

**FREE****ORANGE****SERVING THE TRIANGLE**

# COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

**September 2024  
Volume 41  
#668****BASKETBALL ★ CYCLING ★ RUNNING ★ OUTDOORS**

## Skatepark Upgrade Coming

Plans to upgrade and renovate the Homestead skatepark, Chapel Hill, are moving ahead. The design drawings were released and the project went out for bids (due Sep. 11) with construction expected in 2025, using ARPA funds.

The wooden structure was built 25 years ago and will be redesigned with a mix of street and transition elements for beginner and intermediate skaters. There will be rails, quarter pipes, banks and ledges, built with steel-reinforced concrete, replacing the wood-framed ramps.

The design was done by 5th Pocket Skateparks of Pa., the company that recently completed the new Hillsborough skate spot in Cates Creek Park south of Hillsborough.

In two public meetings, 5th Pocket heard from 40 local skaters of all ages, as well as some roller bladers and other wheeled sport enthusiasts.

Jesse Clayton, one of the 5th Park owners said, "If the new design looks familiar, that's because it is. We heard loud and clear that the local skate community wants to preserve the

*SKATEPARK, Continued on page 6*

## 21 Former Heels On NFL Rosters

The number of former UNC players on NFL rosters Sep. 1 was 21, down from 22 the past two seasons. The number includes players on Injured Reserve, PUP and practice squads. Cutdown day ended the season for a number of rookies and veterans from North Carolina.

Here's the breakdown: RB British Brooks, Houston; WR Dynami Brown, Washington; RB Michael Carter, Arizona practice squad; RB Ty Chandler, Minnesota; WR Josh Downs, Indianapolis; G Joshua Ezeudu, New

York Giants; DT Tomari Fox, Las Vegas, IR; LB Tomon Fox, New York, Giants practice squad; LB Amari Gainer, Las Vegas; LB Cedric Gray, Tennessee, IR; WR Antoine Green, Detroit, IR; WR Mack Hollins, Buffalo; LB Cole Holcomb, Pittsburgh, PUP list; QB Sam Howell, Seattle; QB Drake Maye, New England; DT Asim Richards, Dallas; S MJ Stewart, Houston; LB Chazz Surratt, New York Jets; QB Mitch Trubisky, Buffalo; WR Tez Walker, Baltimore; RB Javonte Williams, Denver.

The number of former ACC players on NFL rosters jumped to 255 this season, with the addition of three schools (Cal, Stanford, SMU) this fall. New York Jets (14), Arizona (13) had the most and Pittsburgh (3) the fewest. Twelve teams were in double digits.

### Duke Players In NFL

Former Duke players on NFL rosters (16): LB Victor Dimukeje, Arizona; DT DeWayne Carter, Buffalo; CB Josh Blackwell, Chicago; LB Shaka Heyward, Cincinnati; C Jacob Monk, Green Bay; TE Noah Gray, Kansas City; LB Chris Rump II, LA Chargers, IR; LB Joe Giles-Harris, New England, practice squad; C Lucas Patrick, New Orleans; QB Daniel Jones, New York Giants; CB Michael Carter II, New York Jets; LS Thomas Hennessey, New York Jets; G Laken Tomlinson, Seattle; G Graham Baxter, Tampa Bay; LS Evan Decker, Tampa Bay; WR Jamison Crowder, Washington.

## Early Voting Starts Oct. 17

Early voting for the Nov. 5 Presidential election starts Thursday, Oct. 17, at five locations in Orange County through Nov. 2.

They are Orange Works at Hillsborough Commons, Carrboro Town Hall Extension at 108 Bim St., Chapel Hill Library, Chapel of the Cross, Seymour Senior Center, Efland-Cheeks Community Center. The new Southern Branch Library in Carrboro was ruled out because the project is running behind schedule.

Hours are Oct. 17-18, 8 to 7:30; Oct. 19, 8 to 3; Oct. 20 (Sun) 12 to 5; Oct. 21-25, 8 to 7:30; Oct. 26, 8-3; Oct. 27 (Sun), 12-5; Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 8 to 7:30; Nov. 2 (Sat), 8-3.

## FALL RUNNING



## 44 Races Crowd Fall Calendar

*Related Stories Page 4-5*

The fall running season will be busier than ever. There are 44 local races between September and the end of the year, with 12 in both October and November, according to CSN data. That's the most since Covid.

Races are a mix of road and trail events and include a handful of new and traditional campus charity races. They stretch from Siler City to Graham, Bahama and RTP. Turkey Day has six area races; Dec. 7 is the busiest with seven races.

But the question is how popular will they be, how many runners will turn out. It's a challenge.

In the spring only the older larger races like Tar Heel Ten Miler, Running of the Bulls 8K had big numbers locally, while smaller community-based races, mainly 5Ks, often had the same or fewer runners than the previous year. Trail races were somewhere in the middle.

One reason: two free sources of advance race information, Cardinal TC race online

calendar and the print edition of CSN (5,500 copies monthly) are no more. See related story in this issue. Other running calendars and listings are available and CSN is online-only these days.

The Historic Hillsborough HM (Oct. 6), Bull City RaceFest (Oct. 20) and Durham 13.1 (Dec. 7) are the larger area races. The Hillsborough race had 510 registrations by Labor Day, compared to 288 finishers last year. BC had 1,269 finishers last year and Durham 13.1 577.

*FALL RACES, Continued on page 5*

## Six Smith Center Alternatives Posed

Six alternatives for the future of the Smith Center at UNC were proposed by a UNC committee. The idea is to have 16,000 seats for men's basketball and provide an exciting modern day fan experience without building new roadways (or exceeding the National Debt.)

They include using the Bowles parking lot off Manning Drive beside the SC or Odum Village across from the hospital, Friday Center off NC 54 or Carolina North (former airport property) off MLK Boulevard to build a new building, renovate the Smith Center where it is, or replace it and rebuild.

The alternatives did not have individual cost figures or a timeline. Additional studies were promised, and a sense of urgency was noted in the report from the Physical Master Plan Working Group.

Each alternative brings its own set of challenges and obstacles like traffic, parking, replacement facilities and huge costs. The report already has become Topic A for angry homeowners in some Chapel Hill neighborhoods.

*J.B.*

## Fall Biking, NCAA Hoops Due Oct. 16

The next issue of CSN (Oct. 16) will feature Fall Biking and NCAA Hoops Preview (by Chip Bremer) as well as a batch of road race and game results.

To advertise, contact joelcsn1@gmail.com. Deadline is 7 days in advance.

ACC Hoops and SE Ski Mini-Guide follow.

**Inside:  
Girls Flag FB  
Hoops Winners  
Festivals Galore**

## Cedar Falls Tennis Project On Agenda

The Chapel Hill Town Council will consider renovation of the Cedar Falls tennis courts Sep. 11 when construction bids are considered on the consent agenda. The courts have been in poor to mediocre condition for years and the latest project calls for rebuilding six new ones with lights and amenities on the original site near the parking lot at Cedar Falls.

Last spring the project stalled when not enough bids were submitted so it had to be rebid again July 18. Three bids were received, ranging from \$1.2 to \$1.42M from Greensboro, Mebane contractors. The city's recommendation, which apparently was to award bids, wasn't announced until the agenda packet went out Sep. 6. In previous years, bids were too high, exceeding available funds. *J.B.*

## NC Road Races

### September 13

Moonlight Madness 5K, Winston-Salem, 8 p.m., runsignup.com.

### September 14

Love Durham 5K Run, Herndon Park, Durham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Balloon Festival 5K trail, run or ruck, Cedarrock Park, Burlington, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

6th Dirty Dozen 5K Obstacle Mud Run, Clemmons, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

SHBHU Java Jive Jog 5K /10K, Cary, 8a.m., fseries.com.

Pups & Pastries 6.5m/5K, with and without dogs, Cary, runsignup.com.

Sola Hot Mini 5K, Raleigh, 8:30 a.m., solahotmini5k.com.

Tough Oaks OCR 5K, Camp Albemarle, Newport, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

4th Salute Trail Run 5K/10K, Charlotte, 9 a.m., racerooster.com.

### September 15

Donate Life NC Hero Run 5K, Herndon Park, Durham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

### September 20

Durham Mural Tour, 3.3m, Fleet Feet Ninth St, Durham, 5:30 p.m. RSVP: durhammuraltourpresentedbyflee.splash that.com.

### September 21

Stead Tread 5K, Solite Park, Durham, 9 a.m., stead-tread.org/register.

9 to 5 Challenge team-based 5K, Boxyard, RTP, 9 a.m., event.racereach.com/

22nd Gail Parkins Memorial Ovarian Cancer 5K, Sanderson HS, Raleigh, 8:30 a.m. supportdukehealth.org/site/TR/Live and Virtual.

I Am Too Sexy 5K, Herndon Park, Durham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

12th NCVAN Know Hope 5K, Garner, 8 a.m., runsignup.com, Live & Virtual.

Rescheduled/Outrun Violence 5K, Quarry Park, Winston-Salem, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Roanoke Canal 5K, Roanoke Rapids, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

### September 22

11th Canes 5K, PNC Arena, Raleigh, 8:30 a.m., events.racereach.com.canes-5K.

Plunge and Plod 4/3/2/1m, Cary, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

Liam Strong 5K, Wrightsville Beach, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

### September 28

Chatham Co. Recovery Celebration and 5K Run, Chatham Middle School, Siler City, 10:30a.m., runsignup.com.

4th Color Blast 5K, rec/comp divisions, Herndon Park, Durham, 6 p.m., racereach.com.

Winery Wander 5K, Zinc House Winery, Durham, 11 a.m., fseries.com.

Hairpin Hustle Trail Run 5K/10K, Lake Crabtree CP, Morrisville, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

NC USATF M/W/Master XC Championship, 6K for W, 8K for M, Central Carolina

Children's Home, Oxford, runsignup.com.

