

New Cougar dugouts falling (gently) into place

BATAVIA — A crane gently lifts a 600-pound reinforced concrete wall panel and gently lowers it into place along what will someday be a base line.

The panel — painted in Genesee Community College's signature blue part by a narrow yellow stripe — was just one piece of four new dugouts for GCC's athletic fields upgrade.

Hy-Grade Precast Concrete Products Inc. of Byron designed, produced, supplied and is installing the dugouts.

Hy-Grade designs and produces precast concrete products such as modular buildings, stairs for multi-story buildings, barriers and specialty products.

Established in 1948, Hy-Grade Precast is based in St. Catharines, Ontario. The company launched a U.S. division in 2000, and is a subcontractor of Pooler Enterprises, the general contractor on the GCC project.

The dugouts were originally to have been constructed of masonry block and wood. But Hy-Grade approached the project engineer, JMZ Architects, during the design phase to suggest precast construction.

That allowed completion in about five working days, as opposed to weeks.

The dugouts are comprised of precast, reinforced wall panels and roof slabs. The panels ranged in weight from 600 pounds for a small wall panel, to about 20,000 pounds for a roof slab.

Each dugout was designed with a storage area on each end for play-



Rocco Laurienzo/Daily News



TAKING SHAPE: A crane, above and at left, places a precast concrete panel that is part of a new baseball dugout Thursday at Genesee Community College in Batavia. The dugouts were to have been built of masonry block and wood, but contractor Hy-Grade Precast Concrete Products Inc. of Byron suggested precast construction.

Construction of Bergen installed the panels, and Terry's Signs of Elba is creating GCC Cougar logo signs that will be affixed over the players benches.

The crane was operated by Clark Rigging of Webster.

Construction of the dugouts began Oct. 14, and was expected to be finished on Tuesday.

er's equipment and, when finished, will measure 60 feet long, 8 feet wide and 10 feet high.

Several local contractors helped complete the project. Thompson Dilcher



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