

This is the ACC

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The Tradition

Consistency. It's the mark of true excellence in any endeavor.

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

Yet the Atlantic Coast Conference has defied the odds, having celebrated its 50th 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 88 national championships, including 44 in women's competition and 44 in men's. In addition, NCAA individual titles have gone to ACC student-athletes 116 times in men's competition and 51 times in women's action.

Volleyball made its debut in the ACC in 1980, with conference play commencing in 1981. Now in its 24th season, the ACC has endured vast success both on and off the court. Seven different schools have claimed the conference championship, but none more than North Carolina's nine ACC titles. Volleyball in the ACC has produced three All-Americans, four Academic All-Americans, three Region/District Freshmen of the Year and nine Region/District Coach of the Year accolades. During this time, 73 athletes have been selected to the All-Region/District team, while 22 have been honored on the All-Academic Regions/District team.

The 2002 season was the most successful season in the history of the league. The conference set a record with four teams qualifying for the NCAA Championship including Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech and North Carolina. The Tar Heels became only the second team in the ACC to reach the regional round of the playoffs.

Since the inception of the AVCA Division I Coaches Poll in 1982, the 1993 Duke Blue Devils had held the mark for the highest finish in the final poll at 20. That year also marked the first time two teams had finished the season in the top 25 (Florida State finished the season ranked 25th), but that was all before 2002. North Carolina finished the season ranked 12th in the nation at 32-4, advancing to the Sweet 16 before falling to Hawaii, who advanced to the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament. Georgia Tech recorded its best season in team history (33-6) under first-year head coach Bond Shymansky and was awarded a final national ranking of 17.

A History

The Atlantic Coast Conference was founded on May 8, 1953, at the Sedgefield Inn near Greensboro, N.C., with seven charter members - Clemson, Duke, Maryland, North Carolina, North Carolina 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 2002-03 In Review Tradition of Excellence 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 2002-03 academic year concluded with the league pocketing three more national team titles and 10 individual NCAA crowns. In all, the ACC has won 45 national team titles over the last 13 years.

The ACC's 2002-03 national champions were Wake Forest in field hockey, Virginia in men's lacrosse, and Clemson in men's golf. Overall, 95 ACC teams took part in post-season play compiling a 84-64 (.568) record.

A total of 167 student-athletes from the ACC earned first, second, or third-team All-America honors this past year. In addition, the ACC produced three

national Players of the Year, one national Rookie of the Year and four national Coach of the Year recipients.

The ACC placed at least one team in the top 10 nationally in 16 of 21 sports sponsored by the league for which polls were available. In all 28 ACC teams finished their season with a top 10 ranking.

The Schools

Clemson University is nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains near the Georgia border, and the tiger paws painted on the roads make the return to I-85 easier. The school is built around Fort Hill, the plantation home of John C. Calhoun, Vice President to Andrew Jackson. His son-in-law, Tom Clemson, left the land to be used as an agricultural school, and in 1893 Clemson opened its doors as a land-grant school, thanks to the efforts of Ben Tillman.

Duke University was founded in 1924 by tobacco magnate James B. Duke as a memorial to his father, Washington Duke. Originally the school was called Trinity College, a Methodist institution, started in 1859. In 1892, Trinity moved to west Durham where the east campus with its Georgian architecture now stands. Nearby are Sarah P. Duke gardens, and further west the Gothic spires of Duke chapel overlook the west campus.

Next to I-85 in downtown Atlanta stands Georgia Institute of Technology, founded in 1885. Its first students came to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering, the only one offered at the time. Tech's strength is not only the red clay of Georgia, but a restored gold and white 1930 model A Ford Cabriolet, the official mascot. The old Ford was first used in 1961, but a Ramblin' Wreck had been around for over three decades. The Ramblin' Wreck fight song appeared almost as soon as the school opened, and it is not only American boys that grow up singing its rollicking tune, for Richard Nixon and Nikita Krushchev sang it when they met in Moscow in 1959.

The University of Maryland opened in 1856 as an agricultural school nine miles north of Washington, D.C., on land belonging to Charles Calvert, a descendant of Lord Baltimore, the state's founding father. The school colors are the same as the state flag: black and gold for George Calvert (Lord Baltimore) and red and white for his mother, Alice Crossland. Maryland has been called the school that Curley Byrd built, for he was its quarterback, then football coach, athletic director, assistant to the president, vice-president, and finally its president. Byrd also designed the football stadium and the campus layout, and suggested the nickname Terrapin, a local turtle known for its bite, when students wanted to replace the nickname Old Liners with a new one for the school.

The University of North Carolina, located in Chapel Hill, has been called "the perfect college town," making its tree-lined streets and balmy atmosphere what a college should look and feel like. Its inception in 1795 makes it one of the oldest schools in the nation, and its nickname of Tar Heels stems from the tar pitch and turpentine that were the state's principal industry. The nickname is as old as the school, for it was born during the Revolutionary War when tar was dumped into the streams to impede the advance of British forces.

North Carolina State University is located in the state capital of Raleigh. It opened in 1889 as a land-grant agricultural and mechanical school and was known as A&M or Aggies or Farmers for over a quarter-century. The school's colors of pink and blue were gone by 1895, brown and white were tried for a year, but the students finally chose red and white to represent the school. An unhappy fan in 1922 said State football players behaved like a pack of wolves, and the term that was coined in derision became a badge of honor.

The University of Virginia was founded in 1819 by Thomas Jefferson and is one of three things on his tombstone for which he wanted to be remembered. James Madison and James Monroe were on the board of governors in the early years. The Rotunda, a half-scale version of the Pantheon which faces the Lawn, is the focal point of the grounds as the campus is called. Jefferson wanted his school to educate leaders in practical affairs and public service, not just to train teachers.

Wake Forest University was started on Calvin Jones' plantation amid the stately pine forest of Wake County in 1834. The Baptist seminary is still there, but the school was moved to Winston-Salem in 1956 on a site donated by Charles H. and Mary Reynolds Babcock. President Harry S. Truman attended the groundbreaking ceremonies that brought a picturesque campus of Georgian architecture and painted roofs. Wake's colors have been black and gold since 1895, thanks to a badge designed by student John Heck who died before he graduated.

School summaries (except for Florida State) are taken from Tom Perrin's book Atlantic Coast Conference Football, A History Through 1991, which was printed in 1992 by McFarland & Company, Inc., Jefferson, N.C.

FLORIDA STATE



VOLLEYBALL 2003