3rd Boulder Dash 5K/5M, Charlotte, 8:30 a.m., racerooster.com.

Downtown Greenway Run 5K and Block Party, Greensboro, 5 p.m., runsignup.com.

Run for Recovery 5K, Smithfield-Selma HS, Smithfield, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

3rd Run the Fort 5K, Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach,, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Tree Tops Trail Races, 8.5m, 5K, Dupont State Forest, Brevard, 9 a.m., racerooster.com.

Woodcreek Cares Neighborhood 5K, Apex, 8:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

### September 29

15th Miles for Smiles Cleft Palate Gallop 5K, Old Well, UNC, Chapel Hill, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Run Wild 5K at the Zoo, Asheboro, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Run for Hope 5K, Springwood Park, Burlington, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

### October 5

Carboro 10K, leg 2 of Le Tour de Carrboro, McDougle School, 8 a.m., runsignup.com by 10/3.

10th Run for Resilience Ostomy 5K on ATT, from Havertys Furniture, Durham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Jordan High School Alumni/Community Run 5K, Jordan HS, Durham, 8:30 a.m. Register/pay at race.

Meerfest 5K, 909 Cobb St., Durham, 8:30 a.m. TBA.

17th LUNGe Forward 5K, County Park, Greensboro, 8:30 a.m., secure.ggv.com.

Movin Mullet 5K, Front St., Swansboro, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

NC Seafood Festival 8K, Beaufort, 8a.m., runsignup.com.

22nd Paws for Life NC 5K, Wake Forest, 10 a.m., racereach.com.

Run for the Ta Tas 5K, Wilmington, 8am, runsignup.com.

9th Shea's Chase 5K, Greensboro, 10:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

### October 6

Vets to Vets United 5K9, WMSP, Cary, 9 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

### October 11

Cannonball 5K Greensboro, 6:45 p.m., runsignup.com.

### October 12

Triangle Run for Autism 5K Halifax Mall, Raleigh, 9 a.m., secureconvio.net/asnc/site/trrr.

Cupcake Run 5K, Brier Creek Commons, Raleigh, 8 a.m., fseries.com.

SAS Championship 5K, Prestonwood CC, Cary, 8 a.m. itsyourrace.com.

McGee's Crossroads Mustang Stampede 5K, Benson, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

15th Feel the Burn 5K/10K, Princeton, 7 p.m., runsignup.com.

Heister Cares 5K to Prevent, Fuquay-Varina HS, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

### October 13

MunFest 5K, Union Park,

New Bern, 8 a.m., register.chronotrack.com.

### October 19

Tunnel to Towers 5K, Wake Forest, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Zero Prostate Cancer Run 5K, Lake Raleigh, 8:30 a.m., support.zerocancer.org/site/trrr.

### October 20

Your First Mud Run, 2m with obstacles, Garner, 10:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Balloon Chasers 5K, Statesville, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Feed Your Neighbor 5K, Wendell, 2:30 p.m., runsignup.com.

47th Thomas Wolfe 8K, Asheville, 8am, racerooster.com.

### October 26

First Cane Creek Mountain 3.3m trail, Camp Frontier, Snow Camp, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com by 9/27.

Marine Corps League Sem-

per 5K, Graham, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

Mangum Elementary 5K, Bahama, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

12th Day of the Dead 5K, 106 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, 9 a.m., fseries.com.

Nailed It 5K Pumpkin Run, Harmon Park, Kersnersville, 4 p.m., runsignup.com.

Strides for Speech 5K, Joyner Park, Wake Forest, 12 noon, runsugnap.com.

Sugar Rush 5m/3m, Amberly Clubhouse, Cary, 9:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

Hallelujah Halo 5K Run, Lake Benson Park, Garner, 8 a.m., runnc.com.

Franklin All Nighter, downtown Chapel Hill, 0.98m loop, 6:26 p.m. to 7:34 a.m., runsignup.com.

### October 27

Triangle Trick or Trot 5K, WMSP, Cary, 8 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

## NC Long Distance

### September 14

Marine Corps HM, Camp Lejeune, 7 a.m., lejeunenewriver.usmc-mccs.org.

Rocky Branch Ultra 50K trail, Belmont, 8 a.m., ultrasignup.com by 9/10.

Sugg Farm Ultra, 50m/40m/20m trail, Holly Springs, 7 a.m., ultrasignup.com by 9/11.

### September 21

Buzzard Rock Ultra 50K/10m trail, Robbins, 8 a.m., ultrasignup.com by 9/20.

Doggetville 12 Relay & Ultra, 12H Run, 12H Relay, Summerfield, 7 a.m., runsignup.com.

French Broad 10m Relay, Asheville, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

Table Rock Ultra 50K/30K, Morganton, 7 a.m., ultrasignup.com.

### September 28

Hinson Lake 24 HR Ultra Classic, Rockingham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. Closed Out.

4th Oktoberfest HM/5K, Hi-Wire Brewing, Asheville, 7:30 a.m., racerooster.com.

Pilot Mountain to Hanging Rock Ultra & Relay, 50m /50K trail, 6 a.m., runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

Run for Green HM/10K/5K, Davidson, 7:45 a.m., runsignup.com.

Salem Lake Trail Run, 30K/7M/5K, Winston-Salem, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

### October 5

Cary Greenways Tour, M/HM/10K/5K, Cary, runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

Black Mtn Ultra Traverse, 48/24m trail, Burnsville, 4 & 8 a.m., ultrasignup.com by 10-2.

Chasing Trail Ultras 12H/6H/3H trail, Old Fort, 7 a.m., ultrasignup.com by 10/3.

Naturalist-Epic 50K/25K, Franklin, 8 a.m., ultrasignup.com by 10/1.

Pisgah 55.5K Running Race Pisgah Forest, 8 a.m., bikereg.com/pisgah.

Run Holden Beach HM/10K/5K, Holden Beach, 6:45 a.m., runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

WC-50 Ultra Trail M/50m/50K, Charlotte, 4:45 a.m., center.whitewater.org/race.

### October 6

7th Historic Hillsborough HM/5K, Eno Farmers' Market, downtown Hillsborough, 7 a.m., runsignup.com.

Lake Norman 15K/5K, Cornelius, 7:45am, runsignup.com.

### October 12

Cannonball M/HM/10K, County Park, Greensboro, 7:45 a.m., runsignup.com.

Broad River Trail Run, 10m/5K, Shelby, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

6th Cape Fear 24H Endurance Run, Lillington, 8 a.m., ultrasignup.com by 10/7.

Uwharrie Race 5H adventure race, Albemarle, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Uwharrie Race 18H adventure race, 1-4 person teams, Albemarle, 11 a.m., runsignup.com.

### October 13

5th Black Bear HM/8K, Hendersonville, 8 a.m., racerooster.com.

### October 18

Tuna Relay, 70m (Trenton) 200m (Garner) to Atlantic Beach malakseries.com.

### October 19

4th Rootrock Trail HM/10K /5K, Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

FRC Deerfly Trail Race 11K/5K, Carvers Creek SP, Fayetteville, 11 a.m., runsignup.com.

4th Geyser Growl HM, Black Mountain, 8 a.m., gloryhoundnc.enmotive.com.

Ironclad HM/5K, Kinston, 7:30 a.m., runsignip.com.

17th Medoc Trail Races, 10/5m, Medoc Mtn SP, Hollister, 8 a.m., eventbrite.com.

### October 20

Bull City Race Fest HM/6m American Tobacco Campus, Durham, 7:30 a.m., capstoneraces.com/bull-city-race.

### October 26

16th ATT 10m/4m, White Oak Church Rd, Apex, 8:50 a.m. event.racereach.com.

10th Emerald Isle M/HM/5K, 7 a.m., runsignup.com.

Run Ocean Isle Beach HM /5K, 7 a.m., runsignup.com.

### October 27

13th Eno River Run, 11m/6m trail, Fews Ford, Eno River SP, Durham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

RDC M/ HM/ 10K/ 5K,

Streets at Southpoint, Durham, 7:10 a.m., runrdc.com. Live & Virtual.

Cape Fear M/HM, Bald Head Island, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

## NC Multisport

### September 14

Belews Lake Olympic Tri and Duathlon, Statesville, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

OBX Olympic/Sprint Tri, Manteo, 7 a.m., obxse.enmotive.com/events.

### September 15

She Tris women-only Sprint Tri, Huntersville, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

### September 21

Battle at Buckhorn Sprint Tri, Wilson, 8a.m., fseries.com.

YMCA Wrightsville Beach Sprint Tri, 6:50 a.m., runsignup.com.

### September 28

Pier 2 Pier Swim, about 2m, Wrightsville Beach, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

49th Outdoorsman Sprint Tri, swim/run/paddle, Bryson City, outdoorsmantriathlon.org.

Over-Under Biathlon and 5K, Surf City, Sound Side Park, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

First Y Tri Saleeby Fisher Sprint Tri, Rockwell, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

### September 29

She Tris women-only Sprint Tri/Aquathlon/Duathlon, 250y pool swim, 9m bike, 2m

run, UNC Wellness Center, Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

### October 5

10th Triangle Open Water Hurricane Swim, 1K/1m/2m, Vista Point, Jordan Lake, Pittsboro, 8 a.m., fseries.com.

Alleghany Wellness Center Trifecta, sprint tri, relay, Sparta, 8 a.m., active.com.

Cal Tri Charlotte, Olympic, sprint distances, duathlon, 8 a.m. runsignup.com.

Nat Greene's Revenge Sprint Tri & Duathlon (on-road and off), Greensboro, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

Sandling Beach Tri Festival, Olympic 1500m swim, 25m bike, 6m run, sprint 750m swim, 20m bike, 3m run, last event in NCTS Series, Wake Forest, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

USPC Draft Legal Tri Festival, Olympic, sprint tris, Troutman, 8 a.m., runsignup.com by 10/5. Also W Collegiate East Coast Qualifier.

