

## The Road to Rio Goes Through the Triangle



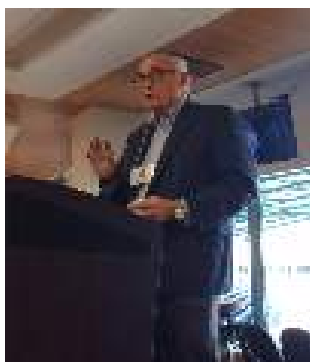
For 21 international teams, the road to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, includes major competition right here in the Triangle. The NACRA (North America and Caribbean Rugby Association) Sevens Championships will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 13 & 14, at WakeMed Soccer Park, where the top men's team and top women's team qualify for the 2016 Games. The Championships, which feature the high-scoring action of world-ranked seven-player teams, are being hosted by the Triangle Sports Commission in partnership with USA Rugby and the Town of Cary.



International men's Rugby action

Tickets are on sale now and are moving fast for this premier event, starting at only \$15. To review ticket options or to purchase tickets, visit [www.nacrasevens.com](http://www.nacrasevens.com). Don't miss out on your chance to witness Olympic history--get your tickets today!

## ACC Baseball Championship: Lunch with the Commissioner



Jim Goodmon emphasizes the importance of business and community support for the ACC Baseball Championship

With the ACC Baseball Championship slated to get underway next month at Durham Bulls Athletic Park, ACC Commissioner John Swofford and local conference coaches headlined a luncheon on Wednesday, April 22, co-hosted by the Durham Bulls and the Triangle Sports Commission. The luncheon was attended by over 120 business and community leaders.

Mike Maniscalco of 99.9 The Fan served as MC for a chalk talk among Head Coaches Mike Fox of UNC, Chris Pollard of Duke, and Elliott Avent of NC State. Jim Goodmon, CEO of Capitol Broadcasting Company, owner of the Bulls and developer of the American Tobacco District in Downtown Durham, closed the program by encouraging the attendees to make a significant commitment to supporting the Championships to help showcase Durham and the Triangle, and ensure an outstanding experience for ACC athletes and fans.



The Tournament, which will include a number of nationally-ranked teams, will run from Tuesday, May 19 to Sunday, May 24. Full Tournament Ticket Books, as well as Weekend Ticket Books are [now on sale](#). For more information on the 2015 ACC Baseball Tournament, [go here](#).

## New Additions to the ACC Baseball Championship: Youth Tourney and FanFest

In 2014 during the bid process for the ACC Baseball Championship, Jim Goodman, leader of Durham's bid, touted Durham as a location that has the potential to become the "Omaha of the ACC ." Goodman's vision gained traction when the conference awarded the Championship to Durham for four consecutive years: 2015 to 2018. The region is now working hard to help fulfill that vision by adding two first-ever elements to the ACC Championship: a youth tournament and a fan festival.



The Triangle Youth Classic at the ACC Baseball Championship is a tournament for 10, 11 and 12 year-olds that will be contested on ballfields at three Durham parks over the final two days of the collegiate championship. The TYC is expected to include over 250 athletes and is jointly hosted by the Triangle Sports Commission and North Carolina Development Baseball. TYC competitors will attend the Saturday night ACC Baseball Championship game where they will participate in a TYC Parade of Athletes.

The ACC Baseball Championship FanFest will take place on Blackwell Street just outside the main entry to Durham Bulls Athletic Park. The FanFest will be an interactive and engaging fan experience featuring ACC sponsors, merchandise, food trucks, inflatables, face painting, balloon twisting, music and entertainment, and much more. The FanFest will be open on Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23. The FanFest is free and open to the public and promises fun, family-friendly entertainment for all.

## Olympic Sports Update

Badminton NC hosted the 2015 USA Badminton Masters (35+) International Championships at the Badminton NC training and tournament facility in the Globe Center in Morrisville, March 18-22. Over 150 national and international badminton players competed for the gold. Congratulations to Paul Knechtel and Badminton NC on a most successful event.

The Triangle Curling Club celebrated the Grand Opening of the region's newest Olympic sport venue, the Triangle Curling Center, by conducting a Grand Opening on April 25 and hosting a Housewarming Bonspiel, April 23-26. The Center is located at 2310 So Hi Drive in Durham and is designed for practice, training, and competition activities. The Center has been in planning and development for several years, and the Club's hard work and fundraising success have paid off with an exciting and unique facility. Visit the Triangle Curling Center and give the sport a try. You'll see why this favorite winter sport pastime is so fun, competitive, and addictive.



The Triangle Curling Center features four full-length Curling lanes

Triangle Table Tennis in Morrisville hosted its biggest tournament ever, the 2015 Butterfly Cary Cup, March 20-22. The Tournament had over 200 competitors vying for more than \$21,000 in prize money. The Cup drew rave reviews from the participants and promises to be even bigger in 2016. Also in March, Triangle Table Tennis opened its USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame and Museum, a permanent exhibit located in the entry hallway of the Table Tennis center.

## Volunteers Needed

With so much going on, there is a very strong demand for volunteer positions at virtually all of the Triangle Sports Commission's upcoming events. Specifically there are volunteer needs for the following:

- ACC Baseball Championship FanFest: May 22-23
- Triangle Youth Classic at the ACC Baseball Championship: May 23-24
- State Games of North Carolina Track & Field Competition: May 30
- NACRA Rugby Sevens Championships: June 10-14
- State Games of North Carolina Finals Weekend: June 26-28

To express your interest and availability for volunteering for these and other Triangle Sports Commission events, please send an email to [info@trianglesportscommission.com](mailto:info@trianglesportscommission.com).

Thank you from the Triangle Sports Commission!



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