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## TSC 2021 Olympic Games & Sports News

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As a long-time Community Olympic Partner of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, the Triangle Sports Commission (TSC) is focused on promoting the Triangle area as a major sports destination as well as promoting Olympic and amateur sports across the region. With the Tokyo Olympic Games set to get underway next week, we thought the timing would be most appropriate to bring you the latest regional and state news related to the Games.

### U.S. Olympic Team to Play in Cary and Durham



While there are a number of area athletes and coaches who will be participating in Tokyo, there is only one more opportunity to see Team USA Olympic athletes in action, right here in the Triangle, before they head to Japan. Thanks to locally-headquartered USA Baseball, the U.S. Olympic Baseball Team is currently training at the USA Baseball National Training Complex in Cary. The team will play a series of three games in the area starting this coming weekend. The games will be played at the USA Baseball National Training Complex in Cary on Sunday and Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, and at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park on Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

The series of games is being referred to as **Team USA: Collegiate vs Professional**. The games schedule, including ticket links, is as follows:

- **Sunday, July 18, 6:30pm** U.S. Olympic Team vs U.S. Collegiate National Team USA Baseball NTC, Cary Purchase Tickets [HERE](#)
- **Monday, July 19, 6:35pm** U.S. Olympic Team vs U.S. Collegiate National Team Durham Bulls Ath. Park, Durham Purchase Tickets [HERE](#)
- **Tuesday, July 20, 1:00pm** U.S. Olympic Team vs. U.S. Collegiate National Team USA Baseball NTC, Cary Purchase Tickets [HERE](#)

There are many reasons to attend these games and cheer for the athletes. First, this is as close as we can get to the actual athletes who will be representing our country in global competition in Tokyo. Second, the Triangle Sports Commission recruited USA Baseball's Headquarters and National Training Complex to North Carolina from Arizona, and USA Baseball is the sole Olympic Sports Governing Body based in our state. Third, there are two Durham Bulls pitchers, Shane Baz and Joe Ryan, plus 3 other NC connections (Tim Federowicz, UNC grad from Apex; Ryder Ryan, UNC

grad from Huntersville, and Ernie Young, Hitting Coach and former Kannapolis Intimidators Manager) on our U.S. Olympic Team. Finally, the Triangle is renowned for our support of Olympic and amateur sports, and, after all, this is Team USA – they deserve our passionate fan support!

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### **North Carolina-Connected Athletes Olympic Trials Stats**

**U.S. OLYMPIC  
TEAM TRIALS**



There were a very impressive 164 North Carolina-connected athletes that competed in the 2021 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Trials which concluded at the end of last month, 156 in the Olympic Trials and 8 in the Paralympic Trials. Of the Olympic Trials competitors 80 were men (51%) and 76 were women (49%), while the Paralympic participants split 50/50 with 4 men and 4 women. Those NC-connected athletes in the Olympic Trials competed in 5 different sports for the opportunity to be named to the U.S. Olympic Team. Swimming led the way with 88 athletes, followed by Track & Field with 53, Diving with 9, Canoe/Kayak with 4, and Wrestling with 2. There were 6 NC Paralympic Trials participants in Swimming and 2 in Track & Field.

NC athletes in the Trials came from 32 North Carolina cities and towns. The Top Five-ranked North Carolina cities listed as Olympic Trials participants' hometowns were 1) Charlotte, 19 athletes, 2) Raleigh, 13 athletes, 3) Cary, 11 athletes, 4) Chapel Hill, 7 athletes, and 5) Mooresville, 3 athletes. Raleigh was the leading hometown for Paralympic Trials competitors with 3. For a complete list of athletes who participated in the 2021 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Trials and their North Carolina connections, click [here](#).

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### **North Carolina-Connected Athletes in the Tokyo Games**



Through Olympic Trials qualifying and other sport selection processes a significant contingent of 60 North Carolina-connected athletes were named to the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams for this year's Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. Of those, 50 made the U.S. Olympic Team, while 10 made the U.S. Paralympic Team. There were also 14 additional NC-connected athletes who made the Olympic Teams of other countries, including Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Germany, Jamaica, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Romania, Nigeria, Sweden, and Switzerland.

