



For Immediate Release
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Athletes Gain Unique Playing Fields in Goldsboro, North Carolina

Goldsboro, NC— The City of Goldsboro is excited to announce the grand opening of what has become one of the most unique sports venues in the country, the Bryan Multi-Sports Complex. The opening ceremony is scheduled to take place on the grounds of the complex located at 501 South Oak Forest Road on Monday, April 23rd, at 10 a.m., and the event is open to the public. The ceremony will entail a ribbon cutting, guest speakers, musical performances, a jet dedication for the F-4E Phantom permanent display, and a two-ship flyover by F-15E Strike Eagles. Alongside leadership from the city and Seymour Johnson AFB, special guest Mr. John Henderson, Assistant Secretary of USAF Installations, will be present for the historic occasion. “The city has been working towards this day for so long, and it wouldn’t have been possible without the help and persistent efforts of Seymour Johnson AFB, the U.S. Air Force, and generous sponsors, such as the Bryan Foundation,” said Randy Guthrie, Assistant City Manager.

In many ways, the multi-sports complex is the first of its kind. Randy Guthrie explains it is “the product of a joint P4 partnership between a military base and its home community. This P4 collaboration between the City of Goldsboro and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is part of a pilot project to share resources among government and private entities to reach common goals. The United States Air Force is leasing its land to the city to promote economic impact, and in return, the city has built a 2,500 sq. ft. addition onto SJAFB’s main fitness center. It’s a prime example of how positive collaboration between the Air Force and neighboring communities can strengthen the quality of life throughout the region.”

Located on 63 acres of Seymour Johnson AFB, the complex has six irrigated natural Bermuda hybrid and two artificial turf fields all installed on engineered soils. Currently, three fields are illuminated with plans to install lighting on all eight fields. Additional amenities include a cutting edge fieldhouse with meeting space and concessions, premium restroom facilities, paved parking areas, and a retired F-4E Phantom on static display welcoming visitors to the site. This aircraft was assigned to the 334th “Eagles” Fighter Squadron for its entire distinguished history from September 1977 to December 1990. This aircraft was the last operational F-4E to serve at Seymour Johnson AFB.

A custom splash pad, playground and covered picnic shelters are expected to be installed at the complex in the near future. “We wanted to make sure the complex caters to the multi-faceted needs of the community and visitors. The playground, splash pad, covered picnic shelter, and walking trails will make the complex a park and inviting for the public to enjoy,” said Scott Barnard, Director of Goldsboro Parks & Recreation.

“From the moment people turn into the complex’s main entrance and are greeted by an F-4E, we hope they are impressed by how well the complex characterizes Goldsboro’s history and legacy. To have a dedicated space where civilian athletes can regularly compete and practice under the contrails of our nation’s heroes has been an appeal factor for tournament directors looking for venues,” said Ashlin Glatthar, Goldsboro-Wayne County Director of Travel & Tourism.

Only five days after the grand opening, the City of Goldsboro and Wayne County United Soccer Club (WCUSC) are co-hosting the NCYSA Kepner President’s State Cup April 28th & 29th. “Wayne County

United Soccer Club is proud to be working in conjunction with the City of Goldsboro in hosting a 2018 Kepner Cup. We see this as a great opportunity for growth in our community. It builds upon our mission to provide ample opportunities for youth soccer teams in our area to develop character, responsibility, good sportsmanship, teamwork, health & physical fitness, as well as, encourage athletic development and competitive play for the youth of our community,” said Gabby Blalock, Secretary for WCUSC.

The tournament is expected to bring in 64 teams and approximately 2,500 visitors from across the state for the weekend. Colby Morton, the NCYSA Assistant Director of Classic/State Cup, stated “NC Youth Soccer is very excited to have Wayne County United Soccer Club and the City of Goldsboro teaming up to host our Kepner President’s State Cup. Being one of the first events at the new Bryan Multi-Sports Complex on Seymour Johnson AFB, our teams get to experience a unique atmosphere while playing on pristine new fields. In addition to the new complex, the City of Goldsboro has rolled out the red carpet for our incoming teams, making this end of season event a memorable and exciting one for the players. The City of Goldsboro offers the best of all atmospheres with a revitalized downtown area along with the access to things a big city possesses. It’s thrilling to think about possibly catching a glimpse of fighter jets in action, which is a special treat for our organization and teams!”

Based on bookings and expressed interest of several field sport organizations, the Bryan Multi-Sports Complex is expected to have a \$2.7 million impact on the local economy within its first operating year.

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