

THE SPORTS WORLD'S EVENT MAGAZINE

SportsTravel

JULY 2009
VOL. 13, NO. 6

\$4.00



Flying High

The X Games Turn 15 Years Old as Action Sports Continue To Provide New Events and Thrills 12

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

3 The Press Box

News from the sports-event industry.

4 From the Publisher

tktkk
tktkk.

5 Reader Response Center

Subscriptions and info the easy way.

6 Governing Body Dossier

A bright future for the senior games.

24 Q&A: The Interview

Harvey Schiller is making baseball's case for reinstatement to the Olympics.

26 The Sponsor File

Effective guidelines for hospitality.

27 Why Meetings Matter

A special section on the vital role that meetings play in the travel industry.

104 Sports Spotlight

Rowing, canoe and kayak events look for new participants and venues.

110 Coastal South

Small-town charm meets big-city venues in the South-Atlantic states.

123 Ask The Event Doctor

Answers to event-related questions.

125 Winners and Losers

A walk through time at St. Andrews.

126 Bid Bowl

The latest event bidding highlights.

PRSRAT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 271
85719

A photograph of a baseball player in a white uniform sliding into a base. The player is wearing a white jersey with a blue and orange logo on the back. A catcher in an orange jersey is crouching behind the player. An umpire in a dark blue uniform is standing behind the catcher, looking on. The background shows a green outfield fence and other players in white uniforms.

On Base in the Coastal South

From Florida to Virginia, the South-Atlantic states offer small-town charm with big-city facilities for sporting events of all types

By Jesse Reeves

*In Greenville, South Carolina, Furman University's Paladins baseball team plays home games at either Latham Stadium, on campus, or the off-campus Fluor Field at the West End, also home to the Greenville Drive minor-league team.
Photo by Mark Cramer/Anderson Independent-Mail/AP*



The South Atlantic region is home to some of America's best-known college sports programs, professional teams and a multitude of sporting venues. Given its pleasant climate and inviting Southern hospitality, sports of all sorts are organized around the calendar.

Greenville: Palmetto State Sports

Greenville is a sports-crazy South Carolina home to most every athletic competition imaginable: Its facilities

include 36 baseball fields, 34 basketball courts, 22 golf courses, 10 football/rugby fields, 44 softball fields, 50 soccer fields, 160 tennis courts and nine wrestling mats.

"We are a strong, vibrant community that offers state-of-the-art facilities in a destination where an entire family feels like they belong," said Kelly Laskowitz, national sales manager for the Greenville Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The entertainment industry has consistently recognized the BI-LO Center as a top-50 venue. For sports,

the 15,000-seat center plays home to the South Carolina Force arena football team. In July 2010, the BI-LO Center will host the USA National Karate Federation's National Karate Championships. The USA-NKF is the largest karate organization in the United States.

As a minor league baseball team—and a single-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox—the Greenville Drive have a very familiar-looking stadium. That's because the 5,700-seat Fluor Field is a replica of Fenway Park, complete with a reproduction of the "green



Bart Baatwicht/The Greenville News/SA

The BMW Charity Pro-Am golf tournament takes place at three South Carolina venues, including the Thornblade Club in Greer, outside Greenville. The 2009 competition was won by Michael Sim of Australia.

monster" wall in left field and also a manual scoreboard. This past May, Fluor Field played host to the 2009 Southern Conference baseball championship, which featured five days of college baseball.

A popular annual event is the BMW Charity Pro-Am, the only golf tourna-

ment on the PGA's developmental Nationwide Tour where amateurs and celebrities are grouped with touring pros in a three-day better-ball competition. The event has raised more than \$6.6 million to distribute to more than 125 charities in South Carolina and North Carolina.

Every year, USA Cycling comes to Greenville's downtown area in the form of the Professional Time Trial Championship and the USA Cycling Professional Road Race Championship, one of the premier cycling events that takes place in the Southeast United States.

"Sporting events require work at each stage," said Jeff Poole, the sports tourism manager for the Greenville County Recreation District. "Obtaining local support prior to booking an event, preparing a facility to provide a first-class venue and assisting a group in execution to ensure success is where Greenville comes in to aid an event planner."

Polk County: A Central Florida Sports Hub

Wedged between Orlando and Tampa, centrally located Polk County serves as a nucleus for sports in the Sunshine State.

