# SOUTHERN MARYLAND BLUE CRABS

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### Overview



\* The Southern Maryland Blue Crabs are approaching their 5<sup>th</sup> season in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball. In the past the team has utilized social media strategies, however not to full capacity leaving out a target demographic for attendance. Social media night at the park looks to garner support and spread awareness for a younger crowd. The target demographic includes college students and young professionals in the D.C. metropolitan area and Southern Maryland. By implementing a social media campaign that utilizes various mediums not commonly found among professional sports, the night will hopefully be a successful one for the Blue Crabs.

# SWOT Analysis

#### Strengths

- Social Media Presence: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube
- Partnerships with companies in the area; incentives for fans
- Plays an active role in the community: Meet and greet before games, appearances, donations



Weakness

- Social media: "likes"/ followers, and frequency of posts; Overall Activity
- Web site: Layout and design
  - Events: Lacking target audience of college students and young adults



# SWOT Analysis cont.

#### **Opportunities**

- Location: D.C. and College of Southern Maryland.
- \* Social media: Increase activity and interaction
- Local colleges capable of spreading awareness

#### **Threats**

- Other local teams: Nationals, Orioles, Bowie Baysox
- Local teams in different sports implementing social media: D.C. United, Capitals, Redskins, Wizards
- Other entertainment opportunities





### Strategic Considerations

- The purpose of this event is to garner support for the Blue Crabs by making the team and game atmosphere more geared toward college students and young adults
- \* The planned event is set to spread awareness and increase the fan base to a more inclusive one, while also building social media presence.
- The Blue Crabs have ample opportunity to broaden the diversity of their fan demographic by simply implementing an effective social media strategy and campaign





# STRATEGIES AND TACTICS: WEBSITE REDESIGN

#### -Front page is cluttered:

-Hard to navigate -Hard to decipher information -Who are the blue crabs? Not clear.

#### -Redesign necessary:

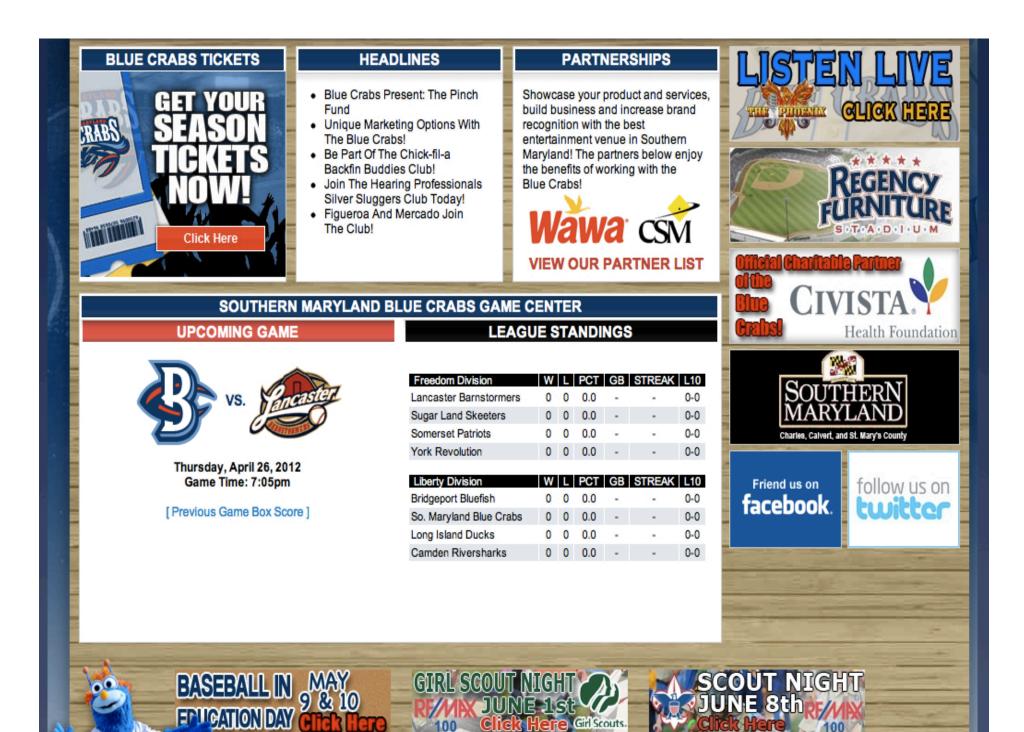
Objective: use space more efficiently
Incorporate social media more effectively
Highlight team news better
Highlights should stretch across top

#### -Add:

-Player highlights -League leaders -Social Media on top of screen

Link to (subtract): -Corporate Partners -League Standings -Radio Partnership -Headlines -Season Tickets -Video clips -Upcoming Games





C

100

Girl Scouts

100



# STRATEGIES AND TACTICS: MEDIA EVENT



#### "Social Media Night"

 Press Conference: Send out media advisories to local media in Southern Maryland and the Metropolitan area about the unveiling of a new Southern Maryland Blue Crab baseball team social media campaign

Unveiling the "Crustacean Nation." Talking points will include:

- Innovative use of Meetup.com and Pinterest: forms of social media not yet utilized successfully in professional sports

-Discussion of implications of new social media: professional sports in the 21 Century

