



MEDIA RELEASE

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Burlington's Casey Gural Named Sports Turf Manager of the Year

BURLINGTON, NC— Burlington's Turfgrass Superintendent, Casey Gural, was recently recognized as Minor League Baseball's Appalachian League Sports Turf Manager of the Year for his work at the Burlington Athletic Stadium, home to the Burlington Royals. The award winner is selected by vote of visiting managers and umpires. The Appalachian League is made up of 10 teams.

"All year, we've received nothing but praise about our playing surface from Royals' front office executives, visiting managers and teams visiting Burlington Athletic Stadium. Casey and his staff are very deserving of this award, and is a great honor for the hard work, commitment and hours that are put into making this playing field the best in the Royals minor league organization. We want to thank Casey and his staff for a great season here in 2016," says Ryan Keur, General Manager of the Burlington Royals.

While the work of Gural and his crew was recognized by the Appalachian League, the Burlington Athletic Stadium is also the ball field used by the Division II Conference Carolinas College baseball tournaments and Region X Junior College Division 1 and Division II baseball tournaments. The field also accommodates special games of local high school teams.

Casey Gural has been employed by Burlington's Recreation & Parks Department since the age of 15 when he started as a part-time groundskeeper. He was hired as a full-time employee after graduation from high school. In 2013, he completed his Associates Degree in Turf Management at Guilford Technical Community College where was awarded the Sports Turf Managers Association's Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship which recognizes the highest ranked applicant. In January of 2016, Gural accepted his current position of Turfgrass Superintendent.

"I have been extremely honored to fulfill the position of Turfgrass Superintendent for the City of Burlington and I'm excited to help the City and the Burlington Royals shine," says Gural of his award. "This is a big deal for me in my first year in this position," he adds.

"Casey's dedication to the field of turf management is commendable and has proven itself through the award. We are honored to have Casey and his team continue to work hard at

providing Burlington with some of the best turf playing fields in the region” says Gural’s supervisor, Recreation Programming Superintendent Lisa Wolff.

Gural is quick to recognize that he doesn’t do the work alone and is supported by a great team. The Athletic Maintenance Division includes: Mike Johnson, Phil Gilley, Reggie Robertson, Tanner Long, Mitch Epperson, Neal Hilliard, and Dean Sessoms. The Division is responsible for the maintenance of 33 athletic fields across 10 facilities.

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Attachment: Photo of the Athletic Maintenance Division staff, pictured left to right: Mitch Epperson, Neal Hilliard, Casey Gural, Phil Gilley, Mike Johnson, Reggie Robertson, and Tanner Long with the Kansas City Royals Commissioner’s Trophy

Photo of the Burlington Athletic Stadium field

Our Mission:

“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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