

7,129 fans, the longtime Atlanta Braves

since making his Major League debut

last May. He’s even been dubbed as the heir apparent as the Sox’ next closer due to his electric stuff.
success, many since before the ballpark even opened. Mike deMaime, the General Manager of the Drive, commented on the importance of the Drive’s sponsor relationships, saying, “There is no question our sponsors are a huge asset to our team. The value associations they bring to the organization and the advantages we strive to deliver for their brands and business/community initiatives are what make these partnerships work, and last.”

The Drive’s involvement with and commitment to the Upstate has reached beyond fans and corporate sponsors, and is evidenced by its support for strategic initiatives that impact the well-being and quality of life for many throughout the community. High on that list is the Drive Reading All-Stars Program, which promotes education through reading and has grown in three seasons to include more than 50,000 students from Greenville and Spartanburg Counties. In addition, the Drive has formed partnerships with numerous civic and charitable organizations across the Upstate, from the Chamber of Commerce and United Way, to service clubs, sports teams, high school bands, churches, and more.

Brown summarized the team’s experiences and its role in the positive developments around Fluor Field over the past four years, saying, “Being part of the success that Greenville and the Upstate region are enjoying has been a huge thrill, and a very rewarding challenge. And each season the possibilities seem more promising and exciting. Having a community like Greenville and the Upstate as your customer, and partner, make it a pleasure to provide the kind of family entertainment and baseball experience the Drive offers. It’s a marriage made in heaven, and we feel like we’re still on the honeymoon.”

While 2010 is still in its infancy stage, the 5th Anniversary Season has already seen sell-out crowds at Fluor Field for the first annual Reedy River Rivalry game, and plans are in place for the team to host Greenville’s first-ever South Atlantic League All-Star Game at Fluor Field on June 22nd - with top players, team organizations and fans from 14 cities across the Eastern U.S. heading to Greenville for the two-day event. 2010 is on its way to being a banner season for the Drive as the Upstate’s favorite gathering spot in the heart of downtown Greenville’s bustling West End.

If you build it…people will come. People will most certainly come.
1. AT STEADMAN HAWKINS...COMMUNITY COMES FIRST
You might already know that the Drive has chosen Steadman Hawkins as their team physicians since they first stepped on the field, but did you know so have 20,000 middle and high school athletes! That’s right, at no charge, Steadman Hawkins and their team of one of the largest certified trainer networks in the country takes care of over 55 local schools in the Upstate.

2. DR. RICHARD HAWKINS IS AN ALL-STAR
Hailing from Colorado, but now RIGHT HERE in Greenville, Dr. Richard Hawkins, co-founder of the Steadman Hawkins Clinic, is a superstar. He’s the team physician for the Denver Broncos (two Super Bowls to prove it!) as well as the Colorado Rockies, he’s published eight textbooks, written over 200 articles, founding member of the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons, been a professor at three universities, and has trained over 170 orthopedic surgeons!

3. NUTRITION IS MEDICINE
Our physicians know that medicine comes in all different forms...and the most powerful is through natural food. The Nutrition Science Center at Steadman Hawkins is committed to making nutrition a key part of your pre-surgery, recovery, and on-going health programs. From patients to elite athletes, the Nutrition Center is the one place to go to optimize your health and wellness.

4. WE’RE OPEN LATE!
After hour injuries? No worries, Steadman Hawkins, at our Patewood location, offers the Evening S.H.I.F.T. weeknights from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., WITHOUT an appointment, you can come see our orthopedic physicians to properly diagnose and treat your injury.

5. FROM HEAD TO TOE... THERE IS ONLY ONE
More orthopedic specialists than anywhere in the region. Arthritis and joint replacement, joint restoration, elbow/shoulder, foot and ankle, hand and spine, orthopedic trauma and pediatric orthopedics... WE COVER IT ALL...and we do it with excellence and research.

Meet team doctor Jason Folk, MD at Steadmanhawkinscc.com
It's a whole new ballgame. Now, the most beautiful homes in Greenville have a better choice in yard treatment services. The new Gregory Lawn Solutions, part of Greenville's own Gregory Pest Solutions, delivers effective, environmentally-sensitive treatments for your lawn, trees and ornamentals. Unlike the generic “quick-spray” approach of other companies, we analyze your yard's condition at each visit and custom-mix treatments onsite. It's better service that gives you better results — guaranteed. We're here to build relationships that last.

Please call 864-766-4137 to arrange a FREE LAWN ANALYSIS. There's no obligation, no sales pressure — just the courteous, dependable service Gregory clients can expect.

Discounted pricing available for our PEST SOLUTIONS clients.
The first year of college can be challenging one, particularly for a student-athlete. The transition from a big contributor at a small high school to a rookie at a NCAA Division I institution can be difficult for some.

