



Mike Schmidt joins sculptor **Zenas Frudakis** yesterday as they unveil a statue of Schmidt outside one of the entrances to Citizens Bank Park.

Despite defeat, new ballpark a hit

If you're into omens, yesterday's home opener at Citizens Bank Park could portend a messy season for the Phillies, already off to a rocky 1-6 start.

Consider, the first pitch came at 1:32 p.m., under a steady mist and 48-degree temperatures. At 1:33 was the first hit allowed, a ground rule double to D'Angelo Jimenez. At 1:37, came the first run allowed.

Was it a homer? A hit? A sacrifice fly? No, it came on a Randy Wolf wild pitch. Forever in the history books. At 1:37 and 10 seconds came the first booing (unless you count commissioner Bud Selig's introduction before the game).

The first home run was at least by a Phillie. Bobby Abreu at 1:47 p.m.

First-timers

- 1:32:** First pitch (by Randy Wolf)
- 1:47:** First home run (by Bobby Abreu)
- 4:14:** First loss (4-1)

At 1:48 came Jim Thome's first at bat, a double to right. The first loss came officially at 4:14 p.m. More booing.

"You can't get on the fans," Phillies manager Larry Bowa said. "They're great here. They can do whatever they want.

"They can boo me, they can boo Mike Schmidt, I'll never say anything. They're passionate and frustrated."

Before the game, statues of Schmidt, Robin Roberts and Steve Carlton were unveiled outside the stadium by the players them-

selves. At 11:05, more than two hours before game time, Richie Ashburn's statue was unveiled by his family members in Ashburn Alley, the gathering place beyond the outfield wall.

Two hours later, the Philadelphia Boys Choir and Men's Chorale played "America the Beautiful" and the national anthem, followed by a flyover from the 111th Fighter Wing from Willow Grove Naval Air Station. A U.S. Navy Parachute Team leaped into the park, and the Selig came out for a presentation.

While the ballpark and the presentations were highlights, the game didn't measure up.

"The ballpark was great," losing Phils pitcher Randy Wolf said. "The pitching wasn't."

—Allen Wojan