

## Annual Will Dicus Baseball Tournament Field Set

Written by Marty Lambert

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The annual Will Dicus Memorial Baseball Tournament will take place June 18 and 19 at five locations around Boone, NC. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Will Dicus Indoor Training Facility to be constructed on the campus of Watauga High School.

Five age groups of youth baseball players will be competing – 8 & under, 10 & under, 12 & under, 14 & under and 18 & under. Over thirty teams featuring both local as well as teams from Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina will be playing.

This is the fourth Will Dicus tournament to be played. “It started out as a small fundraiser to purchase a public address system for the Optimist Fields,” states tournament Bill Dicus. “After the first year Marty Lambert just took it and ran with it.” Over thirty teams will compete this year. Last year’s event raised over \$8000.00 for the facility and with over thirty teams signed up, this year’s tournament hopes to raise even more.

“The Dicus Indoor Training Facility will provide much needed indoor training space and practice opportunities for both the men’s baseball programs and the ladies’ softball program at Watauga High School,” state Patti Turner who is heading up the project. “We have raised close to \$50,000. “ The project will require \$125,000 to \$140,000 to complete. Additional monies have been raised on both an individual “Pave The Way” brick sponsorship program as well as corporate naming rights solicitation.

Games will be played at Optimist Park, the Parks and Rec Industrial and Complex fields as well as Watauga High School and Appalachian State University. “There are a lot of folks to thank for their help in this tournament from the Optimist Club, the Watauga County commissioners and Parks and Rec

staff to Tom Wright at Watauga High and Charlie Cobb at ASU,” states Dicus. “It is another sign of a community coming together for a cause.”

The event is named for Will Dicus, a former Watauga Little League, Watauga Storm AAU travel team and Watauga High School baseball player who lost his battle with cancer in 2009. Anyone interested in volunteering for the tournament can call Marty Lambert at (828) 963-0565 for information.