### October 12

7th SwimRun NC, off road duathlon, Hanging Rock SP, Danbury, 8 a.m., runsignup.com by 10/11.

### October 13

7th SwimRun NC, off road duathlon, Hanging Rock SP, Danbury, 8 a.m., runsignup.com by 10/11.

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Oct. 16, Fall Biking, NCAA Hoops Preview

Nov. 13, ACC Hoops Preview

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## COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

Published monthly

Covering adult sports and recreation Distributed free in Orange County, from Jordan Lake to Hillsborough, Mebane

Chief Editor Joel Bulkley

Advertising rates and publication schedule available upon request. One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased from CSN.

311 Granville Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514

joelcsn1@gmail.com • Circa 1983

www.community-sports-news.com

## September Standings

### Carrboro Co-Rec Softball

Allen & Son 4-0, 401 Main 2-2, Bandwein Bombers 1-3, Street Walkin Cheetahs 1-3.

### Carrboro Ultimate Co-Rec

Scarlet 3-0 6, Kelly 2-0 4, White 1-1 2, Purple 0-2 0, Powder Blue 0-3 0.

### Triangle Dart League

That's Bull 4-0 47-33 0.588, Darty Old Men 2-1-1 34-26 0.567, We Need 'em All 2-1-1 32-28 0.533, Can't See Puck 1.5-1.5 31-29 0.517, Subway 1.5-2.5 35-45 0.438, MRDM-CR 1-2-1 29-31 0.483, One For Fun 0-4 32-48 0.400.

Summer Leagues, Final Standings

### Ocasl@tasl

**Over 30**—TugBoat Depot 10-0 30, Mountain Goat FC 8-0-2 24, Chapel Hill United 4-1-5 13, Durham FC 4-1-5 13, The Federal 2-2-6 8, Still Limpin' 0-10-0 0.

**Over 40**—Stroke City 9-0-1 27, Beercelona 7-0-3 21, Auston Villa 6-1-3 19, Boot Room FC 6-1-3 19, Boca Seniors 3-0-7 9, Oldcastle United 3-0-7 9, Wrexhamstring 2-0-8 6, Union FC 2-2-6 8.

**Kaminsky/Studdard Rec**—The Streets 10-0 30, Chapel Hill FC 7-0-3 21, Athletic Tri 7-0-3 21, Summer Friends 5-1-4 16, Club Nacional 3-3-4 12, Sporting Rose 2-1-7 7, Chatham FC 2-1-7 7, Head Game Strategy 1-0-9 3.

**O'Hara Rec 2**—Back That Pass Up 6-0-4 18, The Diamond Dogs 6-0-4 18, Aztecs FC 6-0-4 18, Rabonas and Coronas 6-0-4 18, Peaky Blinders 5-0-5 15, Casc FC 1-0-9 3.

## UNC Hockey Splits First Two

The UNC men's hockey club split the first two fall games of the 50th season, beating Wake Forest 3-1 in Hillsborough and losing 7-2 to Carolina Hurricanes Alumni in Morrisville in an exhibition.

Will Smith, Patrick O'Shaughnessy and Daniel Hu scored against Wake in the home opener at Orange County Sportsplex. It was the first game for new UNC head coach Steve Rise, a former first round pick of the N.Y. Rangers and player for the Carolina Hurricanes. He succeeds Adam Dauda who left this summer for the Greenville Swamp Rabbits of the ECHL, an affiliate of the LA King. Dauda was 18-7-1 in one season at UNC.

Spencer Haskell and Ben Edwards tallied the UNC goals against the Canes who led 1-0 after one and 5-1 after two. The Alumni team included well-known stars like Bates Battaglia, Eric Cole, Cam Ward, Aaron Ward, Shane Willis.

UNC had home dates against USC (2) before road games at Liberty, UNC-Wilmington (2). Next home game is 9/25 against Delaware at 10:15 p.m. at Orange County Sportsplex, the first of four straight home games before facing rival N.C. State Oct. 11 in Morrisville. UNC is playing in the Premier Division of the ACCHL. Home tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.

The club has an ambitious goal of raising \$25M to buy land and build a rink at Carraway Village in northern Chapel Hill near the Park Ride lot.

## WCOM Disc Golf Classic Sep. 14

The WCOM Classic returns to Pluck Farm disc golf course. The 4th annual WCOM Classic! Disc Golf Tournament fundraiser will be held Saturday, Sep. 14, at Pluck Farm in Mebane. There will be divisions for casual and competitive singles (starting at 10am), and the popular Team Scramble starting at 12:30.

All eyes will be on the 2023 winners, Carrboro's Bynum Hoekstra (Furious George division) and Chapel Hill's David Grose (Grateful Dave division). There's no word yet

on the return of the Traveling Dingleberries, last year's winning team (Creative Colorful division).

It's not a WCOM event without a DJ. This year Jenny Sais Quoi is in the booth all day, featuring LP Hovercraft. Registration is \$20 per player, and hole sponsorship opportunities are available.

WCOM, the community radio station, is planning to move into the new Carrboro library building, known locally as "The 203 building."

Check out wcomfm.org for details and to register.

## Tobacco Road, UNC Men's Rugby

Durham-based Tobacco Road men's rugby club practices Tuesday/Thursday 7-9 p.m. at Piney Wood Park in southern Durham. New players welcome, no experience needed.

ToRo played a scrimmage (three 30-minute period format) with the UNC rugby club in Chapel Hill. UNC won 27-19. TR had several new guys on debut for the club, including Connor Newcomb who won forward of the match. Jack Carpenter was back of the match with two conversions and a penalty kick, but John Ahenda was the sole try scorer with his brace.

Tobacco Road hosts Onslow Sep. 21 and Fayetteville Oct. 5 before going on the road to face Fayetteville and Cape Fear. They play in men 3 of Carolinas Rugby.

UNC travels to Belmont Abbey before hosting East Carolina Sep. 22 at 11 a.m. at Hooker Field.

Finn McConaghy, Isaiah Palmer, Ben Viloen scored tries and Ethan West added 3 conversions and 2 PKs for UNC.

### Eno River Women

Eno River women's rugby plays at Gaston County Hill Hounds and Southern Pines before hosting Cape Fear Oct. 26 at 7 at Bethesda Middle School, Durham. Eno plays in D2 women of Carolinas Rugby. They practice Thursdays 7-9 to Campus Hills Park in Durham. New players welcome.

## Two Pre-Season Charlotte Games

The Charlotte Hornets have two pre-season home games before hitting the road for three NBA exhibitions.

They are Oct. 6 (5 p.m.) against New York and Oct. 8 (7 p.m.) against Miami. The games will debut the first portion of Spectrum Center improvements in Charlotte; the second will be done next summer.

Home opener is Oct. 26 against Miami at 7.

## Flyers Fall 17-16 In Ultimate Final

The Carolina Flyers of Raleigh beat Seattle Cascades 20-16 in the semis but a second half rally against the Minnesota Wind Chill fell short 17-16 in the Ultimate Frisbee Association (UFA) finals in Salt Lake City, UT.

Terence Mitchell scored 4 goals and Allan Laviolette had 4 assists as the Flyers rallied from a 12-6 deficit at halftime, outscoring MWC 5-3 in the third and 5-2 in the fourth.

Flyers were second in the South division and finished 12-4 for the season.

### White Cross Auto Sales

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**919-969-1500**  
Whitecrossautosales.com

## Vintage Baseball Games At Historic DAP

Duke Homestead hosts six vintage baseball games from 11 to 7 Saturday, Sep. 28, at Historic Durham Athletic Park. The Duke Homestead team will play the Statesmen (Wytheville, VA), Mountain Stars (Addison, PA) and Early Risers BBC (Detroit, MI).

Admission is \$10; children under 4 years old admitted free. Game tickets can be purchased online through Eventbrite, or in person at the Duke Homestead visitor center, as well as at the gate on game day. Early-bird tickets are \$5 until 9/14. It's a fundraiser for the state historic site in Durham.

Enjoy a family-friendly day at the ballpark with "old fashioned" concessions, food, beer and historic music, uniforms. Spectators are encouraged to come dressed in historical,

## NASCAR Race Heads To Bowman Gray Stadium

NASCAR's first race of the 2025 season, The Clash, an exhibition, will be held at Bowman Gray Stadium, Winston-Salem, Sunday, Feb. 2, as a salute to short track racing at a place with a rich history. It has a quarter mile, flat track with a 17,000 seat capacity that's now used for auto racing and football.

The last NASCAR race there was in 1971. The Clash was held at Los Angeles Memorial Stadium for the past three seasons. Denny Hamlin was the 2024 winner.

### Rockingham Speedway

NASCAR returns to Rockingham Speedway in 2025 for an Xfinity Series truck race and an ARCA race April 18-19.

## Elite Ballers Win In Hoops

Elite Ballers, the fourth seed, knocked off the top two teams to win the Orange County summer men's basketball championship in Hillsborough. Ballers eliminated regular season winner Mud Dogs in the second round (semis) and topped #2 Hello 65-54 for the title.

Chris Provenzaho netted 22 points, Pierre Walters 17 and Tevin Edmunds 12 for the winners. Six players scored. Elite had a big halftime lead. LJ Rogers scored 24 (six 3-pointers), Shamick Wilson 10 for Hello. Six scored. Hello beat #7 Zynners and #6 Free Rio (who upset #3 King Ballers) to make the finals.

### Sportsplex Hoops Championship

Uncle Drew Allstars knocked off regular season winner Bull City Bullies 77-70 for the Orange County Sportsplex summer men's basketball title in Hillsborough. Score sheets N/A.

