

Triangle Sports Commission June 2015 Newsletter



Olympic Rugby Rocks the Triangle

Take an international field from 10 nations in the fast-paced, high-energy competition of the newest Olympic sport and combine it with the extreme pressure on our U.S. teams trying to make the 2016 Olympic Games in front of a home crowd, and you have a formula for a thrilling Olympic-related event.

The NACRA (North America and Caribbean Rugby Association) Sevens Championships were held in Cary, June 13 & 14. USA Rugby, based in Boulder, CO, teamed with the Triangle Sports Commission (TSC) to bring the first-ever Rugby Sevens Olympic Qualifying Tournament to the region. The TSC, in turn, partnered with the Town of Cary to permanently upfit the facility for international Rugby and host the Championships at one of our premier local venues, WakeMed Soccer Park.

Participating teams hailed from the Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Cayman Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, and the United States. The weather was hot, but fortunately so were the U.S. Men's and Women's National Teams, each of which won their respective championships, and qualified for the 2016 Rio Games.

World Rugby executive and USA Rugby Chairman Bob Latham praised the venue and the Local Organizing Committee, and he expressed a keen interest in Rugby returning to WakeMed. "The experience appeared to be a very good one for all parties, and particularly our U.S. athletes," said Hill Carrow, Chairman of the NACRA Sevens Local Host Committee. "With the two primary stadium fields at WakeMed Park now permanently outfitted for international Rugby, and given the very positive reviews for this event, we fully intend to work with USA Rugby and the Town of Cary on additional major Rugby events in the Triangle."



USA Women's Eagles Sevens Players Celebrate Olympic Berth

U.S. Women's National (Olympic) Team Heats up Olympic Day 2015

"Best-ever Olympic Day!" exclaimed an excited young member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Wake County as the Club's Raleigh Road campus was transformed into the newest "Rugby Olympic Training Center," thanks to the outstanding efforts of Club executives, USA Rugby, the Triangle Sports Commission, and several local Rugby clubs.

On Friday, June 12, almost 150 boys and girls at the Club started the day with a meet-

and -greet with National Team members, learning about each player's position and how she got started in the sport of Rugby. Rookie, the Team USA mascot, made his appearance and was literally a screaming hit with the participants. Club members then took to the outdoors for photo ops with the Women's Team, followed by a learning and activity session, which even included relay teams competing head-to-head against America's best Rugby players!

Hugh McLean, Boys & Girls Club Vice President of Operations, reported that despite the heat, all Club participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned a lot about the newest Olympic sport. In addition, he expects that the Women's National Team-now Olympic Team!-will be a big inspiration for participants and will result in several Club members joining local Rugby clubs.



ACC Baseball Championship Expands in Durham



ACC Baseball FanFest Lines Blackwell Street

Memorial Day Weekend was both a time to commemorate and a time to celebrate. Amidst the remembrances of U.S. military engagements that have protected our country's freedoms, the Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball Championship at Durham Bulls Athletic Park (DBAP) was a time for major celebration. Marking the initial year of a four-year stint at the DBAP, a new attendance record was set for the championship game and a first-ever FanFest added to the festivities.

TSC leaders served on the Championship Local Organizing Committee, assisting with tournament planning and execution. In addition, the TSC coordinated Championship hotel accommodations, assisted with the implementation of the FanFest, and teamed with NC Development Baseball to develop the first-ever youth tournament to accompany the event. FanFest was presented in the

tradition of a Durham street festival with live music, face painting, balloon twisting, ACC sponsor booths, inflatables, food trucks, and a larger-than-life live video feed of each game.

"We were very pleased with the 2015 ACC Baseball Championship," said Mike Birling, General Manager of the Durham Bulls. "As a whole it all went very well, but we are already pulling together our ideas for how to enhance the Championship for the players and fans in 2016 and beyond."

NCAA Spring Madness

Strong spring seasons by area university sports teams enabled the Triangle to extend its lead as the number one community in the U.S. for hosting NCAA championship events. Led by Men's and Women's lacrosse teams at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) and Duke, as well as varsity tennis teams at those institutions, Triangle universities hosted an array of NCAA tournament events: Men's Lacrosse 1st & 2nd Rounds at Duke's Koskinen Stadium, Women's Lacrosse



1st & 2nd Rounds also at Duke, Men's Lacrosse 1st & 2nd Rounds at UNC's Fetzer Field, and Women's Lacrosse 1st & 2nd Rounds at UNC.

In addition, UNC hosted both Women's NCAA Tennis 1st & 2nd Rounds and Men's NCAA 1st & 2nd Rounds at the Cone-Kenfield Complex, while Duke hosted the Men's NCAA Tennis 1st & 2nd Rounds at Ambler Tennis Stadium. Add in the NCAA DII Baseball Championships at the USA Baseball National Training Complex in Cary, and NCAA Women's Golf East Regionals at Lonnie Poole Golf Course at NC State, and the Triangle's 2015 NCAA Championship total just for May 2015 is nine. Counting back to Women's NCAA Basketball 1st & 2nd Rounds at both Duke and Carolina, the Triangle total for 2015 is already at 11 NCAA Championship events with the fall season still to go!

Upcoming Activities:

- Kick-It, 3-on-3 National Soccer Tournament, Cedar Fork Park, Morrisville, NC, Saturday, June 20
- U.S. Masters Swimming High Performance Camp, August 22-27: A few openings remain. Click [here](#) for details.
- Women's Sport Leadership Luncheon, with the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce, Prestonwood Country Club, Cary, NC, Wednesday, November 11.

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