

VENUE

NYSEG Stadium is home to the Binghamton Rumble Ponies, the AA affiliate of the New York Mets, formerly known as the Binghamton Mets. The stadium first opened in 1992 and has a capacity of around 6,000 spectators.

CHALLENGE

The team was plagued by rumors, which were accurate, that the team may move to a new market. New ownership assumed operation of the team in late 2015 with the goal of turning things around, which included a desire to make the ballpark more fan-friendly. At the stadium, low light levels and burned-out bulbs were an operational challenge that had drawn scrutiny from Minor League Baseball.

SCOPE

The facility underwent a \$3.5M renovation before the 2017 season. In addition to the lighting, improvements included a new bullpen and batting cage, and guest amenities such as a terrace, party patio viewing deck and a new entrance area. The team rebranded itself from the Binghamton Mets to the Binghamton Rumble Ponies.

SOLUTION

Ephesus All Field 750 fixtures were retrofit into the existing stadium, replacing the antiquated metal halide fixtures. An AirMesh control system was also installed, to allow for dimming, scheduling and zoning of the lights so they can be used as needed, where needed. The system also monitors the lights, providing real-time data to ensure the installation is operating efficiently and optimally, and can create dynamic scenes and effects for fan entertainment.

RESULTS

Light levels nearly doubled on the infield, from 64 foot candles to 108 foot candles, exceeding the league's lighting requirements. Energy usage dropped by nearly 57% and is further enhanced by the AirMesh system's control. Average attendance per game in 2017 increased by nearly 25% over the prior year. Due in part to these facility improvements, the ballpark was selected to host the 2020 Eastern League All Star Game for the first time in its history.

"My goal since assuming ownership of the team has been to revitalize our team and stadium to the benefit of our fans in the Southern Tier. The Ephesus sports lighting has been a key element of that, improving the visibility for players as well as the viewing experience for fans in the stadium and watching televised games. The dynamic lighting effects help greatly in fan presentation and to create a fun, engaging atmosphere at NYSEG stadium. The reduction in energy use and elimination of maintenance in our lighting has been a great benefit as well."

- John Hughes, President, Binghamton Rumble Ponies