In the semis, second-ranked Uncle Drew edged Hello 77-75 and BCB eliminated Still Got It 73-68.

The fall season will move to Monday nights and cost \$600.

## Indoor Pickleball

Central Rec Center, Hillsborough, has open gym pickleball Tuesday through Thursday 11-2. Free. Check in at the front desk on the first floor. Players must be 13+. Players under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult.



vintage or retro inspired outfits. Kids will get to play historic games with the costumed interpreters, as well as have a chance to run the bases in-between ball games. Free parking nearby.

## Two Area Teams Lose In Ultimate Masters Finals

Top-seeded Boneyard of the Triangle lost 15-12 to second-ranked Voltron2020 of Seattle in the USA Ultimate men's masters national finals in Aurora, CO. Masters player age limits are 33 for men, 30 for women.

Joey Cratella and Michael Pammone had four goals and Alan Laviolette seven assists as Boneyard won five matches to make the finals.

Graveyard of Morrisville, the fifth seed, fell to #3 Surly GGM of Minneapolis 15-11 in the great grandmaster men finals. Player age limits are 50 men, 47 women. Sean Brittain led the team with 8 goals and Nat Taylor with 8 assists as they went 4-1 to reach the championship.

Ripe of Chapel Hill lost 14-9 to Sello of Ottawa, Ontario, in the masters women semis. Player stats for Ripe, the third seed, N/A. Sello beat Pumas for the championship.

## OCASL Summer League Leaders

Leaders from the summer season of ocasl@tasl soccer leagues in Chapel Hill:

Over 30, TugBoat Depot (10-0) was the winner. Best offense was shared by TugBoat Depot and Mountain Goat FC with 89 goals each. Best defense was TugBoat Depot allowing 18 goals.

Over 40, Champion was StrokeCity (9-0-1). Best offense was StrokeCity (63 goals) and best defense StrokeCity (19 goals allowed).

Kaminsky/Studdard Rec 1 was won by The Streets (10-0). Best offense was The Streets (57 goals) and best defense The Streets (7 goals allowed).

O'Hara Rec 2, championship was shared by four teams. Back That Pass Up, The Diamond Boys, Aztecs FC, Rabonas and Coronas deadlocked with 6-0-4 records. Best offense was Diamond Dogs (39 goals) and best defense Rabonas and Coronas (23 goals allowed).

## Community News

The 74th Chatham County Fair, with food, music, entertainment, rides, exhibits, will be held Sep. 19-22 in Pittsboro.

Pops on the Green Sep. 21 at 7 p.m. when Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle plays on the South Village Green in Chapel Hill. Free.

Oktoberfest at Steel String Brewery, Carrboro, will be Sep. 21 from 12 noon to 11:30. The fourth Grahamtoberfest, hosted by Little Brother Brewing, will be Sep. 21, 3-10 in Graham.

The tenth Triangle Oktoberfest takes place Oct 4-5 (two sessions Sat), at Booth Amph, Cary, etix.com.

**RECYCLE!**

## Ridgewood Try A Tri

Grace Dobson (57:38) of Mebane (Greensboro College) was first collegiate woman at Ridgewood Try for a Tri super sprint in Greensboro.

Bryan Roney (53:53) of Mebane was first 45-49 and Sally Almekinders (1:17:19) of Chapel Hill second 70+ in the age group division (83 finishers). Distances were 200m swim, 10m bike, 2m run. WTs were 44:22 and 48:07.

## Maddox Wins In Asheville

Max Maddox (1:21:45) of Chapel Hill took first at Asheville HM (505 finishers). Women's WT was 1:29:13.

Sarah Foster (1:39:46) of Chapel Hill was first 19-24 and Brenna Maddox (1:31:08) first 35-39.

## Summer's Done Races

Five area runners earned awards at Summer's Done HM in Cary (174 finishers). WTs were 1:25:26 and 1:25:00.

Ari Griffiths, Chapel Hill, was second 20-24, 2:01:12; Courtney Gray, Pittsboro, third 45-49, 2:12:09; Joseph Timberlake, Chapel Hill, third 25-29, 1:40:20; William Linehan, second 40-44, 2:10:18; Wade Bemmels, first 50-54, 1:44:42; Lee McInnis, third 60-64, 3:19:02.

In the One-Quarter M (6.6m, 37 finishers), Michelle Lyman, Chapel Hill, was second 30-34, 1:18:17; Amelia Jackson, first 50-54, 1:32:33; Hunter Edkins first 20-24, 53:54. WTs were 40:38 and 54:20.

Spirit Elder of Chapel Hill was first 35-39, 39:36, and Dimitri Trembeth first 55-59, 31:08, in the One Eighth M (3.3m, 41). WTs were 23:56 and 26:01.

## Miller Third At Wakefield

Matthew Miller (49:41) of Chapel Hill was third male overall at UNC Health Sprint Triathlon/Wakefield in Raleigh. WTs were 43:08 and 51:27. There were 219 finishers, compared to 204 last year.

Local age group awards: Jonathan Ptochcinski, Hillsborough, second 40-44, 54:16; John Barbati, Pittsboro, third 70-74, 1:16:20; Sharon Roggenbuck, Hillsborough, first 75+, 1:46:03. Distances were 250y pool swim, 10m bike, 2 m run.

Louis Almekinders, Chapel Hill, was a repeat winner of the aquathon, 22:59, with Sally Almekinders, third, 35:42 (4).

## 9/11 Commemorative 5K

Local award winners at Fourth 9/11 Commemorative 5K in Graham (188 finishers) were Emily McGregor, Hillsborough, first 40-49, 25:23, Amanda Koonce, Efland, second, 26:29, Christine Kislowski, Mebane, third, 29:21; Jennifer Pepin, Efland, first 50-59, 24:25. WTs were 18:11 and 24:11.

## Coming Up in ESN:



**October 16**  
**Fall Biking, NCAA Hoops**



**November 20**  
**ACC Hoops Preview**

**December**  
**SE Ski Mini-Guide**

To advertise,  
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Deadline 7 days in advance



## Running News

John Tatter (30:58) of Chapel Hill was third male overall at Around the Crown 10K in Charlotte (5,894 finishers). WT was 30:00.

Max Wilde (3:01:09) of Chapel Hill was the men's winner at Dark Horse Trail M in Mill Spring (50 finishers).

Martha Hamblin, Mebane, was first 60-69, 48:55, at the rescheduled Hobby Trails To You 5K in Winston-Salem (27). WT was 25:16.

Denniz Kang, Patrick Schilling, Joshua Evron were the top finishers at FOXPI Race for Awareness 5K in Chapel Hill (43 finishers).

Michael Cotton (2:30:30) of Chapel Hill was first 20-24 at White Lake Fall International Triathlon.

Ted LaMay (22:58) of Chapel Hill was first 60-69 at Surf to Sound 5K in Surf City (461 finishers). WT was 17:28.

M. Hazard, Chapel Hill, was second 11-14, 44:00, and Braeden Hazard, third 15-19, 37:28, at Heroes Run 5K in Holly Springs (166). WTs were 17:35 and 18:20.

### Race News

Fleet Feet Ninth Street Durham and HOKA sponsor Durham Mural Tour, 3.3m, Sep. 20 at 5:30 p.m. RSVP needed at [durhammuraltourpresentedbyflee.splashthat.com](http://durhammuraltourpresentedbyflee.splashthat.com).

Hairpin Hustle 5K/10K, new trail races from Roadless Races at Lake Crabtree, Morrisville, will be held Sep. 28 at 8:30 a.m.

Jordan High XC team is putting on the annual Alumni/Community 5K Oct. 5 at the Durham school. Register and pay on race day by 8 a.m.

The Walk to End Alzheimer's annual fundraiser takes place Oct. 5 at Halifax Mall, Raleigh. Register at 9, walk 1 or 2m at 10 a.m. Contact Laura Gurisko 919-241-5937 for information.

RootRock trail races (running) will be held Oct. 19 in the morning at Briar Chapel with bike races in the afternoon. The bike races replace TORC bandit races of past years.

The inaugural Whiskey Run 5K/10K/HM in RTP Aug. 25 was canceled.

## NC Bike Rides

Sep. 21, 2nd Dexter Davis Ride for Colon Cancer, 25K/50K/100K, Ahoskie, 8 a.m., [bikeride.com](http://bikeride.com).

21-22, BikeMS: Clemmons, [bikems.com](http://bikems.com).

28, Gears for Goldens, 20-62m, The Plant, Pittsboro, 8 a.m., [eventracereach.com](http://eventracereach.com).

28, Wheels of Unity-Major Tylor Conte's Ride, 30/40m, Raleigh, [bikereg.com](http://bikereg.com).

Oct. 5, Bikefest 35/45/62/100m, Hillsborough, 7:30 a.m., [bikereg.com](http://bikereg.com).

5, Take That Hill, 35/60/80m, Statesville, 8 a.m., [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com).

12, Le Tour de Femme, women-only 15/31/62m, Little River Regional Park, Rougemont, 7:30 a.m., [bethemomentum.com](http://bethemomentum.com).

12, Be Loud Sophie Rides, 22m 12 noon, 66m 12:30 p.m., Pluck Farm, NC 54 Mebane, [beloud.org/checkout/donate](http://beloud.org/checkout/donate).

12, Lewisville Flyer, 43.2/64m, Lewisville, 9 a.m., [bikereg.com](http://bikereg.com).

13, Kidical Mass Bike Ride, Carrboro Elementary, 2:30-3:30 p.m., [carrbororec.org](http://carrbororec.org). Free.

13, Beers & Gears for Hospice, 25/35/54 m, Summerfield, 10 a.m., [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com).

19, Roadies & Dirties Cycle Fest, 10/27/39m, Lexington, 9 a.m., [bikereg.com](http://bikereg.com).

