

Happy Holidays to all our Triangle Sports Commission constituents and followers. As we are on the cusp of a new year, it is time to highlight recent activities, coming events, and rehash some of 2017's drama and successes in our Year in Review.

Recent Events

NC High School Football Championships at Duke Garner Rave Reviews

For the first time in 11 years, the NC High School Football Championships were held at Duke University on Saturday, December 9. The Triangle Sports Commission and Duke University partnered to host the state 3A and 3AA championships. Despite the all day snow and chilly temperatures during the event, the Championships were widely praised by the participating schools and NC High School Athletic Association executives.

In the 3A championship game held at 3pm, Charlotte Catholic prevailed over Havelock 28-14. In the 3AA championship which began at 7pm, New Hanover toppled AC Reynolds of Asheville 27-17. In addition to the exciting action on the field, one of the stars of the championships was the newly renovated Wallace Wade Stadium, including Blue Devil Tower. "The like-new venue received numerous compliments from the teams," said Tess Heron, TSC Operations Manager, "and the excellent management of the Duke game-day operations team, partnered with the TSC's strong volunteer and staff contingent, meant everything ran smoothly despite the not-so-fan-friendly weather that day."

Reinforced by input from NCHSAA executives, the TSC is confident that the strong showing and positive feedback for the 2017 finals will mean that Duke officials can look forward to hosting the championships annually for the foreseeable future.



USA Table Tennis National Team Camp



New Hanover's interception that sealed their win over AC Reynolds

USA Table Tennis National Team Camp Underway at Triangle Table Tennis

It's a busy week at Triangle Table Tennis this week as the USA Table Tennis National Team is in training at the TTT venue. This is another exciting step towards Triangle Table Tennis becoming a recognized Training Center for USA Table Tennis. The Triangle Sports Commission is a sponsor of the camp.

Upcoming Events

February 9-25: The 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The Games will be broadcast locally on NBC affiliate, WRAL-TV, long-time sponsor of the Triangle Sports Commission.

February 15-18: U.S. Women's Curling Association National Championships Bonspiel at Triangle Curling Club's Curling Center, 2310 SoHi Drive, Durham. This will be the largest and most prestigious event to date at the Curling Center which opened last year. There may be a need for some additional volunteers for this event and, if so, we will distribute a Call for Volunteers next month.

Year in Review

January: 2017 started on a downer note as the infamous HB2, passed in 2016 by the NC Legislature, continued to preclude sports events from coming to North Carolina and made sports organizations unwilling to even have conversations about hosting possible future events in the state. Despite that the North Carolina Football Club was able to purchase the top team in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), rename them the NC Courage, and move the team to Cary. On January 31, 2017, North Carolina FC submits its application to Major League Soccer for a new MLS franchise.

February: Paul Seiler, CEO of USA Baseball, headquartered in Durham, is named to head the World Baseball Softball Federation (SBSF) Youth Commission. Duke University hosts the ACC Fencing Championships.

March: The USA Table Tennis Team Trials, a qualification tournament for the USA National Table Tennis Team is held at Triangle Table Tennis in Perimeter Park in Morrisville. NC State University hosts the ACC Wrestling Championships, and Duke hosts the Women's NCAA Basketball Tournament First & Second Rounds. Hill Carrow, TSC CEO, is inducted in the inaugural class of the National Association of Sports Commissions Sports Tourism Hall of Fame.



NC Swimming Hall of Fame 2017 Inductees

April: UNC wins the NCAA Men's Basketball National Championships. The NC Swimming Hall of Fame, supported by the TSC, inducts five new members including Olympic Gold medalist Raleigh-natives David Fox and Charlie Houchin, and legendary former NC State University Head Swimming Coach, Don Easterling. HB2 is repealed, but despite that, the US Olympic Committee says the repeal is "not good enough" and places the US Curling Mixed Olympic Trials, that would have been held the last week in December 2017 in the Triangle if US Curling's top choice were honored, to Blaine, MN!

May: Bridge II Sports, the Triangle's regional Paralympic organization, hosts the Valor Games Southeast, involving competition among disabled veterans, for the fifth straight year. Thanks to HB2, the 2017 Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball Championships, previously scheduled to be held in Durham during Memorial Day Weekend, is held instead in Louisville, KY.

July: The Kick It 3v3 National Soccer Tournament comes to Cedar Fork Park in Morrisville. The top three teams from the event move on to the Regional Championships. The top two teams from each region then move on to the Kick It 3v3 Championships in Vail, Colorado. Also, the new addition to the Cary Tennis Park opens for play with seven courts under cover.

August: 2017 marked the seventh year of hosting the U.S. Masters Swimming High Performance Camp. Eighteen swimmers from around the U.S. participated this year to learn new skills and gain a competitive edge.



September: In September the TSC hosted the Triangle Men's Basketball Tip-Off Luncheon featuring WRAL's Jeff Gravley as moderator with coaches Jeff Capel, Kevin Keatts, LeVelle Moton, and Roy Williams. The coaches talked

about a variety of topics from the upcoming season to their craziest recruiting stories. Later that evening a reception and dinner were held to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the 1987 U.S. Olympic Festival. The Olympic Festival still holds the record as the largest sports event ever held in North Carolina and created many lasting legacies. Additionally, the Durham Bulls won the Triple A National Championships against the Memphis Redbirds.

October: The North Carolina Courage advance to the NWSL Championships but lose to the Portland Thorns. The team wins the NWSL Shield award for having the best record of the regular season with 16 wins, 6 losses, and 1 tie. North Carolina FC finishes in third place in the NASL and qualifies for the playoffs.

November: Duke hosts the first and second rounds of the NCAA Field Hockey Championships. UNC-Chapel Hill advances to the semifinals, losing to the eventual champion, Connecticut. In NCAA Men's Soccer, Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill host the second and third rounds. (WakeMed Soccer Park serves as the home field for UNC-Chapel Hill due to construction at Fetzer Field). UNC-Chapel Hill advances to the semifinals. In NCAA Women's Soccer, for the first time in history, Duke, N.C. State, and UNC-Chapel Hill all make it to the NCAA Tournament and each host early round play. North Carolina FC loses in the NASL semifinals to eventual league champion San Francisco. At the conclusion of the 2017 season, NCFC announces it will leave the NASL and join the USL.

December: Hill Carrow, CEO of the TSC, was named as the first Ultimate Member of the National Association of Sports Commissions as the first person to have an organization in each of the three membership categories. UNC-Chapel Hill loses in the semifinals for Men's Soccer to Indiana. In Women's Soccer, Duke advances to the semifinals before losing to UCLA.

Happy New Year from the Triangle Sports Commission!



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