NC athletes and coaches will represent Team USA in 18 different sports: Baseball, Basketball, BMX, Boxing, Canoe/Kayak, Cycling, Diving, Equestrian, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Rugby, Shooting, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Triathlon, Weightlifting, and Wrestling. The top 5 sports ranked by NC participants are Track & Field with 12; Baseball, Basketball, and Soccer tied for second with five; and Swimming in third with four.

NC Athletes to Watch in the Olympic Games – There are so many to choose from, but here are a few that stand out:

- **Paul Chelimo** (UNCG), Men's Track & Field – 5000m Run [Paul is the reigning Olympic Silver Medalist]
- **Claire Curzon** (Cary), Women's Swimming – 100m Butterfly
- **Quanera Hayes** (Hope Mills), Women's Track & Field – 400m Run [Quanera edged out Allyson Felix at Trials]
- **Jessica Springsteen** (Duke), Women's Equestrian – Show Jumping
- **Jordan Windle** (Morrisville), Men's Diving – 3m Springboard and 10m Platform
- **Randolph Ross & Trevor Stewart** (both NC A&T), Men's Track & Field – 4x400m Relay
- **Ban Adebayo** (High Point Christian) & **Jason Tatum** (Duke), Men's Basketball
- **Samantha Mewis, Lynn Williams, Abby Dahlkemper** (all NC Courage) plus **Tobin Heath** and **Crystal Dunn** (both UNC), Women's Soccer

For a complete listing of North Carolina-connected athletes in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, click [here](#).

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### Contributing to USA Baseball's Success

The Triangle Sports Commission has been fortunate through the years to have been involved in a number of youth baseball tournaments and activities, including the Triangle Youth Tournament and Triangle Youth Clinic, both held in conjunction with the ACC Baseball Championships at Durham Bulls Athletic Park. USA Baseball's Eric Campbell, National Teams General Manager, helped direct the Triangle Youth Clinic for the TSC at Durham Athletic Park.



*[Pictured above from left to right - Hill Carrow, TSC CEO, with Ray Darwin, USAB, and Collins Lowder, TSC, contributing youth baseball equipment to USAB]*

Through those and other activities, the TSC has accumulated a healthy supply of gently-used baseball equipment and supplies. Realizing that USA Baseball has a number of youth programs and equipment needs to support those programs, the TSC recently donated all its youth baseball equipment to USAB. Among the items donated were bats, balls, helmets, catcher's gear, ball buckets, batting tees, batting nets, cones for field drills, and speed and agility ladders.

Accepting the equipment at USA Baseball's Warehouse Facility on Miami Boulevard in Durham, was Ray Darwin, USAB Chief Financial Officer. "This is exactly the type of equipment used by our youth development programs," Darwin said, "We have significant needs in this area and this generous contribution by the TSC will go a long way to assist our youth programming."

"We are glad to continue to support USA Baseball," said Hill Carrow, TSC CEO. "USAB is our direct connection to the Olympic Movement, they have continued to grow their staff and programs since relocating here, and they have become a tremendous community asset."

This is the second major Baseball equipment and supplies donation by the TSC. Previously the organization donated a number of portable pitchers' mounds and movable field fencing to North Raleigh Baseball.

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## **Tune in to the Games!**

It's the Olympic Time of year! The start of the Tokyo Games is just over a week away, followed by the Paralympic Games in August. As you can see from the news items above, North Carolinians have much to cheer for in these Games. We'll be pulling hard for Team USA, but we encourage you to tune in and cheer for your favorite athlete, team, sport and/or country.



For the complete NBC schedule of Tokyo Olympic Games broadcast coverage (July 25 – August 8), click [here](#).

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## **North Carolina's Quest for the Games**

Don't forget that you can keep abreast of North Carolina and the Triangle's bid to bring the world's second largest Olympic sports event to the area, the 2027 Summer World University Games, by subscribing to the monthly news updates on the bid process and progress. To get on the list, simply click [here](#).



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