

# THIS IS THE ACC

**C**onsistency. It's the mark of true excellence in any endeavor.

However, in today's intercollegiate athletics, competition has become so balanced and so competitive that it is virtually impossible to maintain a high level of consistency.

Yet the Atlantic Coast Conference has defied the odds. Now in its 53rd year of competition, the ACC has long enjoyed the reputation as one of the strongest and most competitive intercollegiate conferences in the nation. And that is not mere conjecture, the numbers support it.

Since the league's inception in 1953, ACC schools have captured 94 national championships, including 49 in women's competition and 45 in men's. In addition, NCAA individual titles have gone to ACC student-athletes 120 times in men's competition and 60 times in women's action.

## 2004-05 IN REVIEW

The 2004-05 academic year concluded with the league pocketing three more national team titles and seven individual NCAA crowns. In all, the ACC has won 51 national team titles over the last 15 years.

The ACC's 2004-05 national champions were Wake Forest in field hockey, North Carolina in men's basketball and Duke in women's golf. In addition, a total of 181 student-athletes from the ACC earned first, second or third-team All-America honors this past year.

## THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The conference will conduct championship competition in 25 sports during the 2005-06 academic year — 12 for men and 13 for women.

The first ACC championship was held in swimming on February 25, 1954. The conference did not conduct championships in cross country, wrestling or tennis during the first year.

The 12 sports for men include football, cross country, soccer, basketball, swimming, indoor and outdoor track, wrestling, baseball, tennis, golf and lacrosse. Fencing, which was started in 1971, was discontinued in 1981.

Women's sports were initiated in 1977 with the first championship meet being held in tennis at Wake Forest University.

Championships for women are currently conducted in cross country, volleyball, field hockey, soccer, basketball, swimming, indoor and outdoor track, tennis, golf, lacrosse, softball and rowing.

## A HISTORY

The ACC was founded on May 8, 1953, at the Sedgefield Inn near Greensboro, N.C., with seven charter members — Clemson, Duke, Maryland, North Carolina, NC State, South Carolina and Wake Forest — drawing up the conference by-laws.

The withdrawal of seven schools from the Southern Conference came early on the morning of May 8, 1953, during the Southern Conference's annual spring meeting. On June 14, 1953, the seven members met in Raleigh, N.C., where a set of

bylaws was adopted and the name became officially the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Suggestions from fans for the name of the new conference appeared in the region's newspapers prior to the meeting in Raleigh. Some of the names suggested were: Dixie, Mid South, Mid Atlantic, East Coast, Seaboard, Colonial, Tobacco, Blue-Gray, Piedmont, Southern Seven and the Shoreline.

Duke's Eddie Cameron recommended that the name of the conference be the Atlantic Coast Conference, and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting concluded with each member institution assessed \$200.00 to pay for conference expenses.

On December 4, 1953, conference officials met again at Sedgefield and officially admitted the University of Virginia as the league's eighth member. The first, and only, withdrawal of a school from the ACC came on June 30, 1971, when the University of South Carolina tendered its resignation.

The ACC operated with seven members until April 3, 1978, when the Georgia Institute of Technology was admitted. The Atlanta school had withdrawn from the Southeastern Conference in January of 1964.

The ACC expanded to nine members on July 1, 1991, with the addition of Florida State University.

The conference expanded to 11 members on July 1, 2004, with the addition of the University of Miami and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. On October 17, 2003, Boston College accepted an invitation to become the league's 12th member starting July 1, 2005.

## SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS

**BOSTON COLLEGE** — Charter member of the Big East Conference in 1979; joined the ACC in July, 2005.

**CLEMSON** — Charter member of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1894, a charter member of the Southern Conference in 1921, a charter member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) in 1953.

**DUKE** — Joined the Southern Conference in December, 1928; charter member of the ACC in 1953.

**FLORIDA STATE** — Charter member of the Dixie Conference in 1948; joined the Metro Conference in July, 1976; joined the ACC July, 1991.

**GEORGIA TECH** — Charter member of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1894, charter member of Southern Conference in 1921, charter member of the SEC in 1932, joined the ACC in April, 1978.

**MARYLAND** — Charter member of the Southern Conference in 1921, charter member of the ACC in 1953.

**MIAMI** — Charter member of the Big East Football Conference in 1991; joined the ACC in July, 2004.

**NORTH CAROLINA** — Charter member of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1894, charter member of the Southern Conference in 1921, charter member of the ACC in 1953.

**NC STATE** — Charter member of the Southern Conference in 1921; charter member of the ACC in 1953.

**VIRGINIA** — Charter member of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1894, charter member of the Southern Conference in 1921, resigned from Southern Conference in December 1936, joined the ACC in December, 1953.

**VIRGINIA TECH** — Charter member of the Southern Conference in 1921; withdrew from the Southern Conference in June, 1965; became a charter member of the Big East Football Conference in Feb. 5, 1991; joined the ACC in July, 2004.

**WAKE FOREST** — Joined the Southern Conference in February, 1936, charter member of the ACC in 1953.