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News Release

Olympic Coaches Krzyzewski, Johansen, Marsh, and Williams Set to Speak in Cary

Cary, N.C – The Triangle Sports Commission announced today the participants for the Olympic Coaches Luncheon to be held Friday, September 28 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Cary, NC. The Luncheon features 2012 Olympic Coaches Mike Krzyzewski, Head Coach, US Men’s Basketball; Drew Johansen, Head Coach, US Men’s & Women’s Diving; Dave Marsh, Assistant Coach, US Men’s & Women’s Swimming; and 2004 Head Coach, Men’s & Women’s Athletics (Track & Field), George Williams.

The Olympic coaches will participate in a panel discussion in an ESPN-style living room setting facilitated by NBC-17’s News Director and Host of the Olympic Zone, Penn Holderness. The Luncheon is open to the public and tickets are available for \$30 each by visiting www.trianglesportscommission.com.

One of the highlights of the luncheon will be the presentation of the first-ever Al Buehler Coaching Excellence Award. Legendary Duke University Track & Field Coach and two-time US Olympic Track & Field Team Manager, Al Buehler, will present the award to Coach Krzyzewski in honor of Coach Krzyzewski’s gold medal feats in back-to-back Olympic Games.

Mike Krzyzewski set a new mark for the USA Men’s Olympic Basketball Team by becoming the first men’s basketball coach in US history to coach two consecutive US Olympic Teams (Beijing 2008 and London 2012), and the first to capture two consecutive gold medals. Krzyzewski, Duke University’s Men’s Head Coach and the winningest coach in US Men’s Collegiate Basketball history, took on the challenge of rebuilding a US Team that in 2004 only took home a bronze medal at the Athens Games. During Krzyzewski’s term as the US international Men’s Team leader, the team also won a world championship.

Drew Johansen, who serves as Duke University’s head diving coach, was named the US Olympic Diving Team’s Head Coach in June, shortly before the team was to head to London in July. Johansen took on a team that had not won a men’s individual diving medal in 20 years and which had seen its international prominence take a back seat to the domination of the Chinese. Under Johansen, the US won its first-ever synchronized diving medals, including a silver medal by Duke diver Abby Johnston and bronze by fellow Duke diver Nick McCrory, and concluded the competition with an amazing last-to-first gold medal win by David Boudia on the 10-meter platform.

Dave Marsh serves as Head Coach of SwimMAC Carolina and the USA Swimming Center for Excellence in Charlotte, NC. Marsh was named Assistant Coach for the 2012 US Olympic Swimming Team after 5 of his swimmers at SwimMAC made the US team. Swimmer Davis Tarwater captured a gold medal, Nick Thoman captured a gold and silver medal, and two-time Olympian Cullen Jones won gold and 2 silvers. Together with stars Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte, and Missy Franklin, among others, the US Olympic Swim Team won 16 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze medals in dominating the London Games men’s and women’s swimming competition in convincing fashion.

George Williams is the Athletic Director and Head Coach for Men's and Women's Track and Field at St. Augustine's University in Raleigh. Williams served as Head Coach for the US Men's and Women's Olympic Track and Field Teams in the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens where the US led all countries in athletics with 25 medals. In his career, Williams has coached 32 Olympians, including 3 gold medalists. Possibly Williams proudest achievement was the opening of the new world-class track at St. Augustine's last year.

"Even with the Triangle's amazing history of great Olympic coaches including Head Coaches such as LeRoy Walker, Kay Yow, and Dean Smith, this panel of coaches at the Olympic Coaches Luncheon has to be the finest ever assembled in the state," said Hill Carrow, CEO of the Triangle Sports Commission, host for the Luncheon. "The athletes under these coaches took home a total of over 50 Olympic medals, restored the luster of two storied Olympic programs, and continued the dominance of two others. The way they have represented our country, our state, and the Triangle region has been first class, and it will be thrilling to hear about their Olympic experiences live and in person."

The Olympic Coaches Luncheon is part of the North Carolina Sports Summit, a gathering of the North Carolina sports industry that serves as the first day of the North Carolina Olympic Celebration Weekend. The Weekend celebrates North Carolina's Olympic and Paralympic athletes past and present, and it also commemorates the 25th Anniversary of U.S. Olympic Festival-'87 (often referred to as America's Olympics), the largest event ever held in the state of North Carolina.

The next day, Saturday, September 29, begins with Olympic outreach programs by Olympians in Track & Field, Swimming and Table Tennis. The day culminates with the Olympic & Paralympic Athlete Celebration Reception and Banquet, also at the Embassy Suites, featuring North Carolina's most-decorated 2012 Olympian, Cullen Jones, as keynote speaker. Tickets and tables for all events, plus additional information on the weekend activities, is available at www.trianglesportscommission.com

Accredited members of the media wishing to attend should contact Faryn Roy at froy@trianglesportscommission.com.

About the Triangle Sports Commission

The Triangle Sports Commission (TSC) is the sports commission for the Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and Cary (Triangle) region. The TSC was founded in 2001 and is a non-profit charitable organization focused on building the region's sports tourism industry and overall sports economy. The TSC's first major project was winning the bid to relocate USA Baseball's Headquarters and Training Center to the Triangle, including over \$13 million in commitments secured by the TSC resulting in the development of the new USAB National Training Complex in Cary. This year marked one of the busiest years in TSC history, highlighted by the hosting of the U.S. Olympic Trials in Table Tennis, the U.S. Masters Swimming High Performance Camp, and the North Carolina Olympic Celebration. For additional information on the Triangle Sports Commission, visit www.trianglesportscommission.com.