

DAVE BAGGOTT IS SERVING UP BASEBALL IN OGDEN



Photograph by Jason Kunz

FOR THE OGDEN RAPTORS' DAVE BAGGOTT, every day at the office involves a one-man circus act. He juggles the responsibility of the team's president duties, dons a clown's demeanor when serving as the public address announcer, and recently patented the Snack Rack—a contraption found in many stadiums throughout the country.

Two decades ago, when Baggott was playing for the Rookie-level Salt Lake City Trappers of the Pioneer League, he never fathomed he would be involved with professional baseball in the spring of 2005.

By 1987, following an abbreviated two-year professional minor league baseball career, he realized it was time to start planning for the future.

"I had decided it was time to move on and put baseball behind me," recalls Bags—his popular nickname. "[The Trappers team president Jack Donovan] contacted me and asked me to come work for the team and I said I'd do it for a year—and here it is 18 years later."

In reality, though, Baggott credits his current position with the Raptors to one thing—unemployment.

After enjoying five seasons as the Trappers general manager, Baggott found himself jobless. Utah's capital was presented with the opportunity to host a Triple-A franchise for the first time since the Salt Lake City Gulls in 1984, leaving the Pioneer League franchise exiled to Pocatello, Idaho.

"After a couple of weeks of self-pity... I just came to the conclusion that if I wanted to stay in baseball I should pursue owning my own team," says Baggott of his ultimate resolution. "I liked Utah and pursued

keeping a team in Utah somewhere and Ogden seemed like a good market."

In a matter of months, Dave had Ogden eagerly awaiting the arrival of a professional baseball club. He found a team to move to their city and arranged a location for games to be played. Ironically, this team would be the same franchise that Baggott had worked for only two years prior, thirty-five miles south in Salt Lake City.

Despite lacking a Major League affiliate their initial two seasons, his Ogden Raptors proved to be an instant success. In 1996, Baggott landed a working agreement with the Milwaukee Brewers, while he added another ball to his juggling act.

"I had a PA announcer who lost interest and didn't show up one day and I just went up there and grabbed the mic," remembers Dave. "When we moved into our new facility [Lindquist Field], my partner Johnny Lindquist sat in with me and ran the scoreboard. It's become a summer-long tradition; I do the voice and he does the electronics."

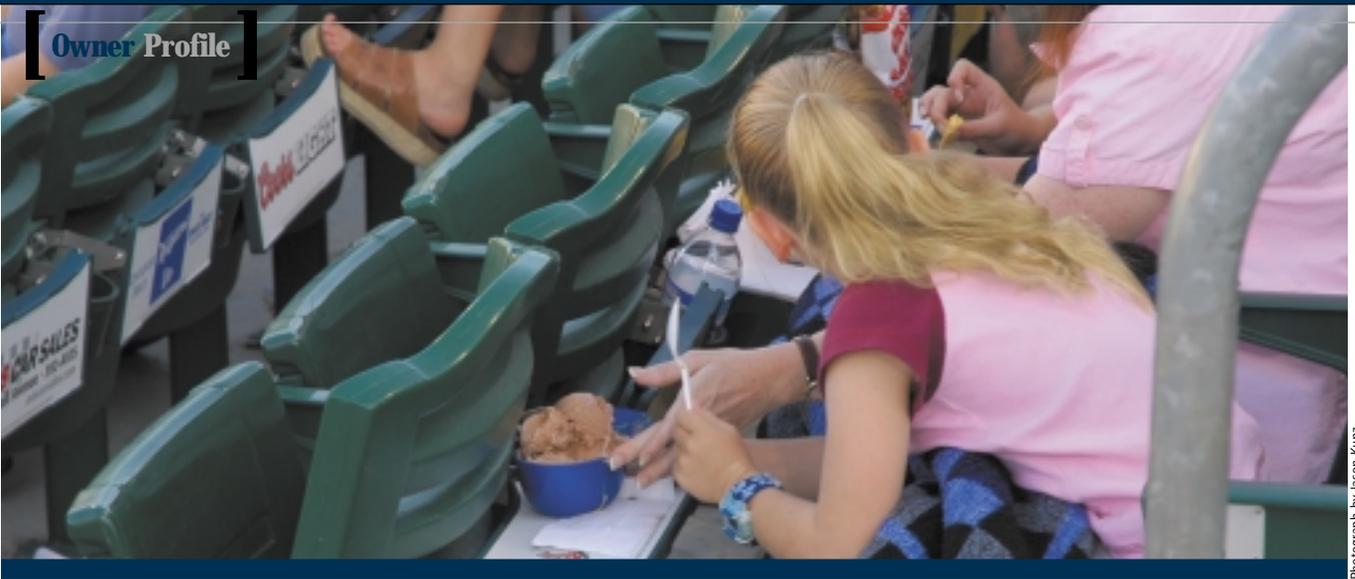
Unlike most PA announcers in professional sports, Bags takes pride in being a comedian over the stadium speakers. He is quick with a joke and pokes fun at fans with funky hairstyles or goofy clothing.

