

FINAL PIECE OF BALLPARK'S STRUCTURAL STEEL NOW IN PLACE



The ballpark's final piece of structural steel is hoisted into place.

The Minnesota Ballpark Authority (MBA) helped celebrate another major milestone of the ballpark project when the Minnesota Twins and Mortenson Construction hosted a "topping off" ceremony at Target Field, Friday June 5. During the ceremony, which more than 1000 people attended, the final piece of structural steel was hoisted into place atop the left field roof canopy.

Topping off events are a unique tradition on major construction projects and can be traced back to ancient Scandinavian traditions. The ceremonies commemorate the overall completion of a building's structure.

"The Twins are excited to celebrate this milestone with our partners at Mortenson Construction," said Jerry Bell, president of Twins Sports Inc. "With construction continuing on schedule and on budget, we're all looking forward to celebrating Opening Day at Target Field in April 2010."

The topping off of Target Field involved workers signing the last beam before it was hoisted by a



MBA Chair Steve Cramer speaks at the "topping off" ceremony.

crane and set in place by awaiting ironworkers. Following that, a luncheon was served for about 1400 people.

Target Field construction is now more than 75 percent complete.

Other recent milestones at Target Field include installation of the "Twins" sign on the scoreboard, erection of the "Budweiser" sign atop the Budweiser Roof Deck, placement of the first seats in the ballpark and the planting of Minnesota-native black spruce trees in the batter's eye in center field.

"Setting the last piece of steel is a significant milestone in the construction of Target Field," said Mortenson's Construction Executive Dan Mehls. "With the structure of the ballpark complete, there are still many exciting things ahead of us, such as continuing work on Target Plaza and installing the seats and the playing field before winter."