

Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests

Sex Abuse Victim Sport Stars Honored at Baseball Game

Team Recognizes Their Work for Child Sex Abuse Awareness and Prevention

Former Philly Eagle and TNA Pro Wrestler Will Throw Out First Pitch

They Will Also Sign Autographs, Meet Fans

Use Delaware's Civil Window to Protect Kids - Before It's Too Late, They Ask Attendees, Victims

What:

At a Wilmington Blue Rocks Baseball game, two sport stars who are also victims of childhood sexual abuse will throw out the first ceremonial pitch and sign autographs for fans. Both men are being honored for their work for victims of child sex abuse and for raising awareness for Delaware's Child Victims' Act.

Where:

Wilmington's Frawley Stadium
801 Shipyard Drive (at Madison), Wilmington DE

When:

Wednesday, June 10, 2009
Ceremony begins at 6:30 pm
Game starts at 7:05

Who:

Al Chesley, former Philadelphia Eagles Football Star and
Pat Kenney, also known as Simon Diamond, former ECW TNA professional wrestler

Both men are victims of childhood sexual abuse and members of a support group called SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. SNAPnetwork.org

Why:

In July 2009, Delaware's landmark child protection law, the Child Victims' Act, will expire. The law, which provides a two-year "civil window," allows victims of child sexual abuse to come forward and seek justice and accountability, no matter when they were abused.

Since the window opened in 2007, numerous predators across the country have been exposed, removed from ministry or jobs with children, and communities have been warned about the threat these men pose.

Al Chesley, former Philadelphia Eagle, and former TNA wrestler Pat Kenney (AKA Simon Diamond) are being honored by the Wilmington Blue Rocks for their work in raising awareness about child sexual abuse and the importance of coming forward and seeking justice through laws like Delaware's civil window. Both men are encouraging all victims of child sex abuse in Delaware to protect kids and take advantage of the law before it expires.

Chelsey, who was sexually abused by a Washington D.C. police officer, has traveled the country speaking about his abuse, testifying in front of legislators, and working with the media to encourage victims to report abuse.

Kenney, who recently filed a lawsuit under Delaware's civil window, was sexually abused at Wilmington's Salesianum High School by Denis Killion, an priest who was only exposed and removed from ministry in schools after 11 men came forward and filed lawsuits using Delaware's Child Victims' Act. Killion's order had known about credible allegations of abuse against Killion for more than a decade, but did not take him out of schools until victims had the right to use the civil court system to name their abuser.

Chesley and Kenney will throw out a ceremonial first pitch before the game. They will also sign autographs and take pictures with fans. Informational materials about the Child Victims' Act will also be available.

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