



Celebrate
Greensboro

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BY MARTHA-PAGE ALTHAUS



The Atlantic Coast Conference

For 58 years and counting, there's been no place like home.

Since its founding nearly 60 years ago, the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) has had deep roots in Greensboro.



(clockwise from left) 2011 ACC Women's Golf Individual Champion *Cheyenne Woods* of Wake Forest at Sedgefield Country Club, *Clemson vs. UNC - 2011 ACC Men's Basketball Tournament at Greensboro Coliseum*, and the 12 ACC mascots

The league was born here on May 8, 1953, at the Sedgefield Inn (today the clubhouse at Sedgefield Country Club), with seven charter members that withdrew from the Southern Conference: Clemson, Duke, Maryland, North Carolina, North Carolina State, South Carolina (until their withdrawal in 1971), and Wake Forest. These universities adopted their own set of bylaws and officially became the Atlantic Coast Conference, a name suggested by Eddie Cameron, Duke's athletic director at the time and former head basketball coach.

Today's 12-member conference also

includes Virginia (which joined in December 1953), Georgia Tech (1978), Florida State (1991), Virginia Tech (2004), Miami (2004), and Boston College (2005).

As implied in the ACC's tagline, "A Tradition of Excellence... Then, Now, and Always," winning has become synonymous with the league and its world-class student-athletes. Since 1953, ACC schools have captured 122 national titles, including 65 in women's sports and

57 in men's. The league sponsors a total of 25 sports, but it is much more than an athletic conference. The ACC's unique blend of public and private institutions; its reach along nearly the entire Eastern Seaboard, from Boston to Miami; and its longstanding reputation for integrity, diversity, and accomplished academics (collectively the league has more schools in the most recent *U.S. News & World Report* top 50 than any other BCS confer-

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ACC



ence) gives the ACC a peerless standing among college conferences.

With its headquarters near Greensboro's Grandover Resort and Conference Center, the ACC is centrally located in the geographic footprint of its member institutions. And most importantly, the conference hosts several major championships in the city each year.

An Experienced Host

March means championship basketball in the ACC, and nobody does it better, or more often, than the place known as "Tournament Town." The 23,500-seat Greensboro Coliseum is the traditional home of the ACC Men's Basketball Tournament — the arena has hosted 23 of them, more than any other venue — and since 2000 the coliseum has been the site of every ACC Women's Basketball Tournament.

The coliseum hosted its first men's hoops tournament in 1967, when North Carolina beat Duke, giving legendary Tar Heels coach



Dean Smith his first league title. The storied arena also has been the site of 12 NCAA men's tournament competitions, including the 1974 Final Four when NC State was crowned national champion (the first of two Final Fours hosted in-state) and three NCAA women's tournament weekends.

ACC men's and women's basketball teams



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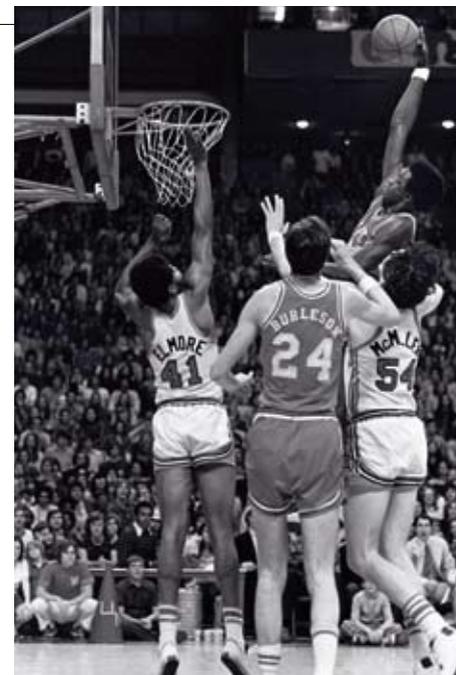
2010 ACC Baseball Championship trophy presented by ACC Commissioner John Swofford to the Florida State Seminoles and (below) crowd shot of the ACC Women's Basketball Tournament at Greensboro Coliseum



“We have developed such strong relationships with the people in Greensboro, and they know how to put on first-class events.”
—ACC Commissioner John Swofford



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ACC



1974 ACC Men's Basketball Championship Game in Greensboro featuring greats David Thompson and Tom Burleson of NC State and Len Elmore and Tom McMillen of Maryland

championships — the Men's Basketball Tournament — will be played in Atlanta in 2012, the event returns home to Greensboro in 2013 for a three-year run.

“We have developed such strong relationships with the people in Greensboro, and they know how to put on first-class events,” says ACC Commissioner John Swofford. “The people here care about doing it the right way, and the championships are special for the student-athletes, coaches, and the fans.”

have won a combined 12 NCAA titles since 1957, and the league has nurtured some of the game's biggest names — Michael Jordan (North Carolina), Tim Duncan (Wake Forest), David Thompson (NC State), Len Elmore (Maryland), Ralph Sampson (Virginia), Dean Smith (North Carolina), Mike Krzyzewski (Duke), Jim Valvano (NC State), Gary Williams (Maryland), and Bobby Cremins (Georgia Tech), to name just a few.

Looking Ahead

The ACC has closer ties to Greensboro than ever before, and a number of championships are scheduled to be decided here in the coming years.

The Women's Basketball Championship will continue its long run at the Greensboro Coliseum, with the 2012 Tournament scheduled for March 1–4. Also next year, the ACC Women's Golf Championship continues its run at Sedgefield Country Club, April 13–15. Both of these ACC Championship events are scheduled at these respective sites through 2015.

Downtown, NewBridge Bank Park will host its second ACC Baseball Championship, May 23–27, 2012. Home of the Greensboro Grasshoppers (a Class-A affiliate of the Florida Marlins), the stadium has been named one of the Top 10 Minor League Ballparks by *Baseball America* magazine.

And though the crown jewel of conference



The ACC Online

For more information, including news, scores, features, exclusive content, links to each member school, and everything else ACC related, visit the conference's official online home, theACC.com.



12 Schools, 7 States, 1 Conference



Boston College Eagles
(Chestnut Hill, MA)



Miami Hurricanes
(Coral Gables, FL)



Clemson Tigers
(Clemson, SC)



North Carolina Tar Heels
(Chapel Hill, NC)



Duke Blue Devils
(Durham, NC)



NC State Wolfpack
(Raleigh, NC)



Florida State Seminoles
(Tallahassee, FL)



Virginia Cavaliers
(Charlottesville, VA)



Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets
(Atlanta, GA)



Virginia Tech Hokies
(Blacksburg, VA)



Maryland Terrapins
(College Park, MD)



Wake Forest Demon Deacons
(Winston-Salem, NC)