LAKE NORMAN HARBORHIPPOS

PLAY WITH PURPOSE

2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

EST. 2025

A Story About Community, Told One Game at a Time

PLAY WITH PURPOSE

WE DON'T JUST PLAY BASEBALL. WE BUILD COMMUNITY.

Every summer, players, families, volunteers, and fans come together to create something far greater than baseball. Together, we build a community that lasts long after the final out.

PLAY WITH PURPOSE

Every game begins with gratitude. Every season begins together.

LAKE NORMAN HARBORHIPPOS

SEASON TWO

Growing the Game. Strengthening Our Community. Delivering Impact.

A SEAON OF GROWTH

Season Two marked another step forward for the HarborHippos. Attendance grew, community partnerships expanded, fan engagement reached new heights, and we earned the honor of hosting the Old North State League All-Star Game.

Most importantly, none of it would have been possible without our sponsors. Your partnership helped create meaningful experiences for players, families, and the Lake Norman community.

Turn the page to see the measurable impact your partnership made possible.

MORE THAN A GAME

Twenty-three unforgettable nights that brought Lake Norman together

600+
Opening Weekend Attendance

500+
All-Star Game Attendance

225
Average Game Attendance

$10K+
Raised for Non-Profits

40
Local Businesses Featured

15
Student Interns Developed

Signature Theme Nights

Bark in the Park
Ladies Night
Dudes at the Dock
Red, White & Blue Night
Normie's Birthday

Weekly Traditions

Music Bingo Mondays
2-for-1 Tuesdays
Youth Jersey Wednesdays
Thirsty Thursdays
Live Music at the Sandbar Dock

Because of our sponsors, every game became more than baseball—it became a place where players, families, local businesses, and our community came together.

COMMUNITY FIRST

Serving Lake Norman on and off the field.

$10,000+ Raised for Local Nonprofits

The HarborHippos were founded to be more than a summer baseball team. Throughout the season, our players served local nonprofits, supported youth programs, partnered with area businesses, and built meaningful relationships across Lake Norman.

Every volunteer opportunity reflected our belief that the greatest impact happens long after the final out.

Because of our sponsors, young athletes had opportunities to serve, local nonprofits received meaningful support, and our community grew stronger together.

Our greatest victories weren't always on the scoreboard

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Every partnership created moments that mattered

Every smile, every handshake, and every shared moment reflects the impact our sponsors help make possible.

Building Stronger Families **Serving Our Community** **Inspiring the Next Generation**

WHERE LAKE NORMAN COMES TOGETHER

Every game was more than nine innings— it was a community celebration

600+ Youth Players Recognized

YOUTH

A place where kids could simply be kids

FAMILY

Affordable entertainment where families created lasting summer memories together

COMMUNITY

Local businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations came together to celebrate Lake Norman

OUR TEAM

Forty Players. Two Countries. Nine States. One Purpose.

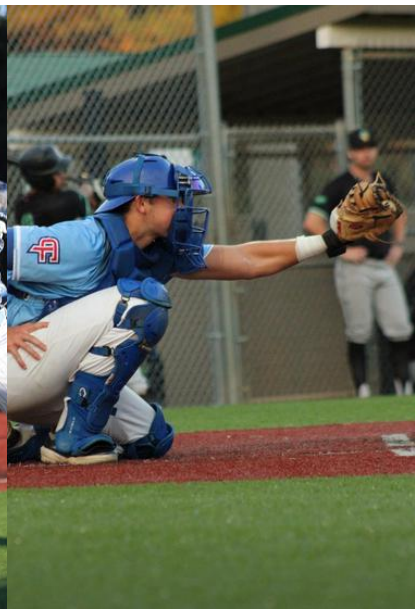
More Than a Summer Team

The HarborHippos brought together 40 collegiate student-athletes from nine states and Japan, united by one goal—to compete at a high level, grow as leaders, and make a lasting impact in our community. Throughout the summer, our players served others, mentored young athletes, and proudly represented the HarborHippos on and off the field. Wearing our jersey meant something bigger than baseball. Thanks to our sponsors, these young men experienced a summer of competition, friendship, personal growth, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Wearing a HarborHippos jersey meant something bigger than baseball

40 Collegiate Student-Athletes

Representing 9 States & Japan



THE BEST OF THE BEST

Hosting the 2026 Old North State League All-Star Game was one of the defining moments in HarborHippos history

A Milestone for Our Organization

Being selected to host the Old North State League All-Star Game was one of the greatest honors in HarborHippos history.

