

## Triangle Sports Commission May 2017 Newsletter

Though we are close to the end of the school sports year, there is still a great deal to report on in the world of sports in the Triangle area.

### ACC Baseball Tournament Set to Return

Thanks to the infamous HB2 legislation, this year's Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Baseball Tournament was moved by the ACC to Louisville, Kentucky. However, now that HB2 has been repealed, the ACC has announced that the Tournament will return to Durham Bulls Athletic Park in 2018 for the final year of the four-year contract for Durham and the Triangle as tournament hosts. In addition, because of having to hold the 2017 Tournament out-of-state, the ACC has committed to a "make-good" Tournament in 2019, also in Durham.

"Needless to say, we were extremely disappointed with the loss of this year's Tournament due to factors beyond our control," said Mike Birling, General Manager of the Durham Bulls. "However, with the ACC committing to both 2018 and 2019 at the DBAP, we should be able to get back on track towards our goal of making Durham the Omaha of ACC Baseball."



### North Carolina High School Football Championships Set for Duke

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) announced on April 20 that some of its annual state high school football championship games will be held at Duke University's Wallace Wade Stadium, beginning December of this year. The NCHSAA hosts eight championship games annually, and Duke will join NC State, UNC, and Wake Forest, with each university hosting two games. It is the first time NCHSAA football championship games will be held on Duke's campus in 11 years.

NCHSAA Commissioner Que Tucker said, "When we were approached by the Triangle Sports Commission about the possibility of playing State Championship Games at the newly renovated Wallace Wade Stadium, we were eager to see if an arrangement could be worked out. After touring the facility and seeing the many upgrades and improvements Duke has made since 2006, the decision to again include Durham and Duke in the championship schedule was an easy one. Knowing the partnership support available from the Triangle Sports Commission helped solidify that decision!"



## National Adult Figure Skating Championships a Big Hit in Wake Forest

From Tuesday, April 18, through Sunday, April 23, over 400 of the country's top adult figure skaters competed in the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships at the Polar Ice House of Wake Forest. Aply led by Local Organizing Committee head, Scott Cudmore, a veteran of major U.S. Figure Skating events including the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, the event was a big success drawing kudos from the athletes. It was the first time the Adult Championships had ever been held in North Carolina, and it continues the strong momentum of significant U.S. Figure Skating events in the state that started with the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro.



## NC Swimming Hall of Fame Holds 2017 Inductions in Cary

The Triangle Sports Commission supports the North Carolina Swimming Hall of Fame by managing its annual induction ceremony and related administrative activities. The NC Swimming Hall of Fame started in 1985 and continued to 1991 but then went dormant for 25 years before re-emerging in 2016 with inductions in Greensboro. The Swim Hall's revival continued this year with an exciting evening in Cary featuring five highly-accomplished inductees: Olympic Gold Medalist Swimmers David Fox, Charlie Houchin, and Lauren Perdue; Olympic Bronze Medalist Diver, Nick McCrory; and former long-time NC State University Men's and Women's Swimming Head Coach, Don Easterling.

The capacity crowd of over 250 attendees included 100 participants from North Carolina Swimming's Select Swim Camp that was being held nearby that same weekend. "Having the young swimmers join us for this year's Induction Ceremony really helped make the event," said Gerry Chapman, Chairman of the NC Swimming Hall of Fame Committee. "They injected a lot of youthful enthusiasm into the crowd which clearly energized the inductees, while at the same time they benefited from hearing from five great role models who have achieved at the highest levels of aquatic sports."



2017 NCSHOF Inductees

Left to Right: Don Easterling; Ana McCrory, mother of Nick McCrory; David Fox; Lauren Perdue; and Charlie Houchin.

## U.S. Masters Swimming High Performance Camp

Each year since 2011, the TSC has hosted the only camp of its kind for Masters (adult) swimmers. The camp is limited to a small group of no more than 20 swimmers and features the top Masters swim coaches in the country as well as outstanding instructors in sports psychology, physiology, and nutrition. Participants receive a trove of videotapes and professional input designed to help improve their swimming strokes and training, making their swimming experience more enjoyable and productive. Deadline to apply to the camp is this Friday, May 12, so if you think this opportunity might be good for you, or to learn more, you can review the USMS HPC info here. <http://www.trianglesportscommission.com/usms-high-performance-camp>



## Recent Triangle Pro and College Sports Items of Note

Congratulations to **USA Baseball**, which has its headquarters in Durham and National Training Complex in Cary, on Team USA's first-ever World Championship in the World Baseball Classic.

Kudos also go to the **UNC Men's Basketball Team** which captured the university's sixth NCAA National Championship.

Our newest pro team, the **NC Courage**, which was the reigning National Women's Soccer League champion at the time of their move from Western New York to Cary this spring, is off to an impressive start – undefeated at 4-0 and leading the NWSL.

The **Durham Bulls** are out of the gate like a rocket this year, with the highest winning percentage, .714, in all of U.S. minor league baseball – currently with a 20-8 won/loss record.

The **St. Augustine's Men's Track Team** captured the CIAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

UNC's Women's Tennis Team received the number two-seeded bid in the U.S. as it enters NCAA Tennis Championships competition.

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