For former Tiger All-American Billy McMillon, now preparing for his first year as manager of the Greenville Drive, after serving the last two years as hitting coach, the adjustment from Bishopville High School to Clemson was much easier than he envisioned. McMillon is now hoping to draw on his experiences in Tigertown combined with a six-year stint in Major League baseball while adjusting to managing at the professional level.

McMillon, a three-year letterman for Clemson (1991-1993) did not need much time to confirm his college choice when former Tiger skipper Bill Wilhelm gave him a scholarship offer. Prior to his junior and senior years of high school he had attended academic workshops at Clemson and liked what he saw in the Upstate of South Carolina.

“When I went to those workshops at Clemson I absolutely fell in love with the campus and the people,” recalled McMillon. “I knew then that it was a special place. When Coach Wilhelm extended an offer I accepted immediately.”

When McMillon arrived on campus in the fall of 1990 he had modest goals for his rookie campaign. Coming from a small school in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina led him to believe he would be a complimentary player at best during his first season. He could not have been more wrong. During the 1991 season, a year that saw the Tigers win the Atlantic Coast Conference, advance to the College World Series and finish the year with an unbelievable 60-10 record and number-four national ranking, McMillon’s numbers were more than staggering. He hit a team-best .391 with 10 home runs and 43 RBI in 65 games played, 54 of which were starts. He was named a Freshman All-American for his efforts.

All of these numbers posted from a youngster who hoped to get at least ONE AT BAT during his freshman season.

“A lot of people don’t believe me when I say this, but my goal was really to get an at bat that first year,” remembered McMillon. “I came from a small high school that had not been known for producing great college baseball players. Here I am at Clemson and they have guys who have played at high levels all around the country. To have a freshman year like I did and have so much team success is something I will never forget.”

Wilhelm still marvels at the early success that McMillon enjoyed. He can also remember the respect he earned quickly during his Clemson career.

“There are not many people that hit like Billy did,” said Wilhelm. “Ted Williams is someone that I remember as a true hitter. After my time at Clemson Khalil Greene was that type of hitter.”

McMillon continued to play outstanding baseball during his three seasons at Clemson. He registered a .381 batting average in 142 career games, earning All-ACC honors in 1991 and 1993 and first team All-American mention by NCBWA in 1993.

With all the impressive individual numbers to go along with 155 team wins and two ACC Championships in three years McMillon still looks back at his time at Clemson as some of the best years of his life. He is quick to credit Bill Wilhelm and current Tiger manager Jack Leggett as reason for that success. The lessons learned from those two will be an asset as he begins his first year as a manager.

“Coach Wilhelm is as honest and direct as any person you will ever be around in your life. He will tell exactly what he is thinking. Two qualities that I still respect about Coach Wilhelm are a good work ethic and honesty. He demanded that from his players and we are all better for it. I hope I can provide that type of leadership in the role I’m in now.”

Leggett, who joined Wilhelm’s staff in 1992 as an assistant coach after 14 years leading programs at Vermont and Western Carolina has also played a key role for McMillon during two years as an assistant during McMillon’s time in Tigertown. Just this past January, on a day when he attended a Greenville Drive hot stove function in Greenville, McMillon took the short drive down High-way 123 from Greenville to visit and talk strategy with Leggett.

“Coach Leggett took the time to meet with me about different issues as I begin my first year as a manager. I’m sure there will be times during this season when I reach out to him again. I really could not ask for more than that from Coach Leggett. Here is a guy who is preparing his time for to win a championship and he is willing to help. I can’t tell you how much that means to me.”

As he did when coming to Clemson, McMillon did not have goals of managing greatness in professional baseball. But after a six-year major league career with Florida, Philadelphia Detroit, and Oakland, that opportunity is set to begin in 2010.
Following two years as hitting coach for the Drive, including a 2009 season that saw Greenville claim the South Atlantic League first-half title, McMillon was given the opportunity to move into the manager’s position when former Drive Skipper Kevin Boles was promoted to Boston Red Sox affiliate in Salem, Va.

Boston Red Sox Director of Player Development Mike Hazen is excited to see McMillon in his first year as manager.

“Billy is a great communicator and will handle this promotion in a very positive way,” said Hazen. “It will be a little different in terms of responsibility, but I know he will do a great job. Being here in Greenville the last two years will be an advantage for him. He not only knows about Greenville, but he understands how the Red Sox are here to help develop the guys that he has here.”

At the minor league level wins and losses are important, but developing players to be the best they can be is the ultimate goal. McMillon is fortunate to be in the Boston organization which has a reputation of being the best.

“You could not ask for more than what the Red Sox do for us,” said McMillon. “They have a plan in place for player development and are there to help us succeed. I know this year will be a challenge for me, but I’m looking forward to it.

And while McMillon will be embarking on rookie season as a manager, he will be surrounded by two vets - pitching coach Kevin Walker and hitting coach - both of whom served in their respective roles a year ago with the Lowell Spinners.

