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## **Tennessee Guardsman throws first pitch for the Nashville Sounds**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – On Tuesday, April 2, the Nashville Sounds had its first home game of the season against the St. Paul Saints with a special event honoring Staff Sgt. Cole Lukens and Spc. Noah Green, the Tennessee National Guard’s Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year.

Green, a combat engineer with the 890th Sapper Company and Maryville firefighter, took center stage on the pitcher’s mound and threw the first pitch to the Sounds’ mascot, Booster. After the pitch, Tennessee’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Warner Ross, praised the Soldiers for their achievements and service as the crowd cheered.

“We are very proud of these Tennessee Guardsmen,” said Ross. “Their hard work and commitment reflect the very best of our organization and they represent everything that is right about our great state.”

Following the ceremony, Lukens and Green joined the crowd to watch the remainder of the game alongside their fellow Soldiers and fans.

“It was an honor to throw the first pitch and represent my fellow Guardsmen tonight,” said Green. “I am grateful for the opportunity to showcase our organization before the game and for being a part of this amazing event.”

Lukens and Green will represent Tennessee in the upcoming Region 3 Best Warrior Competition, on April 14, competing against top contenders from the southeastern United States, including the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The Region III winners will then compete in the national competition against representatives from all 54 states and territories in July.

- 30 -



Staff Sgt. Cole Lukens, Tennessee National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Spc. Noah Green, Tennessee National Guard Soldier of the Year, and Maj. Gen. Warner Ross, Tennessee's Adjutant General, pose with Nashville Sounds' mascot Booster, prior to the Sounds' game against the St. Paul Saints, April 2, at First Horizon Park in Nashville. The three guardsmen were recognized for the leadership and achievements prior to the game, with Green having the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Cordeiro)



Spc. Noah Green, the Tennessee National Guard's Soldier of the Year, threw out the ceremonial first pitch at Nashville's First Horizon Park during the Sounds' first home game of the season, April 2. Green, along with Tennessee's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Warner Ross, and Staff Sgt. Cole Lukens, Tennessee's Non-commissioned Officer of the Year, were honored before the game. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Cordeiro)

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