"We are equidistant between Orlando and Tampa, plus we're about the [fourth]-largest county in the state of Florida," said Mark Jackson, director of tourism and sports marketing for Central Florida Tourism & Sports Marketing. "So the opportunities for hosting athletic events by virtue of our location provides strategic advantages to us."

Polk County's population is another factor in its favor. Half of Florida's population, more than 8.5 million people, lives within 100 miles, which means good attendance for sporting event organizers.

On the high-school level, the county plays host to the state championships for volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling and golf. Other championship-level play includes AAU baseball, which occurs year-round with 500 teams competing in more than 15 events, including state finals and national qualifiers.

Also on the diamond is plenty of college baseball. Indeed, it will be a staple in Polk County for the next decade, as the Collegiate Spring Training Classic will take place each February and March through 2019. Last year, 185 collegiate teams, including Ohio State, Indiana and Connecticut, played 807 games over five weeks of competition.

The Spring Training Classic takes place at what is fast becoming the hub of county sports activities, the new Lake Myrtle Sports Complex in Auburndale. Five baseball fields are in operation, with four more scheduled by the end of 2010.

Also soon to call the complex home is the Florida Youth Soccer Association,

awesome ALPHARETTA GEORGIA

With over 200 fields, courses, pools and gyms, Alpharetta is perfectly suited for nearly every type of sporting event. Upscale hotels, many with suites and complimentary breakfast, well maintained facilities, easy access to Atlanta and plenty of attractions and distractions for athletes and their families help showcase a tournament to be proud of.

Alpharetta: The Perfect Destination

Let us help you... with complimentary planning services for sporting events, we can be your one stop resource. We make it easy to bring the event to Alpharetta. To arrange a site visit and receive a free Sports Event Planning Guide, call the Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau today.

awesome ALPHARETTA
678-297-2811
www.awesomealpharetta.com

the official governing body of Florida youth soccer, with 108,000 children as members. Numerous games and tournaments are expected take place on the fields at the complex, with 11 scheduled to be in operation by August 2009.

The 250-acre sports complex also has two lakes, one 76 acres and one 9 acres. USA Water Ski, the national governing body of organized water skiing, is based in Polk County and will make use of the big lake, while cable water skiing will be possible at the smaller one.

After a second phase of building, the complex will include a field house, a high-performance training center, a medical facility and an education facility, all in conjunction with Polk Community College.

"We understand all aspects of what it takes to put on a successful event," Jackson said. "We understand what event organizers need and want. Add our ever-present sunny skies, and our great weather positions us as a prime sports destination."

Cobb County, Georgia: Southern Sports Hospitality

Minutes away from one of the largest sports cities in America, Cobb



Central Florida Visitors & Convention Bureau

Florida's Polk County—which boasts the title "Water Ski Capital of the World"—hosts a variety of events on or near its several lakes, including the annual Orange Cup Regatta on Lake Hollingsworth.

County complements Atlanta's professional sports franchises with a contingent of amateur, youth and college sports venues.

"Our location is very ideal because of the nearby big-city amenities of Atlanta," said Rita Lowery, national sales manager at the Cobb County Con-

vention & Visitors Bureau. "We're close enough to Atlanta that it's very cost-effective regarding airfare and hotel rooms, but we're just far enough away that we don't have to deal with the downtown prices and traffic."

With a combined population of more than 600,000, Cobb County



There's nothing like playing in Paradise. You'll find all-star facilities in easy-to-get-to, family-friendly areas. Enjoy hotels ranging from budget to five-star and offering great deals for sports groups. Best of all, you'll be in a part of Florida that's more of a tropical escape, filled with limitless recreation for your team and fans.

Discover Florida's Last Paradise™ | www.AthletesInParadise.com or 1-800-342-3110





Winston-Salem Entertainment Sports Complex

Bowman Gray Stadium, Winston-Salem's legendary racing venue, has hosted NASCAR-sanctioned events since 1949. Additionally, the facility hosts the Winston-Salem State University Rams football team.

accommodates residents and visitors with multipurpose facilities, sports-only venues, gymnasiums, high school and college fields, aquatic centers and recreational facilities.

The Cobb Civic Center hosts everything from badminton and boxing to weightlifting and wrestling in its 15,694

square feet. It regularly holds high school basketball tournaments, AAU national gymnastics tournaments and college basketball games.

The Georgia State Games have been held at the Mountain View Aquatic Center, which has a 20-lane, 50-meter pool. With bleacher seating for 500, the center

also has locker rooms, showers, electronic scoreboards and a PA system for competitive events.

