

Triangle Sports Commission May Recap

ACC Baseball Championship

After 6 days of tournament play at Durham Bulls Athletic Park, Florida State became the first back-to-back ACC Baseball champion since Wake Forest who won back-to-back in 1998 and 1999!

The tournament format was also a first for North Carolina: 12 teams were selected for the Championship, where the first four days were pool play. Participating teams were Clemson, NC State, Louisville, Florida State, Wake Forest, Notre Dame, North Carolina, Duke, Miami, Georgia Tech, Virginia, and Pittsburgh. Pitt and Louisville made it into the first semifinal game, and Florida State and Clemson advanced to the second semifinal. Louisville and Florida State continued to the Championship, where Florida State won 11 to 8 in 10 innings.

The Triangle Sports Commission would like to congratulate all the tournament teams on an outstanding ACC Championship!



Triangle Youth Clinic Success

The inaugural Triangle Youth Clinic, presented by Dick's Sporting Goods and hosted by the Triangle Sports Commission, took place on Saturday, May 26 at Historic Durham Athletic Park. The Clinic, in conjunction with the ACC Baseball Championship, saw over 120 youth athletes participate to improve their baseball skills. Led by Head Coach



Eric Campbell, National Teams Director of USA Baseball, the clinic had stellar coaches including Jim Koerner, Head Coach of NC Central; Ed Purcelli, NC Central Director of Baseball Operations; Nick Caregnato, Pitcher for NC Central; Eric Tyler of Baseball Rebellion; Rodney Whitesell of Holly Springs High School; Shawn Ryan and Spencer Traynor of Bull City Little League; Patrick Currin of PC Baseball and Jessie McKnight, local youth baseball coach. Athletes rotated through 10 skills stations that ranged from hitting and throwing to pitching and catching.

After the Clinic, the athletes headed over to Durham Bulls Athletic Park and participated in a Parade of Athletes before the semifinal game between Florida State and Clemson. The athletes had the chance to walk around the Championship Field and celebrate the day. The athletes were then able to catch the semifinal game and see the eventual 2018 ACC Baseball Champions.

The TSC would again like to thank the coaches, athletes, parents, and Dick's Sporting Goods for all of their support and enthusiasm surrounding this event. The feedback the Triangle Sports Commission has received from parents and families has been fantastic. We are already looking forward to bringing the Clinic back next year!



The Triangle – Top U.S. College Baseball Hub

If the field of 64 for the NCAA College World Series is any indicator, the Triangle is the number one metro for college baseball in the country, with three teams – Duke, NC State, and UNC – all making the tournament. Technically it could be argued that we tied with New York City (Columbia, St. John's, and LIU Brooklyn) for the top spot, but given NYC's 8.5 million population to the Triangle's 1.8 million, the Triangle wins hands down on a per capita basis.

North Carolina was also tied for number one with Texas in terms of teams per state, with Campbell, East Carolina, NC A&T State, and UNC Wilmington also advancing into the NCAA championships. Texas teams are Baylor, Dallas Baptist, Houston, Texas A&M, Texas Southern, Texas Tech, and the University of Texas. However, if we use hosting of regionals as a tiebreaker, North Carolina wins as we have three regionals (1st and 2nd rounds) being hosted this weekend at East Carolina, NC State, and UNC (first time ever for three regionals to be hosted in NC); while Texas is host to only two regionals, one at Texas (Austin) and the other at Texas Tech (Lubbock).

Upcoming Events

Tomorrow night, 7pm at The Cary Theater, 122 E Chatham St, Cary, NC 27511: you don't want to miss Top Spin, the movie that highlights the Table Tennis Olympic Trials in Cary. This is not your friendly game room ping pong game! Highlighting the night is a personal appearance by Cary's own Table Tennis Olympian, Diana Gee, who will introduce the film, tell of her own Trials experience, and do demonstrations on a table tennis table set up in the theater lobby. To purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/tsmovie.



Thursday, June 7, 12 pm at PNC Arena, 1400 Edwards Mill Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607: join the TSC for a free luncheon with the top brass of Darlington Raceway. Learn all about the improvements and upgrades at the speedway and get up to speed on current issues affecting the NASCAR industry. To attend, please RSVP by June 1 to Tess Heron at theron@trianglesportscommission.com.



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