

# SPORTS

## CCU GOLF IMPROVES TO THIRD PLACE AT MEAC SHOWCASE

*Senior Jones Shoots 2-Over-Par to Finish Fourth on Leaderboard*

BEACH, S.C. - After placing fourth a year ago at the conference championship-style event, North Carolina Central University posted three of its best four team scores of the year in third place at the MEAC Showcase, which concluded on Sunday at the Legends Golf Club in Myrtle Beach.

The team recorded team scores of 308 and a season-best 297 on Saturday, followed by a final round on Sunday (Apr. 21). The only other team score that sits among those during the rest of the season is the team's score of 308 on Sept. 29, 2012, at the Black College Hall of Fame Invitational in Atlanta.

Senior Jones, a junior from Shelby, N.C., led the charge for NCCU with scores of 74, 70 (-2) and 73 on the leaderboards. His 54-hole total of 218 is a career-best - by five strokes. Jones' final tally of a 2-under-par 70 was also a career-low.

Senior Mabe, a junior transfer out of Ether, rallied on Sunday with a 74 to move up to 12th place on the leaderboards with a round total of 227 (76, 77, 74).

Senior Wilson, a freshman from Flint, Mich., carded the best two rounds of his rookie campaign with scores of 78 and 73 on Saturday, finishing with an 85 on Sunday to place 19th.

Senior opening round 85, freshman Garreth Carpenter, a native of Augusta, Ga., responded with scores of 79 and 79 to finish in 22nd place.

Senior Jones, a junior from Durham, collected a three-round total of 247 (80, 87, 80) to place 24th on the leaderboards. The team's 29 golfers in attendance.

The team score of 297 in Saturday's second round is the lowest for the Eagles since Oct. 9, 2010, when the team also posted a 297 at the Louisburg Bullfight Summons tournament.

The Eastern Athletic Conference does not sponsor a championship for men's golf. Under the direction of first-year head coach David Hinton III, wraps up the 2012-13 season with a 12-1 record in the 27th PGA Minority Collegiate Championship at the PGA Golf Club in Port St. Joe, Ind.

## Notes: Wrigley talks "going in right direction"

By Jay Cohen

CHICAGO (AP) - It is 105 years and counting since the Chicago Cubs last won the World Series. The drought to end this season. Their longtime home appears headed for a major upgrade: The team and the city are close to announcing a long-awaited \$500 million renovation project for Wrigley Field.

"We're going in the right direction," Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts said April 8 before the start of the season at the 99-year-old neighborhood ballpark. "I think we've worked through a lot of issues over the weekend. I'll just leave it at that."

Chicago Mayor Emanuel and 44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney, whose district includes Wrigley Field, are sitting in the front row next to the Cubs' dugout for a 7-4 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers in the home opener. The duo would be a prominent part of any agreement, and Ricketts said he would talk to them early in the game.

"We've desperately wanted to update Wrigley for a while, saying it spends as much as a year just to keep up with the repairs. Wrigley is the second oldest in the major leagues and only Boston's Fenway Park. The Ricketts family bought the Cubs in 2009 for \$845 million and has made updating Wrigley a top priority."

"We're moving forward," Tom Ricketts said. "We're committed to getting something done for the city. The mayor's been terrific. The alderman's been very productive. Hopefully the beginning of the process to get something done. Just got to keep working through."

The renovation was expected to be completed by April 8, but Ricketts declined to provide another date or a finished agreement. The Ricketts family had set a deadline of April 1, but that didn't work and the sides kept talking.

"I'm just working through the process," Ricketts said. "There's going to be public hearings. We just have to start making sure that we check all the boxes that one has to check for a major development done in Chicago."

The project is expected to include approximately \$300 million in renovations to Wrigley, more than \$200 million in new hotels, Ricketts said most of the proposed changes to the ballpark are revenue generating.

"Our highest priority, honestly, is a clubhouse. ... It's way below standard," he said. "The things that I've said since we got here, if we want to have a first-class organization, it has to have second-rate facilities."