## Community News

Orange County holds a Volunteer Fair Saturday, Sep. 21, from 10 to 1 at Eno River Arts Mill on Dimmocks Mill Rd. in Hillsborough for youth and adult volunteer opportunities across county departments. There will be family-friendly activities, food trucks.

Park visitors in Chapel Hill now have access to life-saving health technology at Cedar Falls, Ephesus, Homestead and Southern Community parks. The town installed Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) with instructions and audible prompts to help anyone use them in case someone at the park experiences cardiac arrest.

One of the country's largest racquet sports complexes in the country is under construction at Brier Creek in Raleigh. Swing Racquet + Paddle will have 28 tennis courts, 25 pickleball, 15 padel, 4 beach tennis & volleyball, table tennis lounge. It's expected to open in 2026 for members and walkups.

## Local Fall Road Races

### September

14, Love Durham 5K, Durham.

15, Donate Life NC Hero Run 5K, Durham.

20, Durham Mural Tour, 3.3m, Durham.

21, Stead Tread 5K, Durham.

21, 9 to 5K Challenge, team-based 5K, RTP.

21, I Am Too Sexy 5K, Durham.

28, Color Blast 5K, Durham.

28, Winery Wander 5K, Durham.

28, Chatham Co. Recovery Celebration & 5K, Siler City.

29, Miles For Smiles Cleft Palate Gallop 5K, Chapel Hill.

29, Run for Hope 5K, Burlington.

### October

5, Run for Resilience Ostomy 5K, Durham.

5, Carrboro 10K, Carrboro.

5, Meerfest 5K, Durham.

5, Jordan High Alumni/Community Run 5K, Durham.

6, Historic Hillsborough HM/5K, Hillsborough.

19, RootRock Trail HM/10K/5K, Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill.

20, Bull City Race Fest HM/5m, Durham.

26, Mangum Elementary 5K, Bahama.

26, Cane Creek Mountain 3.3m trail, Snow Camp.

26, Marine Corps League Semper 5K, Graham.

27, Eno River Run, 11/6m, Durham.

27, RDC M/HM/10K/5K, Durham.

### November

2, Peanut Butter Jelly Jog 5K, Graham.

9, Eve Carson Memorial 5K for Education, Chapel Hill.

10, Kilometers for the Kids 5K, Chapel Hill.

10, Jodi Kovich Memorial 5K, Durham.

17, SHAC 5K, Chapel Hill.

23, Camp Chestnut Ridge Trail Run, 8/4m, Efland

28, Birds of a Feather Trail Trot 5K, Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill.

28, Trosa Turkey Trot 5K, Durham.

28, Gallop & Gorge 8K, Carrboro.

28, Turkey Trot 5K, Burlington.

28, Turkey Trot 5K, Hillsborough (free).

28, Turkey Day (formerly New Balance) 8K/5K, Durham.

### December

1, Running of the Elves, 1m, Hillsborough.

7, Into the Woods 5K, Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill.

7, Race 13.1 Durham HM/10K/5K.

7, Girls on the Run 5K, Durham.

7, Run at the Rock Trail HM/10K/5K, Burlington.

7, Viking Dash Trail Run 5K/10K, New Hill.

7, Jingle Bell LEAP 5K, Durham.

7, Shakori Ultra, 40M/40K/40M Relay, Pittsboro.

14, Reindeer Run 5K, Pittsboro.

*Editor's Note: If your race isn't listed here, contact [joelcsn1@gmail.com](mailto:joelcsn1@gmail.com).*

## Triangle Multisports

Sep. 29, She Tris (formerly Ramblin' Rose) Supersprint Tri, UNC Wellness Center, Chapel Hill.

Oct. 5, Triangle Open Water Hurricane Swim, Vista Point, Jordan Lake, Pittsboro.

Oct. 5, Sandling Beach Tri Festival (international, sprint), Falls Lake, Wake Forest.

## November LD Races In N.C.

Nov. 2, Crazy Toes HM/11K/5.5K, Raleigh; 2, Schenck Forest trail run, 6.4m, Raleigh; 3, City of Oaks M/HM, Raleigh; 9, Mayberry HM, Mount Airy; 9, Trail to Tryon HM, New Bern; 10, OBX M/HM, Nags Head; 16, Charlotte M/HM, Charlotte; 16, Tryon HM, Tryon; 17, Battleship HM, Wilmington; 23, Greensboro HM; 23, Holly Springs HM; 28, Lake Norman Turkey Trot HM, Cornelius; 28, Skinny Turkey HM, Raleigh; 29, Black Friday Relays, 20K/15K/10K, Winston-Salem; 30, Derby 50K, Ellerbe; 30, Turkey Chase HM, Cary.

*Editor's Note: September/October LD races are on Page 2 of this edition.*

## U.S. National Soccer

### Men

Sep. 11, New Zealand, Cincinnati, 7 p.m., TNT, Universo.

Oct. 12, Panama, Austin, 9 p.m., TNT, Universo.

### Women

Oct. 24, Iceland, Austin, 7:30 p.m., TBS, Universo.

Oct. 27, Iceland, Nashville, 5:30 p.m., TNT, Universo.

Nov. 30, at England, London, 12:30 p.m., TNT, Universo.



## Triangle Running News

JOAN Boone of Efland who did the Cardinal Track Club race calendar (RunwellNC) for years apparently retired and the club made website changes that include eliminating the calendar. Running Shorts, a weekly guide to running in the Triad developed by Eddie Wooten, stopped publishing in July. It began as a weekly column in the Greensboro paper and moved online-only later when the paper shrunk sports.

That leaves two primary online places to check for local races: the Carolina Godiva TC race calendar maintained by Patrick Bruer (carolinagodiva.org) and CSN's monthly online race listings (communitysportsnews.com). They are among the remaining free local options for area runners, plus runningusa/nc.com.

TRAIL running increased by 32.4 percent last year, the seventh fastest growing U.S. sport, according to a report from Running-

USA. The report also said race entry fees were up 4-9 percent due to inflation and higher costs. 10Ks had the biggest increases, up 9 percent over 2023 and 20 percent higher than 2019. Some 16 percent of all runners in races were ages 18-29, up from 15 percent last year.

TROPICAL Storm Debby's impact on area running trails was limited. Low-lying places like Bolin Creek and Morgan Creek trails flooded as per usual; the UNC cross country trail at Finley had a few downed trees and continued erosion.

TWO Tar Heel races, Pilot Mountain to Hanging Rock Ultra, Sep. 28, Danbury, and Pisgah 555, 55.5K MTB/Running, Oct. 5, Pisgah Forest, were included in the Blue Ridge Outdoors Go The Distance tough endurance races this fall.

XC Series of Carolina Godiva continues on Wednesdays in September—Sep. 18 at Duke's Al Buehler Trail, 5K/8K/10K, and Sep. 25 at UNC Finley XC Trail, 5K or 8K. Races start at 6 and are rain or shine. A donation of \$1 per race is requested.

PARKRUN 5Ks (free but pre-registration suggested) are held every Saturday at 8 a.m. at Umstead Park, Chapel Hill, and Southern Boundaries Park, Durham. There are 74 of them across the country.

CSN no longer includes any US Road Running races in the paper's racing calendar. They offer few awards and results often are shaky or incomplete.

SIGNUP for the 34th Uwharrie Mountain Run Feb. 1 in Ophir opens Nov. 1 at 8 a.m. at uwharriemountainrun.com/registration or runsignup.com. Distances are 8/20/40m. If you're late you're out of luck.

## The Race At Salisbury

M Jrs 12-14—Gunner Schultz, Hillsborough, third, (3 finishers).

M Jrs 17-18—Bodhi Hriciga, Chapel Hill, third (3).

M Clydesdale 18-99—David Schultz, Hillsborough, second (5).

M 50-59, Chris Guyish, Chapel Hill, second (7).

## Raise A Pint

Fall beer festivals around the state:

Mecktoberfest, Sep. 21-22. Oct. 4-6 and 11-13, Charlotte, two locations.

Triangle, Oct. 4-5, Cary.

Kernersville, Oct. 5.

Tour de Fat, Oct. 5, Asheville.

Hickory Oktoberfest, Oct. 11-13.

Sugar Mountain Resort, Oktoberfest, Oct. 12-13.

Voracious and Rare Beer Festival, Oct. 25, Wilmington.

Carousel Center Beer & Wine Festival, Oct. 26, Wilmington.

OBX Brewtag, Oct. 26, Nags Head.

## High Combo Prices At NFL Stadiums

Carolina Panthers charge \$16.98 for a beer and hot dog combo at Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, this fall—beer 10.99, hot dog 5.99. That's in the upper half of NFL concession prices, according to sportscasting.com.

Most expensive is Seattle's \$19.98 (beer 11.99, hot dog 8.49); cheapest Atlanta's \$7.49-5.99 beer, 2.00 hot dog.

Washington's combo price was \$13.66. Average NFL price was \$15.02.

## Community News

Raleigh Food Truck Rodeo (50 trucks) wraps up the season Saturday, Sep. 21, from noon to 6 on Fayetteville Street downtown.

Efland Ruritan Rodeo takes place Oct. 4-5 off US70 in Efland. Shows are 7:30 p.m.; tickets at the gate.

The 9th Bluegrass at Moorefields, five bands, in Hillsborough, will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, from 1 to 6; tickets from eventbrite.com.

The 36th Sculpture in the Garden, works by 50 artists, continues through Dec. 8 at the N.C. Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill.

The first La Fiesta del Pueblo was held 30 years ago at Lincoln Center in Chapel Hill with 1,000 attending. The 2024 edition of what is now the Triangle's largest salute to Latin American culture takes place Sunday, Sep. 15, from noon to 6 at City Plaza, downtown Raleigh, is expected to draw 25,000+. The festival features live music, dance performances, educational exhibits, food vendors.

