

Samson Predicts Ballpark Funding "This Season"

Written by The Staff

Tuesday, 06 February 2007 09:17



With efforts to gain state funding for a new retractable roof stadium closer due to backing from Florida Governor Charlie Crist, Florida Marlins President David Samson ([read Biz of Baseball interview here](#)) is no longer mentioning deadlines, but rather predictions.

"There has been really marked progress and we certainly anticipate being able to announce a deal at some point this season," Samson said. "We're hopeful sooner rather than later. But the way things go these past 13 years with the Marlins, you never know."

As [reported by the AP](#) :

The Marlins have failed five times in the last six years to secure money from the Florida Legislature, and with the projected cost of a new ballpark now somewhere around an estimated \$500 million, the state money seems more vital than ever to help bridge the gap between what the team, the city and Miami-Dade County are willing to contribute.

"It's always nice that the governor has a similar view of economic development as we do," Samson said. "And when he goes public saying he believes that sports teams spur economic development, we say we agree, and we're hoping the legislature does too."