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## Triangle Sports Commission August 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to our end-of-summer newsletter. There is much sports tourism news to report as well as exciting upcoming events for sports enthusiasts.

### New Covered Tennis Courts Open for Play with TSC Funding Help

The newest addition to the Triangle's largest tennis complex, seven hard-surface courts covered for year-round and inclement weather play, have recently opened at Cary Tennis Park. The Tennis Park is situated on 24 acres on Louis Stephens Drive in Cary and is rated one of the top tennis venues in the state. The 55,000 square foot addition provides the Cary Tennis Park with more flexibility to accommodate daily play and major events, and brings the total number of courts at the complex to 33.

The \$5.2 million project got underway with design work starting in late spring of 2015, and the facility was completed a little over two years later. The community's major thanks go out to the leaders of the Triangle Sports Commission who succeeded in raising half the funding for the project.



### U.S. Olympic Festival-'87 30th Anniversary Celebration: Friday, September 22

The 1987 U.S. Olympic Festival, often referred to as America's Olympics, remains the largest sports event ever held in North Carolina. Its lasting impacts on the state have been huge. Staff, board members, volunteers, and athletes of the Festival have gathered together every five years during the last three decades to celebrate the amazing achievements and lasting legacies of this seminal event.

This year's 30th Anniversary Celebration will be marked by two key events, and the public, as well as Olympic Festival-related friends and family, are invited to both.

**The Olympic Celebration Reception and Banquet** will be held Friday evening, September 22 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Cary. There will be a cocktail hour starting at 6pm, followed by dinner and the Olympic program at 7pm. Keynote speaker is Nancy Hogshead-Makar, a Duke University graduate and Olympic Gold Medalist, who helped market and promote the '87 Festival and who has since become a national leader and advocate for Women's Sports. A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the first-ever Olympic Festival Legacy Awards.

**The Triangle Men's Basketball Tip-Off Luncheon**, earlier that same day also at the Embassy Suites Cary, will kick off the Anniversary Celebration activities. Registration and networking are 11:30am to 12pm, with lunch and the Coaches Panel getting underway at noon. The Tip-Off Luncheon features the coaches of the Triangle's NCAA Division I Men's Basketball programs in a fun and entertaining panel discussion moderated by WRAL-TV's Jeff Gravley. Attendees will not only get a jump on the upcoming basketball season, but will gain insight into the

personalities and management styles of the coaches who lead the region's top local collegiate teams.

Tickets as well as corporate or group tables are now available for both events by [clicking here](#) or visiting [www.trianglesportscommission2017.eventbrite.com](http://www.trianglesportscommission2017.eventbrite.com). These anniversary events have proven to be highly popular through the years, so you're encouraged to buy your tickets now while they are still available. Also, organizers of this year's event swear they are not doing another Anniversary Celebration, so definitely make sure you attend this, what may very well be, a last-in-a-lifetime event!



## TSC Partnership Returns High School Football Championships to Duke

Earlier this year the North Carolina High School Athletic Association announced a partnership with the Triangle Sports Commission to return two of the federation's eight annual championship games to Duke University. Executive Director, Que Tucker, of the NCHSAA said, "After touring the university's facilities and seeing the many upgrades and improvements Duke has made, the decision to again include Durham and Duke in the championship schedule was an easy one. Knowing the partnership and support available from the Triangle Sports Commission helped solidify that decision!"

The NC High School Football Championships will be held the weekend of December 8-9, 2017. There are a number of positions for volunteers to assist the TSC, NCHSAA, and Duke University with hosting the championships. To volunteer, [click here](#), or visit <https://goo.gl/forms/l17eY6LVZfnswJPk1>. Also, if you are interested in sponsoring the Championships, please contact the TSC's Tess Heron at 919.678.1652 or [theron@trianglesportscommission.com](mailto:theron@trianglesportscommission.com). Ticket information for the Championships will be available later this fall.

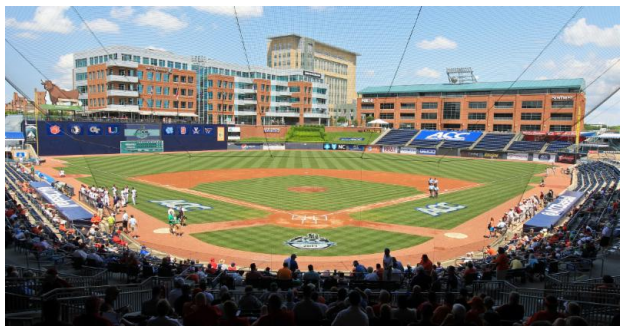


## After HB2 Hiatus, ACC Baseball Returns to the Triangle

After the infamous HB2 legislation decimated much of the sports events industry across North Carolina during 2016 and 2017, the law was repealed this spring and sports groups, associations, and rightsholders began to return events to the state. The Atlantic Coast Conference announced that its previously-awarded championships, including the ACC Baseball Championship, could again be held in North Carolina.

The ACC Baseball Championship had been awarded to Durham for four consecutive years, 2015-2018. The tournament was moved to Louisville in May of this year as part of the national "sports boycott" of NC due to HB2. In making its announcement of the return of the Baseball Championship to Durham, the ACC awarded the event for the final two years remaining on the Host City Agreement, meaning both the 2018 and 2019 Championships will be held Memorial Day Weekend of those years at Durham Bulls Athletic Park.

"We are so delighted to have ACC Baseball back in the Triangle," said Hill Carrow, CEO of the Triangle Sports Commission. "Unfortunately HB2 essentially wiped out major sports events in the state for over a year which severely damaged the reputation of the state as well as local economies that depend heavily on such events. The return of the championships will help us begin to repair some of that damage and start to rebuild North Carolina's major sports events industry."



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