The Cobb County Parks and Recreation Department oversees a number of local green spaces, including Lost Mountain Park, with facilities for archery, baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and other competitive events. Within the park are eight softball fields, one baseball field, two football fields, 12 hard tennis courts, a gymnasium, and jogging and walking trails.

With 320,000 square feet, the Cobb Galleria Centre is one of the nation's busiest convention centers as millions of fans each year come to attend one of the thousands of events. For sports fans, that can mean anything from the typical weekend sports like basketball and volleyball to more offbeat contests such as aerobics, handball, fencing, shuffleboard and squash.

Starting in June and going through the end of July, Cobb County hosts the annual Perfect Game baseball tournament. The boys-only tournament, for ages 14-18, attracts about 30,000 people over six weeks and is scheduled to be hosted in Cobb County until 2011.

Games are played at 20 diamonds across the county with East Cobb Base-

Where Players Win and Winners Play

Morgantown, WV

...Home to 65,000 sports fans, over 50 miles of paved trails, and modern sports facilities, including:

- 50,000 s.f. Field Turf Arena
- Four-Field Lighted Baseball Complex
- Miracle Sports Complex
- 7 Court Indoor Basketball Facility

Surrounding lakes and rivers provide unmatched white water rafting, kayaking, boating and fishing. Located at the crossroads of Interstates 68 and 79, our university city is an easy drive from the Washington DC and Pittsburgh areas.

Voted by The Sporting News as one of the "Best Sporting Cities" in 2009.

Meeting, Event and Facilities Guide Available
Complimentary Planning Services

sportsinmorgantown.com
800-458-7373

West Virginia
Wild and Wonderful

SCENIC MOUNTAIN HOME OF WVU

GREATER MORGANTOWN
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
SERVING MONONGALIA AND PRESTON COUNTIES

*I need the perfect site.
I want a great experience.*



Wouldn't you like to hold your next competition at a destination that delivers what you need? Our award-winning service staff is eager to assist you to make your experience stress-free. And with a 250,000 sq. ft. convention center and 80,000 rooms (most nestled right on the Atlantic Ocean), we can easily accommodate your group. Please call now **800.488.8998** and ask for Roy.

visit
MYRTLE BEACH
SOUTH CAROLINA

MBAreaSports.com

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Florida has historically been a magnet in attracting sporting events, and Palm Beach County is always a leader for organizing premier competitions in the Sunshine State. An ideal climate is paired with a beautiful natural backdrop of white beaches and blue ocean waters—making Palm Beach an obvious pick for golf, tennis, lacrosse, baseball, softball, equestrian events and much more.

Event organizers can always expect the necessary support when planning their sports contests. The Palm Beach County Sports Commission assists organizers in such areas as providing volunteers, booking hotel accommodations, selecting sites and facilities, helping out with public relations and marketing and managing the events. There are also financial partnership options as Commission experts can help organizers apply for funding through grants for qualifying events.

“The Palm Beach County Sports Commission diligently works with event owners to make sure their event is a success and their participants have the best possible experience in Palm Beach County,” said Gerry Baron, executive director at the Palm Beach County Sports Commission. “Palm Beach County is a sports paradise and home to some of the nation’s premier sporting facilities.”

Some of those facilities are Roger Dean Stadium (capacity: more than 7,000), Palm Beach International Raceway, the Delray Beach Tennis Center (capacity: 8,200), the International Polo Club, the National Croquet Center and many aquatic facilities. Of course, Palm Beach is world-famous for its golf and is home to about 120 country clubs and 170 courses. Palm Beach residents are keen to point out that this is The Golf

Capital of the World and home to the PGA Tour’s Honda Classic and Champions Tour Allianz Championship.

As well as the golf, Florida is also known for the great American pastime. For years, baseball’s big leaguers, especially those from colder climates, have migrated south for spring training.

Now joining the pros are college ball players who get to soak up the sun and hit the diamond every March in the Palm Beach Challenge. Sixty schools—from junior colleges to Division I universities—come to compete and play while their student athletes are on spring break.

“We offer all these schools a place to play,” said Michael Zeff, executive director of Palm Beach Challenge. “And it’s an ideal event because the Sports Commission is so supportive. The hotels, the community—everyone is very easy to work with.”

Zeff said the relationship is a win-win for both the schools and the Palm Beach area. The schools are provided with facilities, umpires, hotels and van rentals while Palm Beach enjoys the economic impact provided by 3,000 room nights and visitors enjoying the local attractions after the games.

