

PARTY

FROM PAGE B1

Players — and even umpires — double as entertainers throughout the game. It’s not unusual for a batter to belt a home run and then lead the crowd in a dance, or for an umpire to break into a moonwalk after a strikeout call. The cast of characters also includes a senior citizen dance squad and the beloved “Banana Baby” ritual: each night, one infant from the crowd is hoisted aloft in a banana costume, a lighthearted nod to The Lion King that has become a fan-favorite tradition.

The result is an atmosphere more akin to a festival than a ballgame. Louisville’s Slugger Field was filled to capacity, with some fans traveling from as far as Florida to catch the action. Louisville Bats president Greg Gallette noted that the three games in Louisville in 2024 “were an incredible success with the ballpark packed all three nights,” and anticipation for the return engagement proved justified as the Party Animals delivered on the promised fun.

Even amid the comedy, the players’ competitive fire showed — home runs and diving catches still drew roars from the crowd. Many attendees said the constant energy — with no long pauses between innings and players mingling with fans — made it more entertaining than a traditional nine-inning game.

This Louisville stop was part of the nationwide Banana Ball World Tour, which now heads to Pennsylvania, where the Party Animals will face a new opponent, the Texas Tailgaters. With each tour stop, the greatest show in baseball continues to grow its fan base, converting newcomers with a fast, family-friendly spectacle that proves the national pastime can be a little bit bananas.

The Party Animals summed up their Louisville experience with a message to fans:

“Louisville... you brought the PARTY! From rocking out to ‘Teenage Dirtbag’ with Jake Skole to recreating viral videos with Jake Lialios, you matched our energy at every turn. You partied like pros. Consider this our unofficial request to run it back next year.”



KR Photography

Jesse Cole, founder of Fans First Entertainment and creator of Banana Ball, wears his signature yellow suit while energizing the crowd during a Party Animals game at Louisville Slugger Field on June 27, Cole’s high-energy presence is a staple of the Banana Ball tour.



KR Photography

Party Animals outfielder Noah Fisher (#12) warms up with flair before a play during Banana Ball action in Louisville. Known for their bold uniforms and high-energy antics, the Party Animals blend showmanship and skill as they tour the country.

SHINE

FROM PAGE B1

he might’ve gone under his PR of 53.2,” said Sanderlin. Janes ended day one with 2,564 points, nearly 10% above his target and on pace to break 5,000 for the first time.

Meanwhile, Wheeldon set personal bests in the first four events, having never competed in them before. His best mark came in the long jump with a leap of 16-11.25, worth 413 decathlon points. He shaved 0.07 seconds off his 400-meter PR, clocking in at 55.38 to finish day one with 2,356 points — about 3% ahead of plan.

“Austin helped me a lot,” Janes said. “It was great having someone I know and am close with to train and compete alongside. It made things easier than doing it alone.”

On day two, both athletes started strong, going under their projected times in the 110-meter hurdles. Janes ran a personal best of 17.49

seconds, beating his previous mark by 0.65 seconds and winning his heat. The time ranks eighth all-time in Collins program history.

The discus proved difficult for both athletes, falling short of targets, but they rebounded in the pole vault. Janes cleared 12-3.75 to place sixth, while Wheeldon set a new PR of 12-7.5 to take fourth.

Janes added another PR in the javelin with a throw of 110-7.5, surpassing his previous best by more than 12 feet.

Heading into the final event — the 1,500-meter run — Sanderlin made adjustments due to the heat, with temperatures reaching 91 degrees. Confident in his athletes’ endurance, he instructed them to work together for at least the first two laps of the race.

Justin Lawrence of the Durham Striders took the early lead, but Janes moved to the front after 350 meters, with Wheeldon close behind. Janes increased the pace with laps of 1:15 and 1:12 before closing the final 300 meters in 51 seconds to win

in 4:34. Wheeldon followed closely with a 53-second final 300 to finish second.

Janes’ two-day total of 5,094 points placed him ninth overall, improving his school record by 411 points and ranking seventh on Kentucky’s all-time list. Wheeldon’s final score of 4,568 is the third-best decathlon performance by a sophomore in state history and ranks 11th all-time.

“I could not have asked for a better ending,” Sanderlin said. “To see both of my athletes go 1-2 in the 1,500 and dominate that heat was a special moment.”

Reflecting on his second decathlon, Janes said, “The competition was great. Being around such amazing athletes pushed me to do better. I could’ve improved in a few events, but overall it was a great experience.”

As he looked back on his time with the Running Titans, Janes offered this takeaway: “Life isn’t easy. You just have to persevere and be resilient, no matter how many hard things come your way.”



Submitted

Nathan Janes (right) and Austin Wheeldon (center) pull away from Justin Lawrence of the Durham Striders during the decathlon 1,500-meter run.



Submitted


Donnie Wright, a rising sophomore at Shelby County High School, poses in front of the New Balance Nationals Outdoor display in Philadelphia, where he competed in the Freshman 800-meter event.

SHELBY

FROM PAGE B1

meters. His father, a former Shelby County track athlete, remains one of his biggest supporters.

“We both hope to see me wearing a University of Kentucky jersey one day,” Wright said.



LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH’S ATTORNEYS OFFICE – SEEKS JANITORIAL SERVICES

The local Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ Office is seeking bids for janitorial services to begin by July 10, 2025, as follows:

1.00 Purpose and Background
Offeror will provide janitorial services to the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney, 53rd Judicial Circuit located at **544 Main St. Shelbyville KY 40065.**

2.00 Scope of Work
Bimonthly, around the 15th and 30th: Offeror shall dust furniture, desks, chairs, credenzas, and cabinets. Empty waste containers and remove trash to the designated area and replace trash liners. Clean entrance and interior glass doors. Vacuum carpeted areas. Sweep and mop ceramic and resilient floors. Disinfect tabletops, counters, and break room. Clean and sanitize bathroom sinks, toilets, and bathroom floors. Restock toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap. As needed, the offeror will dust high reach areas including shelves, ledging, vents and grill covers. Dust venetian blinds, remove cobwebs, clean baseboards, and corners.

Site Evaluation: Offeror may schedule a walk-through of the approximate 3,170 sq ft space by calling 502- 647-3019 during normal business hours prior to the deadline of July 3, 2025.

3.00 Evaluation Criteria
The Prosecutors Advisory Council will evaluate the proposals based on the following evaluation factors:

Cost: Bidder with lowest price receives highest score – maximum 50 points. Vendor shall provide the weekly rate for which they shall provide the aforementioned services. Bidder with most years of cleaning experience shall receive maximum 25 points. Bidders shall submit 2 references for a maximum 25 points.

4.00 Bid Sheet
Offerors shall submit the following to the Prosecutors Advisory Council before the due date, via email to - **mwise@prosecutors.ky.gov**. Questions for clarification can be sent to the same email address. **Only bids submitted to mwise@prosecutors.ky.gov by the due date of July 3, 2025 will be considered.**

Business Name: _____

Remit to address: _____

Tax ID or Social Security #: _____

Weekly cost (cleaning will be done 2 times per month): \$ _____

Does your bid include cleaning supplies? Circle One: Yes or No

Do you agree to a background check? Circle One: Yes or No

Bidder Signature: _____ Date: _____