"I minored in theater arts so I kind of have a background of being a ham and a hot dog. We're humor-driven here so we try to be humorous with everything we do," added Baggott. "It's more fun to ad-lib. Even I do not know what I am going to say until I already said it!"

Occasionally, wielding this quick tongue can lead to treading on thin ice. Dave remembers a night game two years ago against the Casper Rockies.



Owner Profile



Photograph by Jason Kunz

HANDY-DANDY: Baggott's "snack rack" allows this young lady to enjoy a bowl of ice cream while taking in all the action on the field.

"There was a fan on their side of the stadium who kept on ringing a cowbell. So I told the guy absolutely no cowbells," recalls Baggott. "Of course, that set the fire and he would ring it louder and louder. Finally, he did it one more time and I announced over the PA, 'Stop ringing the cowbell—give the jewelry back to your wife.'"

Fortunately for all, the Rockies fan did not rush the press box.

"The fun thing about doing the PA announcing is I am the president all day, but at 6 o'clock when I go up to the press box I can become a fan like everybody else," said Baggott. "Saying that, [being president] is always in the back of your mind. You can look out the window and see by the number of people in your audience if you're going to have a good business night or not."

Regardless of how many seats are occupied, there is definitely one thing Baggott never sees anymore is fans spilling their food. The idea came to him while watching a high school ballgame at Lindquist Field in 2003, thanks to a stadium lunch of a hot dog, nachos and a large soda. The ingenious invention by Baggott: the Snack Rack.

"All of a sudden somebody called my name. I turned to respond and low and behold I kicked [all my food] over...

I sat there for the next few minutes sulking and staring at the seat in front of me and a folding tray table occurred to me because I was on a flight a few days before."

Eighteen months later, the 6 x 14 inch Snack Rack was patented and installed on all seats at Lindquist Field, the benefits have proved numerous. It provides obvious advertising potential for selling sponsorships and the opportunity to sell food items requiring a fork and knife—such as Bags' favorite steak—with no hassle whatsoever.

"It is funny," said Baggott. "With all the technology we have in our world we still had not come up with a way to better serve our fans concession-wise when it comes to entertainment venues."

With many stadiums looking to revamp their seating, the Snack Chair—a chair with the Snack Rack built in—will be manufactured in the near future, too.

With the Ogden Raptors twelfth season underway, Baggott enjoys the ultimate perk of having a family affair in the press box. While he announces the games in 2005, his wife Carol will once again operate the scoreboard as his two step-children—Christopher (14) and Amanda (7)—and 13-month-old son Keltyn cheer on the home team. **|| Eric Karlan**

**THE
STATS
ON**

David Ian Baggott

Age: 45 **D.O.B.:** 6/12/60

Height: 5'10" **Weight:** 170 lbs.

Bats: Both **Throws:** Right

Position: Second Base/ Outfield

Acquired: Signed as Free Agent with the Co-op Idaho Falls club

YEAR	LG	TEAM	AVG.	HR	RBI
1985	PL	IDAHO FALLS	.299	2	33
1986	PL	SALT LAKE CITY	.233	3	25



Idaho Falls Eagle, 1985

Photograph Courtesy of Dave Baggott