The event brought together the league's top players, coaches, and fans while showcasing everything that makes Lake Norman special.

More importantly, it reflected the incredible support of our sponsors, volunteers, and community partners who helped establish the HarborHippos as one of the league's premier organizations.

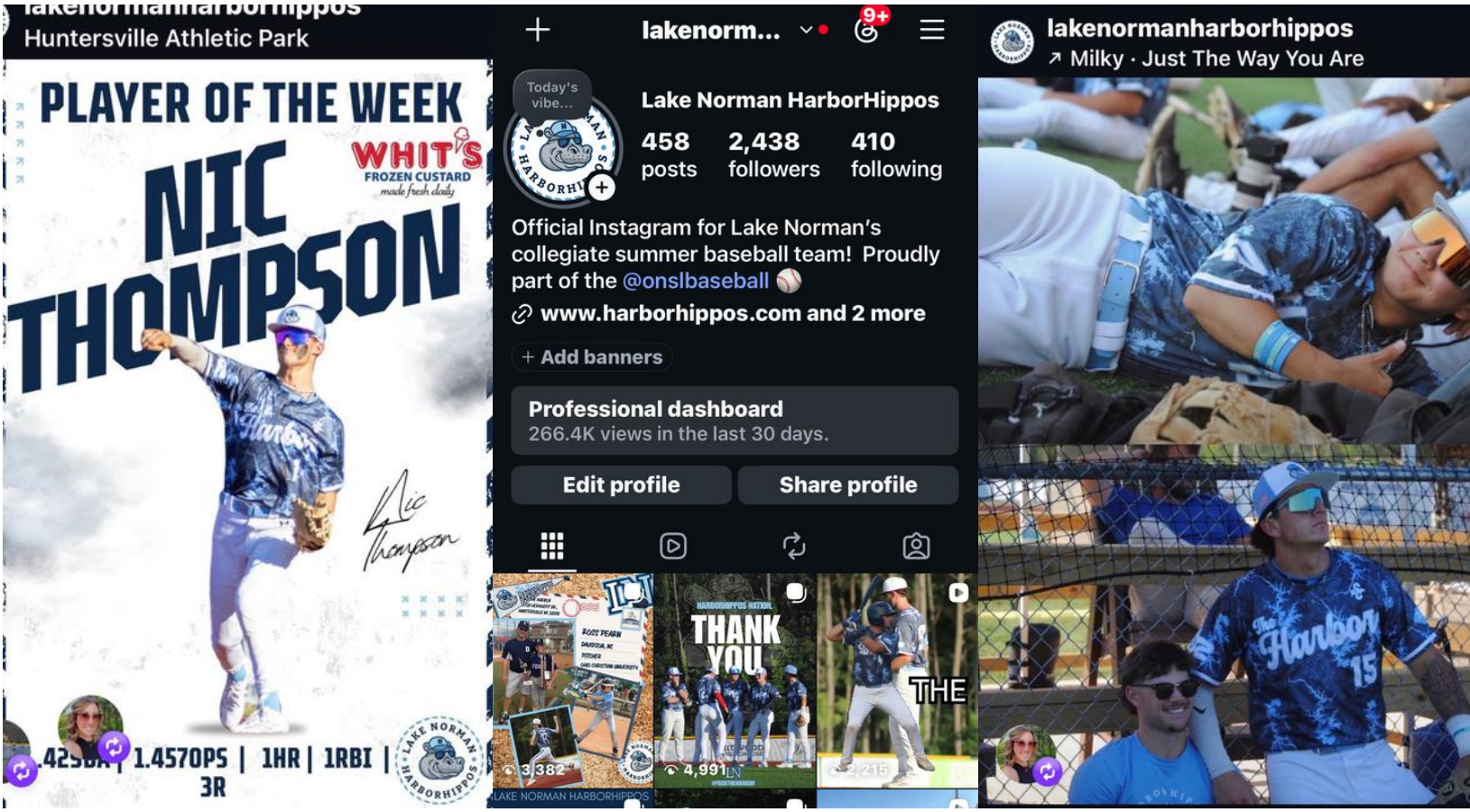
Together, we created an experience worthy of the league's biggest stage.

