Greensboro will host 2011 figure skating championships

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Figure Skating has selected Greensboro as the host city for the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Jan. 22-30, 2011.

The event, held annually since 1914, is the nation's most prestigious figure skating event. Over the course of a week, 12 national champions will be crowned in ladies, men's, pairs and ice dancing on the senior, junior and novice levels.

"This is the first time the U.S. Championships have taken place in North Carolina," said U.S. Figure Skating executive director David Raith. "We're very excited about the opportunity to bring this event to the fans of figure skating in Greensboro and throughout the state."

North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue welcomed the selection.

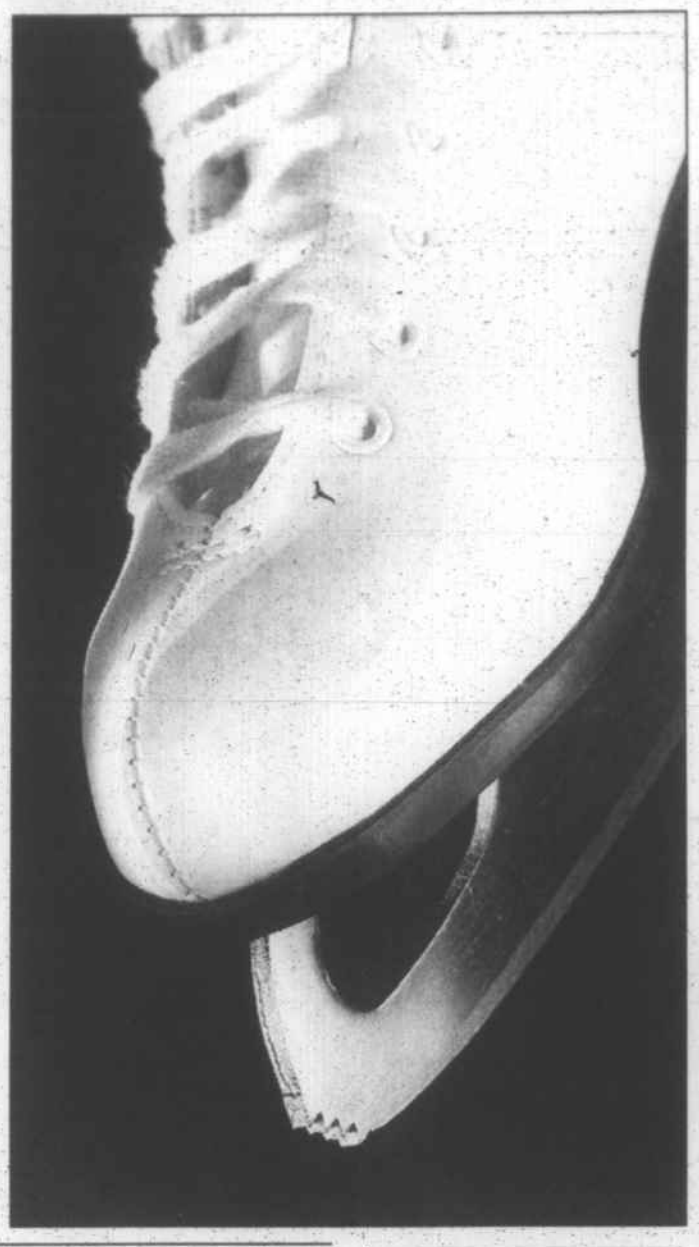
"North Carolina will be a fantastic location for the 2011 U.S. Championships," Perdue said. "We have a proven track record of (hosting) successful major events, and we have great facilities and wonderful volunteers."

Paul Wylie, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist and five-time U.S. medalist who resides in Charlotte and coaches at the Carolinas Figure Skating Club, sees North Carolina's selection as a defining moment for the state.

"The state of North Carolina has never hosted the U.S. Figure Skating Championships," Wylie said. "We have been growing in terms of new ice facilities and having more participants in the sport. With figure skating's premier event coming to the state in less than two years, I expect the growth in figure skating in North Carolina to be tremendous."

The nine-day event is expected to attract approximately 1,500 figure skaters, coaches and officials. Recent U.S. Championships have been held in Spokane, Wash. (2007); Saint Paul, Minn. (2008); and Cleveland, Ohio (2009); and next year's event will once again be held in Spokane.

Tickets for the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Championships will go on sale at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 9. Ticket purchases at that time will consist of reservations for All-Event Packages that provide premium seating to every session of the 2011 U.S. Championships. Details will be available at www.NorthCarolina2011.com.



Hampton

from page B1

Pellum had a game-high 14 points along with teammate Michael Freeman to snap the Aggies' eight game winning streak and to get the Pirates back in the win column.

Hampton (14-15, 7-8 MEAC) closed out the game on a 19-2 run that started at 9:35 with a good layup by Freeman (Alexandria, Va.) with the score 56-40. The Aggies, who led 39-23 at the half, scored their last field goal with 6:04 left in the contest.

Nickelberry

"We were able to get some key stops and scored a few points off turnovers to get things moving in our favor after being down by 16 points," said Pirates coach Kevin Nickelberry.

Pellum scored the final six points for the Pirates, as they shot 48 percent from the field and made 13-of-27 shots taken in the second half alone. Hampton's defense held the Aggies to just 19 points in the second half and to just 27 percent shooting, making just 6-of-22 shots taken. Hampton also forced 10 turnovers and scored 22 points in the paint and 20 off the bench in the second half alone.

"Our defense did a great job in the second half tonight," Nickelberry said, "because we were able to hold them without a score for the final six minutes of the game and it is something that we will need to keep on doing headed in the MEAC Tournament next week and against Howard on Thursday."

The Pirates pulled things together in the second half and they were able to shoot 36 percent from the field on the night, as they made 21-of-58 shots taken from the floor.

The Aggies finished the night with three players in double figures, led by Thomas Coleman with 11 points. Also in double figures were Robert Johnson and Nicholas Wilson, who each scored 10 points on the night.

The Pirates will close out the regular season tonight in Washington, D.C. as they face the Bison of Howard University at 8 p.m. The Aggies travel this evening to play Norfolk State, the team's last game before the upcoming MEAC Tournament in Winston-Salem, March 9 - 14.

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Tar Heel Bob Trott hired by Cavaliers

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Former Tar Heel Bob Trott has been named Virginia's linebackers coach.

He comes to Virginia after spending the past five years as a defensive assistant/linebackers coach for Romeo Crennel at the Cleveland Browns. His coaching resume includes other NFL experience with the New England Patriots from 1993 to 1995 and the New York Giants from 1991 to 1992. At both of those franchises, he worked as a defensive assistant while Al Groh was the team's defensive coordinator for at least one season.

Trott and Virginia Head Coach Al Groh coached together at the Air Force Academy for two seasons starting in 1978.

Bob Trott

"I have been associated with Bobby when he was a player, and as a colleague on three staffs," Groh said. "He has always been the same guy – resourceful, analytical, diligent, and totally committed to the team. He has been successful at the college level and the NFL."

A 1976 graduate of North Carolina, Trott was a three-year letterman at safety for the Tar Heels while Groh served as the team's linebackers coach under Bill Dooley. He previously worked as the defensive coordinator at Baylor (2002-03), Duke (1996-2001), Clemson (1990) and Arkansas (1989).

"To be back in the ACC and associated again with Al Groh is an exciting combination for me," Trott said. "To be at the University of Virginia tops it off. I understand and believe in how all these guys think and coach. Al's teams are highly respected within the NFL for toughness, preparation and player development. I'm anxious for the challenge to add to all of that."

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