Durham Oktoberfest, presented by the Glass Jug, will be held Sep. 21 5-11 at Durham Central Park with beer, food, music.

The N.C. State Fair will be Oct. 17-27 in Raleigh. Advance tickets for kids, adults, rides are available online at ncstatefair.org and will save you money through service fees are charged. At the gate, admission will be \$13 for adults, kids \$7.

Other tasty festivals: 6th Fiesta Italiano, Sep. 21, Hunter St. and Town Hall campus, Apex, 11-7, and International Festival, Sep. 21. 2-6 on Town Hall Drive, Morrisville, for music, art, food, dance. Park at Cedar Fork Park and take a shuttle.



## Chapel Hill Riders Score At MTB Races

Chapel Hill riders earned five firsts and three second at the Sprocket Fuel XC MTB races at Harris Lake in New Hill, 200 racers.

Chris Guyish (1:50:40) of Chapel Hill took first at Expert M Masters 50+ (22.5m, 5 finishers).

Carl Dorman (1:17:50) of Chapel Hill was the leader in Sport M Masters 40+ (16m, 9).

Sharon Prochazka (1:35:08) of Chapel Hill was second Sport F Open (16m, 3).

Philip Tester (19:12) of Chapel Hill finished second in Beginner Male (7m, 14).

Peter Hartingh (18:30) of Hillsborough won the M Jr 13-14 (7m, 3).

Radek Prochazka (45:33) of Chapel Hill was first Intermediate M13-18 (10m, 10).

Shae McCowen (51:38) of Chapel Hill was second Intermediate M40+ (10m, 14).

Claudia Baum (53:53) of Chapel Hill was the Intermediate F13-18 winner (10m, 4).

## N.C. Cycling Race Calendar

### September

18, Cross Central Training Race 3, Dix Park, Raleigh, bikereg.com.

22, NCCX Pre-Season Race 1, Asheville, bikereg.com.

28, Camp Kanata CX races, Wake Forest, bikereg.com.

### October

6, Carolina OEC races, UNC, Chapel Hill.

6, NCCX Pre-Season Race 2, Asheville, bikereg.com.

12, NCCX Series, Race 1, Gibsonville, bikereg.com.

13, NCCX Series, Race 2, Raleigh, bikereg.com.

19, Sanford Trail Festival, San Lee Park.

19, Rootrock MTB Races, Briar Chapel.

## NCCX Series Starts Oct. 12

The North Carolina CX Race Series starts Oct. 6 in Gibsonville and includes 12 race dates. The only Triangle race is the next day (Oct. 13) in Raleigh. Riders compete for points in each race and season awards in each division through Dec. 8. Races are held across WNC—Boone, Winston-Salem, Hickory, Davidson, Hendersonville, Salisbury. Register online at bikereg.com.

Pre-season races are Sep. 22 and Oct. 6 at Industry Nine, Asheville.

### Cross Central Races, Raleigh

Nick Survoy of Oak City Cycling Team organized three Cross Central Wednesday training races, Sep. 4, 11, 18, at the Spring Hill course at Dix Park, Raleigh, and possibly weekend races including Sep. 28 in Wake Forest at Camp Kanata. Register at bikereg.com/cxcentral-occx. Cost is \$20/race, \$50 for all three. USAC license optional.

### FALL RACES, Continued from page 1

Runners will have more local choices than ever with multiple races on most Saturdays. Local races will need to get the word out or be left in the dust. Keep in mind, there are plenty of additional race and multisport options elsewhere in the Triangle as well, especially in Raleigh and Cary.

The Triangle has four companies that stage local races—Cardinal Race Services, FS Series, Young & Associates, Bull City Running—and all have a slate of fall events.

New races include Cane Creek Mountain trail race in Snow Camp and Durham Mural Tour. Both are 3.3m. J.B.



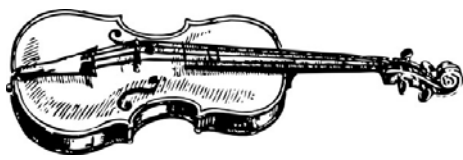
**7th Historic Hillsborough HM/5K**  
**Sunday, Oct. 6, 7 a.m., register online at runsignup.com.**  
**hillsboroughhalf.com**

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**October 16**

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## N.C. Music Festivals

### September

- 12-14, 17th Hoppin' John Old-Time and Bluegrass Fiddlers Convention, Shakori Hills, Silk Hope.
- 13-14, Blue Bear Music Fest, Todd.
- 13-15, Idlewild Music Fest, Zebulon.
- 14, 2nd Wilson Jazz Festival, various venues, Wilson.
- 14, 12th Carolina Bible Camp Bluegrass Festival, Mocksville.
- 14, Apex Music Festival, Saunders Street parking lot, 2-11.
- 14, CarolinaDaze Music & Arts Festival, Red Hat Amph., downtown Raleigh. Also Salvage Station, Asheville, Oct. 13.
- 20-21, 4th Carolina Indie Fest, 2 stages, Sanford.
- 21, Midtown Music Fest, Midtown Park, Raleigh, 3-9. Free.
- 21, Moonshine & Motorsports Trail Concert, NASCAR Hall of Fame, Charlotte, 7 p.m.
- 21, 31st Creedmoor Music Festival, Main Street, Creedmoor, 10-5. Free.
- 21, Groove Jam Music Festival, Doo Daa Farm, Greensboro, 2-11 p.m.
- 21, Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival, 10:30-5:30. Free.
- 23-28, IBMA World of Bluegrass, 200+ acts, downtown Raleigh.
- 27-28, Breakaway Carolina, Concord.
- 28, Mira Music Fest, West End, 3:30-7 p.m.
- 29, 27th Carrboro Music Festival, 100+ acts, downtown Carrboro venues, 1 p.m. Free.

### October

- 3-6, 20th Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival of Music & Dance, Silk Hope, shakori-hillsgrrassroots.org/tickets.
- 4-5, Ol' Front Porch Music Festival, Oriental. Free.
- 4-5, FabFest, Charlotte's Beatles Festival, 2 sites, Charlotte.
- 4-5, Bascom Lamar Lunsford Festival, Mars Hill.
- 5, Spruce Pine BBQ Festival, Spruce Pine.
- 5, Play Dead, Grateful Dead music covered, Concord.
- 10-13, Duck Jazz Festival, Town Green, Duck. Free.
- 11-12, Reevestock Music Festival, Elkin.
- 16-20, 13th Bluegrass Festival, Manteo.
- 17-20, LEAF Global Arts Festival, Black Mountain, theleaf.org.
- 19, NC Liver Mush Festival, Mush, Music & Mutts, Uptown Shelby, nclivermush-festival.com.
- 26, 3rd Sleepy Fest Music and Arts, Haw River Ballroom, Amphitheater, Haywagon stage, Saxapahaw, sleepycatrec.com.

## Community News

Earth and Sky, the Paperhand Puppet Intervention Show, continues through Sep. 29 at Forest Theater, Chapel Hill. Shows are weekends at 7 (6:20 p.m. pre-show). Check paperhand.org for tickets.

The 17th PepperFest, featuring chili and hot sauce cookoffs, peppers, pepper dishes and products, will be held Sunday, Sep. 29, at The Plant, 220 Lorax Lane, 12-6 in Pittsboro. No tix required this year.

Score one for the N.C. Courage of NWSL. They had three players earn medals—gold, silver, bronze—at the Olympics in Paris. The Courage are 9-1-8 for fifth place in the league after beating KC Current 2-1 in Cary in their first home game since the Olympics. The game was interrupted by severe weather.

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Girls flag football is growing in the state of North Carolina.

PHOTO: ERIC HASERT/TCPALM / USA TODAY NETWORK

## Girls Flag Football's Coming

The flag football train is rolling, fueled by multiple factors: being a demonstration sport at the LA 28 Olympics, strong support from the National Football League and Nike.

Flag football is booming nationally at the youth level, about 500,000 kids ages 6-17 played last year, up 102 percent from the previous year. Girls flag is growing in N.C. and beyond. It's sanctioned in nine states, two more are expected to approve it this year and 17 others including North Carolina have pilot programs.

Early news reports from Tar Heel high schools showed 35 in the Charlotte area are expected to play girls flag in the spring, while 30-40 in Raleigh/Durham/Wilmington may play in the fall or fall/winter and 15 in Guilford County.

To sanction the sport, one quarter of the 443 schools in the state must field teams, or 50 percent of any one of the four school classifications (1A, 2A, etc). Discussions are underway to coordinate scheduling seasons and championships.

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS), which governs high school athletic associations across the country, said it will begin drawing up official rules for flag football, in time for the 2024-25 academic year.

"We're seeing participation numbers going through the roof," Karissa Niefhoff, the NFHS' chief executive officer, said of flag football.

The NFL has thrown support behind growing the sport and the Carolina Panthers are financial backers of leagues in the Charlotte area and helped Wake County schools start a league last year.

Nike also has invested in girls flag football as an untapped market with over half the states participating.

Chapel Hill's three high schools won't be adding girls flag football this year.

School athletic officials plan to discuss flag football internally and gauge student interest (there's been some interest expressed) for the 24-25 or 25-26 school year and perhaps encourage forming a flag club. The district, which offers 22 varsity sports, among the most in the state, recently cut 81 positions due to falling enrollment and a budget shortfall.



SKATEPARK, Continued from page 1

spirit of this historic park, while making some upgrades and adding some modern touches."

The design phase of the project was funded with \$12,500 from the Town's "Penny for Parks" that dedicates funding for a range of

improvement projects. Construction monies will come from the \$500,000 federal allocation.

Kevin Robinson of parks and rec is the project manager.