24 Teams
Represented Accross the League

ONE UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT

GROWING OUR REACH

Expanding our audience. Elevating our partners



73.3K

Social Reach
(+421.7%)

827K+

Total Social Views
(+584.8%)

297%

Instagram Follower Growth

5,175

Fans Attended

40

Local Businesses Featured

129%

Facebook Follower Growth

Baseball doesn't end when the final out is recorded.
Throughout the season, HarborHippos content reached fans across social media, extending the visibility of our players, community partners, and sponsors far beyond the ballpark.
Every post, photo, and highlight created new opportunities for local businesses to connect with families throughout Lake Norman.

ONCE A HIPPO
ALWAYS A HIPPO

Four players. One final season. One unforgettable choice.

WHY THEY CAME BACK

Every collegiate baseball player remembers their final season.

For four members of the 2026 HarborHippos, that final season could have been spent anywhere.

Instead, each chose to return to Lake Norman and finish their collegiate careers as HarborHippos.

That decision says more about our organization than any statistic ever could.

They returned because of the relationships they built, the culture they experienced, and the unforgettable environment our sponsors, volunteers, host families, and fans make possible every summer.

Ross Pearn
Ohio Christian - RHP

Jeren Harrison
Vermont St Univ Lyndon - OF

Cullen Barbee
Paul D Camp - RHP

Aiden Kwon
Monmouth Univ - OF

The greatest measure of our success isn't how many players come to Lake Norman—it's how many choose to come back

Thank you for choosing to finish your journey as HarborHippos

BUILDING THE FUTURE

Improving today while planning for tomorrow

Continuing to Improve Today's Experience

Our Long-Term Vision

A long-term vision for a permanent HarborHippos home that will serve Lake Norman for generations.

Conceptual rendering shown for illustrative purposes.

Always Moving Forward

Since opening day, the HarborHippos have been committed to creating one of the best fan experiences in collegiate summer baseball.

Every season brings new improvements—from enhanced entertainment and community events to new fan amenities like upgraded stadium seating, the Sandbar Dock, and enhanced gathering spaces. These investments reflect our commitment to making every game night more memorable for our players, fans, and sponsors.

At the same time, we're working alongside community leaders to explore a long-term vision for a permanent home for the HarborHippos. While that vision is still several years away, our commitment to improving the fan experience starts now—and continues every season.

Every improvement we make today helps build the foundation for an even brighter future.

TODAY

Creating unforgettable summer nights

TOMORROW

Building an even greater home for our community

Our journey is just beginning, and we're excited to build it together

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

With Gratitude

Dear Friends,

When we dreamed of bringing the HarborHippos to Lake Norman, we hoped to create a great summer baseball team.

What we've built together has become so much more than either of us ever imagined.

Because of your partnership, young athletes have grown as players and leaders, interns have gained valuable real-world experience, local nonprofits have been supported, and thousands of families and fans have found a place to gather each summer.

Perhaps the greatest compliment we've received came from four players who chose to return and finish their collegiate careers as HarborHippos. That decision reflects the kind of culture this community has helped create.

None of this happens without our volunteers, host families, coaches, staff, and especially our sponsors who believed in this vision from the very beginning.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for believing in our mission and investing in something bigger than baseball.

We can't wait to continue building the future together. We hope you'll continue to be part of the HarborHippos story for many seasons to come.

With gratitude,

Michael & Kris Viruso
Owners
Lake Norman HarborHippos

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Join us at:

www.harborhippos.com