Despite the recent economic downturn, 2009 was strong for Palm Beach. Having already hosted the 12th World Croquet Federation World Championships and the Tournament of Roller Hockey (TORHS) Nationals, there are still a number of premier events to come.

Scheduled to take place this coming fall and winter are the Advertising Softball World Series (October 17-21), the American Junior Golf Association Polo Junior Golf Classic (November 21-27), the Men’s Senior Baseball League Florida Fall Classic (November 12-21) and the PGA Tour qualifying finals (November 29-December 8).

Other noted events include the USA Baseball 16U Championships, the USTA Boys 16s & 18s Clay Court Championships, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, the Under Armour Fall Classic, the ADT Golf Skills Challenge, the Marathon of the Palm Beaches and the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

Equestrian events create the largest impact of any sport. The Winter Equestrian Festival takes place every January through April at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. The longest running equestrian event in the world, about 3,000 athletes from the United States and Europe compete annually, generating 85,000 room nights and a \$57 million economic impact for Palm Beach County.

Palm Beach County usually provides a balance of sporting events throughout the year. And while the area is well suited to host indoors events, the area is very popular for outdoor athletics. Of course, the average annual temperature hovering in the mid-70s allows for year-round baseball, softball, tennis, swimming and everything else under the sun.

“Our county has a strong resume for hosting a variety of professional and amateur sporting events,” Baron said. “Overall, the sports industry generates more than 140,000 room nights to Palm Beach County, making it one of our county’s strongest niches that drive tourism.”

An added bonus for visitors includes the shopping districts and historic natural areas, such as the Everglades. Combining great weather, picturesque scenery, cultural venues, shopping and natural attractions, Palm Beach offers sports organizers and athletes an all-American setting for sports of all sorts.

PALM BEACH COUNTY

A Sports Paradise with Incomparable
World-Class Playing & Training Facilities

JUST
BRING
YOUR
GAME



PALM BEACH
SPORTS.COM
PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION
1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 1410 West Palm Beach, FL 33401 - (561) 233-3180

In Salem, Virginia you can count on championship-caliber performance on the playing field and off. Our experienced team knows how to run a perfect tournament.

A CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCE

We've hosted over 50 NCAA Division II/III National Championships and countless USSSA, NSA, AAU and other tournaments. We have first class facilities and plenty of southern hospitality all in a beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain setting. See for yourself why Salem is Virginia's Championship City.

SALEM
VIRGINIA'S CHAMPIONSHIP CITY

540.375.3004
www.visitsalemva.com

Virginia is for Lovers

Liberty University Snowflex Center
Year-round skiing and snowboarding!

Choose Lynchburg as your site to hold your baseball, basketball, tennis, and even, skiing and snowboarding competitions. We are located only two hours from Richmond and three hours from Washington. Our athletic planning services include: familiarization tours, customized proposals, facility site inspections, information packets, and marketing and PR assistance. We offer a variety of accommodations with more than 2,000 affordable, team-friendly guest rooms and a variety of meeting and event spaces.

Allow us to work with you in making your event a success.

discoverlynchburg
Virginia

www.discoverlynchburg.org
1-800-732-5821

ball Park hosting the championship game. The tournament has gained a reputation as a steppingstone for aspiring big-leaguers: Probably half of the players on next season's Major League Baseball rosters participated in a Perfect Game event in their youth.

"Cobb County offers a large variety of sports venues," said Abbey Harwell, communications and marketing technology manager for the Cobb County CVB. "We really offer everything to the visitor and planner to put on a great event."

Winston-Salem: Dueling Universities

Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has a wealth of university attractions in addition to its minor-league sports and amateur athletics. And a combination of college facilities and community venues make the city a busy place for sports.

"One of Winston-Salem's strong points is we have the feel and ease of a small town," said Tim Johnson, sports marketing manager for the Winston-Salem Visitor Center. "But we have the sports venues and amenities that rival many larger destinations."

And while it retains its small-town feel, Winston-Salem has the uncommon distinction of having two Division I NCAA schools, Wake Forest and Winston-Salem University. And that means plenty of sports going on around town.

The Winston-Salem Entertainment-Sports Complex is the city's central sports location. Baseball, football and soccer are grouped together, along with that Tobacco Road staple, basketball.

The rivalries among North Carolina schools are legendary, and Wake Forest is always in the mix. The Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum is a 15,000-seat arena in the home of the Demon Deacon basketball teams as well as frequent NCAA tournament games. The coliseum also has an annex, a 3,500-seat, 30,000-square-foot arena that can become a basketball arena or an ice hockey rink or be configured for various other sports.

