



Triangle Sports Commission Newsletter

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Happy Anniversary to the TSC

This year marks the 15th year since the founding of the Triangle Sports Commission in 2001. We are commemorating the anniversary throughout the year, but this fall we will gather for a special celebration of this momentous milestone. "Fifteen years is quite an accomplishment for the TSC," said Hill Carrow, TSC CEO, "More importantly, the TSC has been able to achieve great things for amateur and Olympic athletes and for the Triangle region during that time." And it has been quite a start to our big anniversary year as you'll read in the sections that follow.

TSC Hosts Table Tennis Olympic Trials for 2nd Time



In early February, the TSC hosted the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Table Tennis. It marked the second time in a row that the Triangle Sports Commission hosted the Trials. The Olympic Trials is a premier event for USA Table Tennis and features the top men's and women's table tennis athletes in the U.S. vying for a spot on the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team slated to compete at the Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, starting in less than five weeks.

The Table Tennis Trials are said to be the most democratic of the Olympic Trials events, as anyone who is a member in good standing of USA Table Tennis can register and compete at the event for the opportunity to make the Olympic Trials. Bill Ellis, a 93-year competitor, reflected this all-inclusive approach. However, youth won out as team members selected to move on to the final round of qualifying for the Games were almost all teenagers. Those selected were: Jennifer Wu, Lily Zhang, Yijun Feng, Jiaqui Zheng, Kanak Zha, and Timothy Wang.

Gordon Kaye, CEO of USA Table Tennis, was highly laudatory of the host committee, indicating that, "The 2016 Table Tennis Olympic Trials in North Carolina were universally praised by the athletes and were an all-around great success - proving that our decision to return to the state and join forces again with the Triangle Sports Commission was a good one."

Rugby 7s College National Championship Scores Big



The largest event of the year for the Triangle Sports Commission was the USA Rugby College 7s National Championships. Like the ACC Baseball Championship and Triangle Youth Classic, the Rugby 7s College Nationals were also held over Memorial Day Weekend, presenting quite an event management challenge for the TSC. However, under the guidance of Faryn Roy, TSC Managing Director, the National Championships were a big success, drawing 60 teams from across the nation vying for national men's and women's titles in two divisions. The Championships had a number of significant positive impacts on the region as the event was live-streamed worldwide and teams and fans stayed at numerous hotels throughout the area.

Taking home national championship trophies from WakeMed Soccer Park were St. Mary's, Life, Minnesota-Duluth, and Davenport. One of the outstanding legacies of the Championships is that the Triangle Sports Commission and USA Rugby were able to permanently outfit Field 3 at WakeMed Soccer Park for national and international rugby. All goal posts and permanent anchors have been donated to the Town of Cary and the Park for future use. In 2015 the TSC and USAR similarly equipped the Championship Field and Field #1, now giving WakeMed Soccer Park the capability of hosting major Rugby competitions on its three best fields simultaneously.

ACC Baseball Championship Youth Tournament

For the second year, the Triangle Youth Classic, the youth tournament that is held in conjunction with the ACC Baseball Championship was hosted locally by the Triangle Sports Commission and North Carolina Development Baseball. This 2016 tournament was held May 27 and 28 at the Walnut Creek Complex in Raleigh. This year's tournament saw teams participate from as far away as Pittsburgh, PA, and Richmond, VA. A new feature was added to this year's Triangle Youth Classic with the addition of the MLB Jr. Home Run Derby, a national competition for youth baseball players where the winners can advance to the Championship rounds at this year's MLB All-Star Game in San Diego. All players in the Classic were provided with special gifts and participated in a parade across the field at the ACC Baseball Championship Saturday night game at Durham Bulls Athletic Park.



Olympic Day 2016

Thanks to the generous efforts of USA Rugby and the support of the Town of Cary, the TSC, which is one of only eight US Olympic Committee Community Olympic Partners, staged a celebration of Olympic Day at WakeMed Soccer Park during the College Rugby National Championships. Olympic Day is an annual, worldwide celebration of the Olympic movement, and the TSC was proud to stage the event together with the leaders of the world's newest Olympic sport, Rugby 7s.



Thank you from the Triangle Sports Commission!



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Triangle Sports Commission, 401 Harrison Oaks Blvd., Suite 215, Cary, NC 27513

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