

# THE RADAR SPORTS

BY REBECCA HESLIN



**GAME FACE:** Buy a suite and you might meet TomKat, who touched down at FedEx Field last season. The Redskins lost, but the paparazzi scored.

## HOT BOXED! *So what if DC isn't the MVP of the sporting world? It's the luxury suites that have locals talking*

If you're itching for action at pro sporting events, don't look down—look up. The game of life is a lot more interesting in luxury boxes. These not-so-cheap seats come with the chicest eats, coolest quarters and boldest names. Here's the scoop on DC's swankest, sportiest VIP venues.

### FEDEX FIELD: REDSKINS

**THE BLING:** Living the suite life at FedEx Field is going to set you back \$90,000 to \$225,000 each season, depending on location to the field, size and amenities. **THE VIP SECTION:** Scoring a seat in the Owner's Club Level is far more important than the final touchdown tally. Where else can you rub elbows with celebrities without having to rub shoulders with the popcorn man and those face-painted hooligans? **THE DISH:** "Everything in the suite is up for customization," Karl Swanson, spokesman for the Redskins, says. "As long as they're meeting fire standards, if they want something in the suite, we'll work with them to get it." With caterer-to-the-DC-stars Ridgewells at owners' beck and call, nothing from caviar to Cristal is more than a few Hail Mary's away. **THE MVPS:** If a celebrity is in Washington on a Sunday, you can bet you'll find them kicking back in a suite at the stadium. TomKat reigns as the most-talked about game-goers, but famous football fans have also included Jessica Simpson, Lionel Richie, Jamie Foxx, Tim McGraw and Dale Earnhardt, Jr. As for box owners, Joe Robert, Fred Smith, Jim Kimsey and Bill Dean are the hot box hosts with the most.

### NATIONALS STADIUM: NATIONALS

**THE BLING:** When this sporty new ballpark opens for the 2008 baseball season, suite owners will be able to watch games while perched over the diamond in one of the 66 luxury suites or three exclusive clubs. Eight of the suites,

deemed the "Washington" boxes, ring in at \$400,000. The "Lincoln" suites go for \$200,000 and "Jefferson" suites at least \$160,000. **THE VIP SECTION:** Without a doubt, one of the three uber-luxe clubs behind home plate. Throw them enough Benjamins and team execs might ditch the kitschy box names in favor of your own name. **THE SERVICE:** As reported, suite holders may have interior decorating powers and the ability to choose from an extensive food menu. **THE MVPS:** Washingtonians typically mistake the Nationals Opening Day for a national holiday, skipping work to cheer on America's favorite pastime. This season's star-studded starter drew in Tim Russert, James Carville, Ted Leonsis, Rep. Tom Davis and Bob Schieffer, so we can only imagine the all-stars who'll be playing hooky for next season's debut.

### VERIZON CENTER: WIZARDS, MYSTICS, CAPITALS, HOYAS

**THE BLING:** The price tags on the suites at the home of the Wizards, Mystics, Capitals and Hoyas range from \$100,000 to \$450,000. The bonus is that here, unlike at other venues in town, you can catch any of the 200-plus games and concerts each year from your suite. **THE VIP SECTION:** While floor seats are where it's at for basketball games, it goes without saying that the VIPs hobnob above the action on the Lexus Suite Level. Most VIPs per capita? Title holders for this contest include the boxes of Abe and Irene Pollin, Ted Leonsis and Sheila Johnson, where big-names are always making stylish stop-bys. **THE DISH:** Season-ticket holders more interested in fare than fair play head to the Lexus Level's restaurant. Additionally, each suite offers custom-ordered sips and bites. **THE MVPS:** If you're sitting front and center on the court, you're likely to see a host of local athletes such as Clinton Portis and Santana Moss peppered between lobbyists, talking heads like Larry King and visiting celebs LL Cool J and Usher. ■

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