

# Gladiator News

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## Gladiators try to solve parking problem

MIKE HENRY

Herald Staff Writer

**BRADENTON** - Officials of the Bradenton Gladiators are taking steps to ensure smooth traffic flow and orderly parking for tonight's Southern States Football League game against the Miami Magic City Bulls (3-0) at the Police Athletic League Sports Complex.

An overflow crowd of 735 fans for last week's home opener against the defending league champion St. Petersburg Sharks caused numerous cars to be hemmed in and led to one vehicle being towed from a ditch after the driver tried to make his own shortcut out of the parking lot.

Gladiators head coach Eddie Starling, who is also a detective with the Manatee County Sheriff's Office and PAL's director of football operations, said additional deputies and members of the Manatee County Sheriff's Explorers Unit will supervise parking.

"We realize the PAL Complex (202 13th Ave. E) is very small, and if you don't park a certain way, we're going to have severe parking problems," Starling said.

Starling said the Gladiators will make a donation to the Explorers Unit in return for their help.

"We're also going to hire some off-duty security deputies to help with safe and orderly access into and out of the parking lot," he said. "We realize there are things we have to do in cooperation with PAL and the Sheriff's Office to make this a place where everybody wants to come and enjoy minor-league football."

Starling said the ditch in the parking lot will be roped off with orange lattice fencing.

Deputies also will be called on to keep fans from lining the edges of the sideline and blocking the view of patrons in the bleachers, which could be a challenge if a similar-size crowd attends tonight's game. PAL currently has bleacher seating for between 500-600 fans.

The Sharks are 2-1 after a 41-29 loss against St. Petersburg.

The game begins at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are \$7 at the gate, \$5 if purchased from a Gladiators coach or player. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

Team president Edrick Sweeting said the Gladiators have donated dozens of free tickets to local Boys & Girls Clubs and the 13th Avenue Community Center. For details, call Sweeting at 320-7576.