Between the three coaches, they have combined for 23 seasons in the Major Leagues during their playing careers. Something that bodes well when trying to shape the young careers of players that have dreams of one day playing in the bigs, too.

“It’s definitely a unique opportunity for the players that come to Greenville...with all three members of the staff having Major League experience,” noted McMillon. “It’s in the players best interest to seek us out, ask us questions.”

And while the staff may be slightly different than what fans have seen during the past two seasons, there won’t be much change in terms of the styles and the ultimate goal - preparing the younger players to one day be a part of the Boston Red Sox at the Major League level and help them win World Series Championships.

“Our goal is to develop these players to the best of our ability,” said McMillon. “We want to help these guys prepare to advance and be major league baseball players. That is what the Red Sox are expecting from Kevin, Luis, and myself.”

“As far as personal goals I always have been the kind of person that when a door opens I go through it,” said McMillon. “I don’t think it is out of the question for me to advance to the major leagues one day. But that is not my focus at all right now. I just want to do the things the right way and have success.”

Kevin Walker and Luis Lopez join Billy McMillon’s staff in 2010 after having served as the pitching coach and hitting coach, respectively, for the Lowell Spinners in 2009 (Photo courtesy of the Lowell Spinners).
NAME: Mark Wagner
POSITION: Catcher
YEAR WITH THE DRIVE: 2006

STATS WITH THE DRIVE:
2006: .301 (107-for-355), 7 HR, 45 RBI, 49 R, 32 2B

NEWS & NOTES: Regarded as the best defensive catching prospect in the Red Sox Farm System, Wagner was a South Atlantic League All-Star in 2006 with the Drive...split the 2009 season between Double-A Portland and Triple-A Pawtucket...hit .301 (46-for-153) with 3 home run, 23 RBI and 21 runs in 42 games with the Sea Dogs before being promoted...struggled to the tune of a .214 (33-for-154) average in 43 games for the PawSox...has excelled at each level his second time around...calls a good game, but needs to improve framing pitches...nimble behind the plate, looks very good fielding bunts...has the potential to be an excellent defensive catcher at the Major League level...is said to be an extremely hard worker with strong leadership ability...has gap power at the plate...no particularly dominant offensive tools, but all are average or above average.

NAME: Luis Exposito
POSITION: Catcher

STATS WITH THE DRIVE:
2008: .283 (54-for-191), 11 HR, 31 RBI, 34 R
2007: .233 (7-for-30), 0 HR, 2 RBI, 3 R

NEWS AND NOTES: Has a strong, broad frame that makes him suitable to be an everyday catcher at the Major League level...was a South Atlantic League All-Star with the Drive in 2008, hitting .283 (54-for-191) with 11 home runs, 31 RBI and 34 runs in 49 games, after a brief stint in Greenville during 2007...Following a late season promotion to Double-A Portland in 2009, exceeded expectations at the plate by hitting .337 (31-for-92) with 3 home runs, 14 RBI, 14 runs scored, and five doubles in just 23 games...has a above average power with the ability to add even more pop - has 25 home run potential...has quality catching tools, including very good blocking skills, a strong arm and good instincts...could use some improvement with his game-calling ability and throwing accuracy.
THE LEADER IN PROVIDING PERFORMANCE APPAREL TO AMERICA’S PREMIER BRANDS

and

The Official Uniform Provider for the Greenville Drive Game Day Staff

How employees look and feel is key to any company’s success. At Oobe, we believe in working collaboratively with you to create a custom apparel program that fits your brand image, helps you look your best, and is cost-effective.

Since the early 1990’s, Oobe has been designing and building clothes that are stylish, functional, comfortable, and durable. Doesn’t sound much like a typical uniform company, does it? Well, there are uniforms, then there are uniforms that aren’t.

To find out more visit us online at oobe.com or call us toll free at 877-632-0OBE

Dancing ‘til you drop may be fun, but dropping from illness or injury is not. That’s why you need a good medical home to turn to.

Greenville Hospital System University Medical Group has a physician who’s the right match for you: in a large or small practice nearby, with convenient office hours, and staffed by highly skilled and caring professionals.

To find the doctor who’ll keep you dancing, visit ghs.org.
Riding a unicycle is hard.

Online Bill Pay is easy.
And it’s free.

YOU CAN EVEN EARN CASH BACK* WHENEVER YOU PAY BILLS WITH PARTICIPATING VENDORS. SO WHY WOULDN’T YOU SIGN UP FOR BILL PAY TODAY? JUST VISIT WWW.CAROLINAFIRST.COM OR TALK TO A CAROLINA FIRST REPRESENTATIVE TO START ENJOYING ALL THE GREAT BENEFITS OF PAYING BILLS ONLINE OR WITH YOUR MOBILE DEVICE.

CAROLINA FIRST
We take your banking personally.

800.476.6400 www.carolinafirst.com

*Terms and conditions apply. Cash back offers vary by merchant and are subject to change. See a Carolina First representative for details. Member FDIC.