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Dolphins fans find a home at Duffy's

September 2, 2009

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On a Sunday evening, the front porch of Duffy's Sports Grillin Plantation is crowded with people waiting to get a table among about 70 flat-screen televisions inside. The 20th location of the South Florida sports bar chain officially opened July 17, just as Duffy's was named the Official Sports Bar of the [Miami Dolphins](#).

Ambiance: The front doors of the stand-alone restaurant open to a bright-green, bustling room that's packed from the bar on the left side to the booths on the right. The clientele runs the spectrum from young men and women in casual attire to sports-fan dads in football jerseys toting toddlers and suburban septuagenarians on double dates. Photos of Eli and Peyton Manning, Chad Pennington, Dan Marino and other athletes line the walls alongside framed basketball jerseys of Dennis Rodman (signed) and Larry Bird (unsigned). The TV's show football, baseball and everything that falls roughly under the category of sport, including poker tournaments.

Service: At the hostess stand, bright young women with blue D's on their shirts hand out beepers to manage the crowd. Servers and runners in referee shirts are pleasant but in a hurry as they crisscross the aisles between booths, dropping off chicken wings, steaks, salads, ribs and pints of beer.

M.V.P.: Duffy's MVP program ensures that frequent customers get better service and better value than those who don't pledge their loyalty to the place. Membership cards are free, and you accumulate points at the rate of one per dollar spent, except on Tuesdays, when you get double points. Once you earn 100 points, you will get \$10 credited back to your gift card. Other MVP perks include call-ahead seating, \$9.95 entrees Monday nights and the "afternoon break," in which MVP's receive 40 percent off their lunch checks between 2 and 4 p.m.

Happy hour: Perhaps the popularity of Duffy's Sports Grill's has something to do with the caliber of its two happy hours. From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and from 9 p.m. to close, any cocktail, beer or wine is two-for-one. The only exclusions from the offer are pitchers, shots and buckets.

Dolphins Express: Starting Sept. 21, the date of the first home game of the Dolphins' 2009 regular season, several Duffy's locations in and north of Palm Beach County will serve as departure points for a new shuttle service called the Dolphins Express. For \$69, riders will get round-trip transportation to Land Shark Stadium, a ticket for the game and a boxed lunch. Shuttles leave three hours before kickoff. Visit MiamiDolphins.com/dolphinsexpress to sign up.

Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-midnight Sunday

Address: 811 S. University Blvd., Plantation, 954-473-0477

— Courtney Hambricht

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