## N.C. Bike Summit At Friday Center, Chapel Hill

The 13th annual NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit will be held Sep. 22-24 at the Friday Center, Chapel Hill. The Summit is the only transportation summit in the state that focuses on those who travel outside the car. If you ever wondered why our roads aren't safer for bicycling and walking, this conference will open your eyes, not only to the challenges we face when advocating for safer streets, but also how other communities have managed to move things forward. The Summit moves around the state each year.

Featured speakers include John Bauters, council member and former Mayor of Emeryville, CA, whose work to prioritize active transportation projects earned him the nickname "America's Bike Mayor"; Ryan Sharp, director of Transportation and Parking for Hoboken, a city that has had zero road fatalities for more than seven years; Barkha Patel, director of infrastructure for Jersey City, NJ, one of the most densely-populated, transit-rich, and ethnically diverse cities in the US, and a city that has made huge strides toward Vision Zero; and Anna Zivarts, a low-vision parent, nondriver, author of When Driving Is Not an Option, and organizer of the National "Week without Driving" campaign.

In addition, there are sessions on the impacts of micro-mobility and e-scooters, the transportation challenges and solutions in rural communities, and success stories from around the state.

Sunday afternoon there will be a bike ride /bike audit with Bauters, along with e-bike demos by E-Bike Central. The main Summit program is Monday, Sep. 23.

Tuesday will have two post-Summit workshops. The first is the popular full-day Traffic Bicycling Course for Transportation Planners, Law Enforcement and Engineers. This class is geared toward those mentioned, but is open to anyone, and fulfills the Smart Cycling class prerequisite for those seeking to become certified bicycle instructors, or LCIs. The second will be a walk audit led by Chapel Hill town staff to show what to look for when evaluating a road design.

For more information, or to register, go to [www.bikewalknc.org/nc-bikewalk-summit/](http://www.bikewalknc.org/nc-bikewalk-summit/)

Questions? Contact [programs@bikewalknc.org](mailto:programs@bikewalknc.org). —BikeCarrboro

## Community News

The 17th PepperFest, featuring chili and hot sauce cookoffs, peppers, pepper dishes and products, will be held Sunday, Sep. 29, at The Plant, 220 Lorax Lane, 12-6 in Pittsboro. No tix required this year.

The 10th Triangle Oktoberfest takes place Oct. 4-5 (two sessions Sat), at Booth Amph, Cary, etix.com.

Falling for Local Oct. 5 at Dix Park, Raleigh, has music, demos, games, food trucks, 11-6.

### Fall Biking

### NCAA Hoops

October 16

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## Haw River Learning Celebration On Tap

The 2024 Haw River Learning Celebration aimed at fourth graders takes place Sep. 21-Oct. 11. Sessions will be held in Bynum Sep. 21-27, Saxapahaw Sep. 28-Oct. 4, Camp Guilrock Oct. 6-11. About 1,000 students annually participate.

Volunteers are needed. If you can help, contact [events@hawriver.org](mailto:events@hawriver.org).

## Duke Forest Closing 3 Sections For Annual Deer Herd Reduction

Duke Forest will close three sections, Durham, Korstian and Blackwood divisions, Sep. 23 for 17th annual deer herd reduction until Dec. 13, the Office of Duke Forest announced. Entrances will be posted.

The three sections are closed Monday through Friday and open for recreation Saturday and Sunday. The only exception is Thanksgiving holiday weekend when the forest will be open for recreation only Thursday through Sunday.

Duke brings in hunters to thin the number of white-tailed deer to protect the forest and ongoing research.

## Leave The Rattlers Alone In The Woods

The NC Wildlife Commission said they've been receiving photos of people killing rattlesnakes and it's pretty clear that some folks need some education.

Not only is it dangerous to attempt to kill a snake, in some cases it's illegal. Ten out of our 38 native snakes in NC are listed species. This includes all three of our rattlesnakes: Carolina Pygmy Rattlesnake, Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake and the Timber Rattlesnake.

These snakes are protected by the state and cannot be harmed, harassed or relocated without an Endangered Species Permit obtained from the Wildlife Commission.

Do yourself a favor, WRC said, if you see a rattlesnake, admire it from a safe distance and let it go on its merry way. That way, you'll be safe from the bitey parts and also from a visit from a wildlife officer.

## Richmond Poachers Draw Heavy Penalties

Two Virginia poachers (hunters) pleaded guilty last month in the illegal killing of the "Hollywood buck," a majestic 29-point deer that for years roamed Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.

Jason Walters of Richmond entered guilty pleas to 20 misdemeanors related to the illegal hunting of three deer, including the Hollywood buck. He was sentenced to six months in jail, with three months suspended, and ordered to pay \$2,500 in fines and \$11,000 in "replacement costs." He also lost his hunting privileges for 24 years.

Alan Proffitt, also of Richmond, pleaded guilty to six misdemeanors, all related to the Hollywood buck, which was killed in December. Officials referred to him as an accomplice. Proffitt was ordered to pay \$1,250 in fines and serve 30 days of house arrest. His hunting privileges were revoked for six years.

The penalties represent "one of the strongest enforcement outcomes in recent memory" for wildlife crimes, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources said in a written statement announcing the pleas.

*Washington Post*

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The Bell's Church PFA and fishing pier on Farrington Road in Chatham County were flooded Aug. 11 from the lake to the second parking area. PHOTO BY SUSAN KELLY

## Jordan Recovers From Flooding

What a difference three weeks makes.

August rains fueled by Tropical Storm Debby raised the Jordan Lake level to a high of 229.84 Aug. 14, nearly 14 feet above normal. The state recreation area was shut down Aug. 10 due to flooding. Everything was closed.

In subsequent days, the Army Corps of Engineers opened the gates at the dam in Moncure, adjusting height and number daily, and began letting water out, dropping the lake level about a foot a day. This continued until the level was 216.65 Aug. 30.

As the level dropped, state park workers cleaned up flooding debris allowing the park to fully open for the Labor Day holiday week-

end. Jordan got 2.14 inches of rain Sep. 1 and the lake level began inching up to 217.29 Sep. 4 before starting to decline.

### Labor Day Weekend

The holiday weekend was manageable, according to park officials.

Roughly 70-75 percent of the 1,100 campsites were in use. Day use areas were very manageable, they said, no traffic control was needed Saturday or Sunday, due to moderate usage before the rain arrived. Labor Day went smoothly. No major incidents were reported for the weekend.

Remember, entrance fees at day use areas are charged weekends-only in September.



Fishers, individuals and families, were back three weeks later at Bell's Church Sep. 1. It's the lake's only handicap-accessible pier and has fish attractor lights for night fishing, maintained by N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. PHOTO BY SUSAN KELLY

## Outdoor Notes

### FISHING MEETUP

Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill, is holding a fishing interest meetup Wednesday, Oct. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the recreation center. Purpose is for area fishers to meet and discuss fishing and fishing-related topics on the first Wednesday of the month, ages 18+. No fees, but registration at WebTrac recommended.

### CHIOSSO RETIRES

Executive Director Elaine Chiosso of the Haw River Assembly retired and Haw River-keeper Emily Sutton is her successor. Chiosso will be honored at a retirement party Nov. 24 in Pittsboro. She's been ED since 1997. The non-profit organization was formed in 1982 to protect the river.

### FISHING CLINICS

Carrboro holds learn to fish clinics for kids 5-15 Saturdays, Sep. 28, and Oct. 12, at 9 a.m. at Anderson Park Pond, Carrboro. A parent or guardian is required to attend with youngsters. Cost is \$5/session. Supplies furnished but bring a pole or rod if you have one. Register at [carrbororec.org](http://carrbororec.org) for the learn the fishing basics clinics.

### BROWN'S NEW JOB

Erin Brown, a native of Chatham County and a state parks veteran who's worked at Jordan, Mount Mitchell, Eno River, is a new superintendent at Falls Lake State Recreation Area where she'll oversee the staff. She joins David Mumford, lead superintendent.

Sandling Beach, the popular day use area at Falls, closed Aug. 31. Shelters at Sandling and Rolling View, as well as some campsites at Holly Point, are closed due to flooding from Debby.

### MONARCH FESTIVAL

Gorges State Park in Sapphire (WNC) will host its third annual Mountain Monarch Festival Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the park's visitor center. The festival celebrates the monarch butterfly during its migration and bring attention to the species' declining numbers.

The park lies along the monarchs' migratory route. The butterflies can be seen in late September each year flying over the park, heading south to the high-elevation fir forests in central-southern Mexico's Volcanic Belt, where they overwinter until early spring.

### PARK GRANTS

The N.C. Parks Authority awarded \$9.56M in PARTF grants to 23 projects and 23 others received \$8.36M in grants for accessible park improvements. Projects in Burlington and Graham were included along with an amphitheater in Rolesville in the renovations category.

## Safety Hazards At Raleigh Beach

Raleigh Beach on the Neuse River near Old Milburnie Road is now considered a dangerous recreation area due strong currents, steep drop offs. Four drownings were reported there since spring.

Authorities are trying to block or limit access to the area, well known as a canoe/kayak launch and swim area, by putting up warning signs and installing a gate.

**RECYCLE!**

### UPCOMING CSN ISSUES:

Oct. 16, Fall Biking, NCAA Hoops Preview

Nov. 13, ACC Hoops Preview

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## Triangle Basketball

UNC roster changes: Ty Claude, a 6/7 F from Georgia Tech transferred to UNC. Sophomore F Zayden High is no longer enrolled at UNC after one season.

North Carolina plays Dayton in the first round of the Maui Invitational Nov. 25 at 11:30 p.m. and either Auburn or Iowa State the next night.

UNC ranked tenth in the country with 109 wins (43-17 ACC) over the past three years. Houston (112) was first, followed by Purdue, UConn, Arizona, Duke, Gonzaga, Kansas, Tenn., San Diego State.