A new baseball stadium is scheduled to open downtown in late summer 2009. The stadium, yet to be named, will be the home of the Winston-Salem Dash, a minor league club affiliated with the MLB Chicago White Sox. The Dash now play at Gene Hooks Field at Wake Forest Baseball Park, which it shares with the college baseball team.

One of the largest venues in town is 31,500-seat BB&T Field, the home of the Wake Forest football team. The Winston-Salem University Rams play football at 17,000-seat Bowman Gray Stadium.

The "other" type of football is usually found at the BB&T Soccer Complex, with 14 fields, stadium seating for 1,400 and hillside seating for 1,000 more. Amenities include a filming tower for later videotape study in the complex's 5,800-square-foot field house, which also has multimedia classrooms, meeting rooms, and training rooms for coaches and players to discuss the games.

"Winston-Salem has a great combination of world-class facilities and great accommodations," Johnson said. "Plus we have a very friendly infrastructure. You won't be stuck in traffic or have a problem finding a great restaurant."

Lynchburg: Virginia's Venue For Sports

Home to four college athletic programs, a minor league baseball team and a host of athletic facilities, Lynchburg is experienced in planning and organizing sporting events for all age levels. Add to that the town's location in the center of Virginia, and Lynchburg plays hosts to games and events for the state and region.

"We're four hours from the beach and three hours from Washington, D.C., so we're a good halfway meeting



Jerry Douglas

One of several universities in Lynchburg, Liberty University is home to the 12,000-seat Williams Stadium and Liberty Flames football team. The team has won the Big South Conference for the past two years.

point," said Denise Jackson, marketing manager for the Lynchburg Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We have the facilities and the infrastructure to support many sporting events."

Liberty University's Vines Center has put on NBA exhibition games, Big South tournament basketball games

and high school basketball tournaments. With a capacity of up to 10,000, the center is one of the most frequently used basketball arenas in the state. Another high-volume venue on campus is Williams Stadium, used for football, lacrosse and intramural events, with seating for 12,000 people.

WE'VE RUN THE DRILLS. DONE THE REPS. AND NO ONE'S IN BETTER SHAPE.

VB

Check www.vbsports.com or call 1-800-700-7702 and see how excited we are to host your event.

VIRGINIA BEACH



College Images/Getty Images

West Virginia University's Mountaineers basketball team plays home games at the WVU Coliseum, a 14,000-seat arena in Morgantown. The facility is also used for wrestling, volleyball and gymnastics.

Other facilities on the Liberty campus are Worthington Stadium, a 1,000-seat baseball stadium, and the Esbenschade-Hershey Tennis Courts, with seating for 500 around the seven surfaced courts.

For the running enthusiasts, the Virginia Ten Miler is a nationally ranked footrace held at the end of September.

Winding around the historic Rivermont area, the race usually draws 1,200 participants.

The Thomas Indoor Soccer Center, opened in April 2009, has two enclosed soccer fields and is available for tournament use. It will also play host to flag football and lacrosse competitions.

For those who hit the links, Sam Snead designed the nearby Poplar Grove golf course, which was voted one of the best upscale golf facilities by Golf Digest in 2005. High school championships and semipro tournaments regularly take place on its fairways and greens.

On the baseball greens, the 2009 National Amateur Baseball Federation World Series for both the high school and sophomore divisions will be held July 22–26. The series regularly attracts teams from Texas, Florida, New York, Georgia and Louisiana as more than 800 players participate in 90 games on 10 fields throughout the area. The finals will be held at Lynchburg City Stadium.

“From children to teenagers to adults, we organize sports for everyone,” Jackson said. “We have a whole array of facilities for their competitions, plus we have recreational facilities for their downtime.”

Morgantown: Mountaineer Country

The home of West Virginia University, Morgantown is usually abuzz with a combination of college athletic events and youth and adult tournaments. City officials credit Morgantown’s welcoming atmosphere for its busy sports schedule.



"We're always ranked as one of the best small cities in America," said Dave Plevich, sports manager for Greater Morgantown Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We have a sports-friendly town with a down-home feel and great facilities."

Morgantown's recreational crown jewel is Mylan Park, a 320-acre facility that has 8 acres of turf, an equestrian center, professional horseshoe pitching courts, a four-field lighted baseball and softball complex and a pro-performance sports complex. The complex has a 50,000-square-foot turf arena connected to a 28,000-square-foot strength and conditioning fitness center. Starting July 30, the complex will host the state 19-and-under American Legion baseball tournament over 10 days.