The ballpark is also expected to include a video scoreboard inside the park in left field and an outdoor right field. The size of the scoreboard had been an issue, since some owners of rooftop dining have a contract with the team governing their rooftop views of the games and could sue if the renovation does anything to hurt their business.

"It's a really awkward contract," Ricketts said. "I don't know if anyone's ever looked at it, but we'll be OK there."

Ricketts has said he'd be willing to pay for the entire project if the city would agree to add lights to the stadium and the signs. The Cubs also are expected to build a 300-space parking lot on the site of a gravel lot at a nearby cemetery; neighbors have long complained about a parking lot on game days.

"I haven't had public hearings on that and so I'm not sure exactly what all the issues are," Ricketts said. "But we're sensitive to things that affect the neighbors. We want to be sensitive to issues that the neighbors have. I think we have some ideas on parking that we can work on once again, we're just working through it."

## Big Plays Lead Gray Over Maroon In NCCU Spring Football Game

During North Carolina Central University's "Maroon vs. Gray" Spring Football Game, the Gray squad took advantage of big plays on offense, defense and special teams to hold off the Maroon team for a 10-6 victory in front of more than 3,000 fans inside O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium on Friday night.

Brandon McLaren opened the scoring for the Gray team by blasting a 47-yard field goal on the first play of the second quarter.

In the final minute of the second quarter, linebacker Tazmon Foster intercepted a pass at midfield for the Gray squad and returned the pick 20 yards to the 30-yard line. On the next play, the final snap before halftime, Quenton Rucker completed a 30-yard bomb into the end zone to Lamar Scruggs for a touchdown to give the Gray team a 10-0 lead at intermission.

The Maroon team threatened to score in the third quarter, but Jordan Reid's pass to the goal line was intercepted by Tim Thaniel to end the threat.

Near the end of the fourth quarter, quarterback Malcolm Bell raced through the line of scrimmage and into the end zone for a 14-yard touchdown for the Maroon squad. The extra-point kick by Oleg Parent missed the mark to keep the Gray lead at 10-6.

After forcing a punt, the Maroon team got the ball back for one final drive with a chance to win the game. Bell completed passes of 20 and 16 yards, then benefitted from a 15-yard personal foul penalty, to move the ball to the 9-yard line.

With its back against the wall, the Gray defense posted a sack by lineman Phillip Mitchell, then forced two incomplete passes to keep the Maroon offense out of the end zone and preserve the victory.

Foster sparked the Gray defensive effort with seven tackles, including six hits for a loss, along with an interception. Fellow linebacker Neil Williams added six takedowns with two tackles for a loss.

Rucker threw for 78 yards and a touchdown on 7-for-14 passing for the Gray squad, while teammate Matt Goggans completed 10-of-13 passes for 84 yards.

Scruggs finished as Gray's top receiver with six catches for 76 yards, including the 30-yard touchdown grab.

The Maroon offense was paced by Bell, who threw for 104 yards on 12-of-19 passing with an interception, while also recording a game-high 29 rushing yards, including a 14-yard touchdown scamper.

Adrian Wilkins led Maroon's receiving corps with five catches for 40 yards.

For the Maroon defense, linebacker Allonte Tuppins collected a team-best seven tackles with three hits for a loss, including two sacks. Fellow linebacker Tiron Guion contributed six stops with three takedowns behind the line of scrimmage, including a pair of sacks, along with a forced fumble.

The Eagles open their 12-game 2013 schedule with the "Bull City Gridiron Classic" at Duke on Aug. 31. The first of six NCCU home games will take place on Sept. 7 versus Saint Augustine's.

Season tickets are on sale now for only \$105, an \$80 savings off of the value of a reserved seat for each home game. For complete details about season ticket specials, visit [www.NCCUEaglePride.com](http://www.NCCUEaglePride.com) or <http://www.ncueaglepride.com> sports 2013 or call the NCCU Ticket Office at (919) 530-5170.

For more information about NCCU football, visit [www.NCCUEaglePride.com](http://www.NCCUEaglePride.com) or <http://www.NCCUEaglePride.com> or download the NCCU Sports Network app available in the App Store, Google Play and Amazon.

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