Marcus Paige was promoted to assistant coach at UNC and will head the JV program. Former Vanderbilt coach Jerry Stackhouse will be an assistant to Steve Kerr, head coach of the Golden State Warriors.

Katherine Bixby, with 15 years of college coaching, joins UNC women's basketball as an assistant coach. Most recently she was the head coach at Loyola of Maryland.

UNC men's basketball has nine new players and took a summer team bonding trip to the North Carolina OBX where they played some beach 7v7 football, according to X.

San Antonio hosts the Final Four next season, Indianapolis and Detroit the next two years.

Wolfpack Head Coach Kevin Keatts is part owner of Tempo 33, a Wilmington restaurant/piano bar.

## Community News

Chapel Hill has 11 teams for fall co-rec volleyball, 8 for bocce but didn't get enough for men's rec softball.

Orange County visitor spending increased 13 percent last year to put Orange at the top of the state chart for increases. Wake was second (11.2 percent), Durham sixth (10.5 percent), Chatham (5.1 percent). Pittsboro gets its first hotel this year.

The Hillsborough Oct. 2 (Wed) Shredathon has a new location, 3605 Walnut Cove Church Rd. Recycling Center, Hillsborough, from 10 to 2. The Chapel Hill Shredathon will be Oct. 28, 10-2, at Eubanks Road Park & Ride Lot, Chapel Hill. Limit 4 boxes.

Fall Book Sale Sep. 13-15 at the Orange County Library, Hillsborough. Kids get 3 books free.



## Pre-Season Canes Games

The Carolina Hurricanes pre-season home games are Sep. 27, Florida Panthers, Oct. 2, Nashville Predators, Oct. 4, Tampa Bay at PNC Arena, Raleigh, at 7 p.m. Canes regular season home opener is Oct. 11 against Tampa.

## Crappie Rule Change Posed At Harris Lake

General Description of Proposed Change: Establish an 8-inch minimum size limit and a 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie at Shearon Harris Reservoir. Justification: While catch rates of crappie in commission sampling have remained relatively constant over the past decade, the maximum age of crappie collected has declined more than 50 percent. Sampling results from the fall of 2023 indicated the fishery was supported by only two year-classes (ages 2 and 3), and no age 1 fish were collected.

Anglers have expressed concern that crappie are being overharvested in the reservoir and have indicated they would prefer a size and creel limit for crappie. 15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE

## Indy Pass Expansion

The Indy Pass added another SE resort to the program. Hatley Pointe of Mars Hill was one of 10 new resorts added this summer, joining Canaan Valley, Cataloochee, Massanutten Ober Mountain, Wintergreen, Winterplace and Wisp Resort bringing the tally of Southeast and Mid-Atlantic resorts to nine. Hatley, formerly Wolf Ridge, reopens this fall as a boutique resort. It did not operate last winter.

With an Indy base pass, you can enjoy two all-day or night lift tickets at each partner resort (with some blackout dates) and access to discounts for a third day and some lodging discounts. The Indy+ pass doesn't have blackout dates.

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# Another View, Mine John Nieman

I retired in December of 2023. It's funny. When you reach retirement, you tend to look back on those years of work and think about a lot of the mistakes you made. At least that's how it's been for me. Please don't misunderstand. It's not self-recrimination. Just observing some of the things that I might have done differently. I'm sure at some point I'll be focusing on the good times and the good things. I have been very fortunate to have so many of those.

I say I find it kind of strange, because when I hear of other people retiring, I only think about all the good those people did.

And so it will be in how I remember the remarkable career of Anson Dorrance. It is certainly a tribute to his incredible success that most of the articles and features on his retirement focus mainly and almost exclusively on those successes. He was certainly one to inspire jealousy and even some resentment.

In this community I certainly don't need to rehash the statistics. The national championships, world championships, world-class players. He was truly a world-class coach.

When I was living in Chapel Hill, I would tell people who were new to or who didn't understand soccer to go watch the UNC women's soccer team. Their performance was like a clinic in how the game should be played.

But one of the traits that made him such a great coach I would expect to also contribute to a tamping down of the tributes. Anson Dorrance was and probably still is the most arrogant human being I have ever known. Believe me, I say that with the greatest of admiration. Whether he truly felt it or not, he appeared to me to be the one person in this world who truly did not give a fig about what others thought of him. And if happenings around him were not contributing to his or his team's goals, they held no interest for him. He required that people recognize his abilities as a coach and he required the respect and attention due, but from what I could see, he really didn't care whether you liked him personally or not.

And, I believe, that arrogance was a major contribution to his success. When he took over the women's program at UNC years ago, most coaches in women's sports—particularly male

coaches—treated the players with kid gloves and sensitivity. Anson treated his players and his opponents with ruthless determination. As most of you know, it got him into a spate of trouble, but he persevered and survived.

I'm fairly confident that, unlike me, Coach Dorrance is looking back on his remarkable career with a satisfied grin. And so he should.

I read one account where he responded to someone who was going to give a different account of a situation from him with, "who are they going to believe? The soccer field has my name on it."

I believe the writer who reported this meant it to be a negative. With my knowledge of who Anson is, I can't imagine him saying anything else. And, truth be told, if any of my four alma maters had named a field or a building or a bench or a bush after me, I would probably lead every comment with the same quote.

Regular readers of this space know that I idolize Coach Dean Smith. Throughout Anson's career, he looked to Coach Smith for guidance. I would certainly not put the two of them at the same level, but it is a testimony to Anson's intelligence.

I've been lucky enough to attend a couple of his speaking engagements in the past few years. If he wants, I hope he's given an opportunity to do commentary on the women's game. Absolutely, no one is more qualified.

Of course, if he does so and doesn't completely shut Alexi Lalas up, all of the nice things I've said will be retracted.

Bona fortuna.

Alex Morgan also announced her retirement. She possessed both the fortune and the curse of being physically attractive. And like David Beckham, it tended to overshadow and lessen how people viewed her ability on the field. She was a great player on the field and she was—and I'm sure will continue to be a superlative ambassador to the game.

Just recently watched Canada defeat the US men's national team in Kansas City. Bring on Pochettino!

But the biggest and best news in my life is that son Jeff has retired Dynamo! I just cannot wipe the smile off my face.

*Retirement is doing the Index no good! Fat Boy Index: 290.*

## Media Sportswatch Joel Bulkley

The Tar Heel Sports Network made a lot of changes in personnel for UNC football coverage.

Jones Angell returns to a play-by-play role with Joe Tauch and Bryn Renner as analysts, succeeding Brian Simmons who joined Mack Brown's staff. They are former UNC players. Tauch, a former WR from Virginia, did the first game. Renner, a former QB, does game 3. They apparently will alternate games, with each doing about half.

Na Brown, a former UNC player, is a co-host on the early pregame show and succeeds Deems May on post home game programs. Dave Nathan returns for pregame, halftime, score updates and postgame duties. Lee Pace is back as sideline reporter, but had problems with technical issues at the first game.

The Minnesota radio coverage was OK after the one hour weather delay. Former QB Brock Huard was emotional on the Fox TV broadcast when UNC QB Max Johnson was injured.

"My mom was a 3-time QB mom, it's a hard job... every eyeball judges a QB on every single play and moms carry that weight." @BrockHuard gets emotional while watching Max Johnson's mom in tears after her son exited the game due to injury pic.twitter.com/PJuMsn7pCV

The start of football season brought changes at ACC Network where Wes Durham, Tom Luginbill, Dana Boyle are doing the primetime ACCN games. Not certain about the other crews, but there are lots of new faces. Kelsey Riggs, formerly of ACCN, is now a SportsCenter anchor, Roddy Jones is doing ACC and ESPN games.

The ACC Huddle, the traveling roadshow hosted by Taylor Tannebaum, has Eric Mac Lain, EJ Manuel, Mark Richt, Eddie Royal, that travels to ACCN big games for pre and post game shows. I seldom watch those programs.

The CW will have 13 ACC football games that were sold by Raycom Sports. Lead broadcaster is Thom Brennaman, a former MLB announcer for Fox, and Max Browne. They also do PAC 12 games.

Luke Kuechly joined CBS as a college football analyst. He's still in the rotation for the Panther radio crew. Greg Olsen, who was excellent last season on the Fox A team, joined Joe Davis, Pam Oliver on the B team. Tom Brady's arrival forced Olsen out. Mike Greenberg is the new host of Sunday NFL Countdown on ESPN, replacing Sam Ponder.

Waiting to see what happens to Venu Sports, the new Disney/Fox/Warner/Discovery venture for streaming sports that

was shut down before it started by a federal judge after FuboTV claimed it violated antitrust laws. The service might help some sports fans, but I don't see it without CBS, NBC and others.

Diamond Sports, the parent of Bally Sports RSN, reached deals with the NBA and NHL to carry games next season if they can get out of bankruptcy by April 1, 2025. Meanwhile, NBA teams like Charlotte will take a 30-40 percent cut in rights fees, NHL teams like the Hurricanes 20 percent, according to news reports. If Bally doesn't succeed by the deadline, teams can seek broadcast deals with local TV stations.

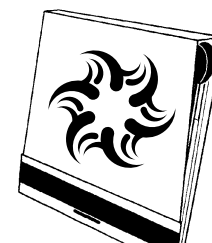
Good stuff. Jay Price of Chapel Hill won an Edward R. Murrow 2024 award for feature reporting for "Alone Day" story on a veteran for N.C. Public Radio (WUNC Radio). He's an avid cyclist. Another award winner was a SportsCenter feature: Running for Martin from ESPN about the Boston Marathon bombing and an eight-year-old that was wonderful.

Credit to sideline reporter Holly Rowe of ESPN for a live listen-in report on coach to player instructions via helmet in the Texas A&M/Notre Dame game.

Spent time watching the U.S. Open Tennis and Paralympics, impressive performances everywhere. Paralympic TV coverage was limited.

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