Each July, the campus of West Virginia University is turned into a who's-who of boys' basketball. The Hoop Group Jam Fest regularly brings in the top high school basketball talent in the nation. This naturally attracts hundreds of college coaches hoping to discover the next big star. It's the largest hospitality function for Morgantown as the local hotels, shops and restaurants fill with basketball players, scouts and coaches.

March and May are the big times for girls' hoops with Girls Basketball



Pat White played quarterback for the West Virginia University Mountaineers from 2005 to 2008, turning down an opportunity to play Major League Baseball. In 2009, White was drafted by the Miami Dolphins.

Association tournaments. The West Virginia Shootout is held in March with 40 teams taking the court, and 60 teams compete in the Mountaineer Classic in May. The tournaments attract teams from Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, from high school down to 9-year-olds.

For athletes who take their exercise to extremes, the annual MedExpress Spirit of Morgantown Triathlon offers three distances: sprint, Olympic and half-iron. The three sports involved, running, bicycling and swimming, are given varying lengths. Held annually in August, this event lets an athlete get up

Play Charlotte

Look closely at Charlotte and you'll discover a lot. A lot of sports venues where kids can play all day. And a lot of happening places where parents can play all night. Find a lot more at 704-331-2740 or charlottesgotalot.com **Charlotte's got a lot.**

close to Morgantown's natural beauty, as the swimming leg is held in the Monongahela River. More than 800 athletes from across the country and around the world come to compete while 2,000 spectators cheer them on.

"The people of Morgantown step up to make these events unique and help make them successful," Plevich said. "Because we are a small town, we want to roll out the red carpet and show visitors what we're all about. And when they've been here, they always want to come back."

Hampton: Plenty Of Activity

As it's near the world's largest naval base, you'd expect Hampton to have a collection of fine sports facilities to accommodate an active population. Add in a professional force of sporting event planners, and it's easy to see why this Virginia city is a prime sports destination.

"Hampton has the perfect mid-Atlantic region location and is easily accessible," said Kris Smith, group sales manager for the Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau. "We have top-notch facilities, many of which are brand new and were built by people

who know exactly what event organizers want and need."

One facility is the year-old Boo Williams Sportsplex, with 135,000 square feet that plays host to basketball, indoor field hockey and volleyball. It also has a six-lane track where races are held from December to March. In addition, organizers are building up other indoor competitions, such as martial arts, soccer and lacrosse.

The Boo Williams Nike Invitational basketball tournament at the Sportsplex each April sees hundreds of teams from across the country travel to Hampton. In the most recent tournament, 220 girls' teams and 116 boys' teams took part.

The Hampton Coliseum also accommodates a range of indoor sports such as wrestling, basketball, hockey and gymnastics, as well as entertainment events and concerts, and on its 26,263-square-foot arena floor.

At Hampton University, the Convocation Center has seating for more than 7,000 and a 14,112-square-foot floor for the competitions in basketball, cheerleading, fencing, boxing, karate and wrestling.

Outdoors, Darling Stadium usually plays host to regional and state finals and can accommodate 8,000 spectators. The stadium puts on events for

archery, football, field hockey, soccer, and track and field.

Briarfield Park is home to five lighted tennis courts and four lighted softball fields on its 49 acres. A fitness trail and playground are open for use as well.

In 2010, Hampton will play host to the AAU Junior Olympics as athletes will compete in martial arts, basketball, baseball, gymnastics and other sports. This will be the city's fourth year with the event that brings in the Olympians of tomorrow.

"In Hampton, we love our sports and we have a good time with it," Smith said. "We're passionate about it. We really love what we do, and we enjoy working with the people and seeing the smiles on their faces, for both the athletes and attendees."

South-Atlantic Sports

Stretching from Florida to Virginia, the South Atlantic region has a rich tradition of football, legendary basketball teams and many top-notch athletic programs. This region offers top facilities for every sport. Planners will always be able to put on a great athletic event in the easygoing, sports-crazy South Atlantic. ■



WE'RE READY TO PLAY AT THE NEXT LEVEL. ARE YOU?

Sporting venues like the 135,000 sq. ft. Boo Williams Sportsplex and the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center have really elevated our game, and just in time for your next competition! Visit sportshampton.com or call (800)487-8778 for our Sports Facility Guide.