# STRATEGIES AND TACTICS: SOCIAL MEDIA

#### Twitter:

#FeartheCrab

- @CrustaceanNation
- Live game tweets
- Re-tweeting competition giveaways
- Spread awareness about weekly events
- Game reminders
- Meetup.com updates
- -Link to Facebook feature stories

#### Youtube:

- Haven't updated since January
- Lack of considerable presence

#### Facebook:

- Daily news timely to game events Player profiles – getting to know the Blue Crabs
- Crab of the week: features on fans
- Fear the Crab slogan tailored to all tags

#### Meetup.com:

-Partner with local bars to organize Blue Crab pre-game happy hour specials

-Organize party buses leaving from various locations in DC, Maryland and Virginia

#### Pinterest:

-Videos

-Vintage "throwback" baseball cards and jerseys

-Fan contests to t-shirt and jersey design contests

#### Email

-"Crustacean Nation" email list

-Receive email updates

-Those who join the "Crustacean Nation" email and mailing list will receive free tickets to a game and a "Crustacean Nation" bumper sticker

# STRATEGIES AND TACTICS: RADIO



- Plug "The Phoenix" online radio station as well as their online, downloadable music player
- As a testament to the program, broadcast the press conference live on "The Phoenix"



# STRATEGIES AND TACTICS: PRINT MEDIA



-Press Releases: sent to the above named newspapers about the release of a new minor league baseball media strategy

-Pitch Letters: specifically target Washington Post Technology and Local Business sections for their coverage of innovative practices in the area

# **Communication Goals**



- \* Communication Goals:
  - Raise awareness of the Blue Crabs with a wider demographic
  - Successfully use new social media platforms such as Meetup.com and Pinterest
  - Increase usage of social media at Blue Crab events to create a more immersive experience for fans
  - \* Generate more media coverage for the Blue Crabs

### Communication Objectives



\* Communication Objectives:

- \* Twitter: 50 percent more followers
  - \* 942 currently. 1413+ projected
- \* Facebook: 25 percent more likes
  - \* 6k likes. 7.5k projected
- \* Pinterest: Significant usage
- Meetup.com: Significant enough groups to partner with local bars to provide "Crustacean Nation" happy hours

## Southern MD Blue Crabs Social Media Night



**WHAT**: Southern MD Blue Crabs will host a night of social media activity and provide a postgame "mix and mingle" with 5 players

**WHERE**: Regency Furniture Stadium

WHEN: Saturday, June 9, 2012

**WHO**: CSM students, Local Businesses, Local High School students, DC Metro Area



Event Slogan: Create the Crab Convo

**WHY:** To build awareness, engagement, and interaction online with fans/ general public, and encourage greater connection to players/team

## Southern MD Blue Crabs Social Media Night



#### Goals of the Event:

- Build overall awareness of Southern MD Crabs and Players
- Encourage fans to interact via social media channels and retain engagement
  - Utilize fan social media activity to capture their social networks and market to broader audience
  - Build database of fan info via social channels to directly market and push ticket/merchandise sales



## Southern MD Blue Crabs Social Media Night



#### Social Media Night Details:

- Promote team social media platforms throughout night
  - \* Facebook: somdbluecrabs
  - \* Twitter: @BlueCrabs
  - \* All Blue Crab Player Platforms

#### Player Mix & Mingle Details:

- \* VIP Tickets: \$25
- \* 2 hour post-game party
- \* Crab feast, socialize, photos, and drink



Offer numerous incentives, special offers, and free giveaways over social media channels to encourage engagement throughout the night

# Media List

Maryland Independent

Washington Post

The Enterprise

The Calvert Recorder

Radio - WJFK 106.7

Radio - WIHT 99.5

Radio - WRQX 107.3

Radio - WKYS 93.9

Radio - WASH 97.1

Southern Maryland News

Dallas Cogle

Dan Steinberg

AJ Mason

J.P. Flaim

Chris Styles

Chili Amar

Russ Parr

Dave Arlington

James McCray

Tammy Showalter

Sports Beat

Sports Beat

Sports Beat

Sports Beat

Weekend On-Air 301-306-9540

Weekend On-Air 866-927-4361

301-645-9480

news.com

Sports Blogger 800-477-4679 ashpost.com tshowalter@s 301-862-2111 omdnews.com ajmason@so 301-855-1029 mdnews.com jmccray@som 301-645-8945 dnews.com studio@1067t Sports Junkies 703.691.1900 hefan.com styles@hot99 Weekend News 877-995-4681 5.com chilli.amar@c Weekday Nights 202-686-3100 umulus.com

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# Media List

Comcast Sportsnet

Mark Zuckerman Baseball Writer 301-718-3200

mzuckerman @csnwashingt on.com

SEAS

| Southern Maryland Online        | General Contact | Sports         | N/A          | Somd.com                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| College of Southern<br>Maryland | Sarah Tipsword  | Athletics News | 301-539-4711 | stipsword@cs<br>md.edu     |
| The Phoenix                     | General Contact | Radio          | 301-638-9877 | info@somdblu<br>ecrabs.com |
| Southern Maryland News          | Jason Norris    | Weekend News   | 301-645-8945 | jnorris@somd<br>news.com   |

### Comments?

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