

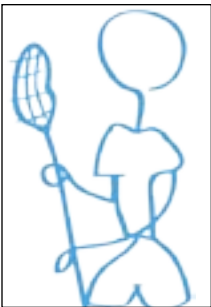
UNC newcomers to watch in 2012-13

These 10 non-revenue athletes should be on everyone’s radar.

The start of the 2012-13 academic year means that a brand new batch of athletes are starting their careers at North Carolina.

This list of 10 athletes new to North Carolina is unusual in that none of these athletes will be playing in the Dean E. Smith Center or Kenan or Boshamer stadiums in their careers.

Instead, these athletes represent some of North Carolina’s most successful non-revenue sports programs, including the men’s lacrosse team, both golf and soccer teams, as well as the volleyball and swimming and diving teams.



LACROSSE

STEVE PONTRELLO: For St. Augustine Prep in New Jersey, Pontrello netted 50 goals and 37 assists this season. That work earned him Under Armour All-American honors and a spot on the USA U19 team.

SPENCER PARKS: Parks is also an Under Armour All-American, and he hails from Fallston, Md. A midfielder for St. Paul’s High School, Parks scored 21 goals and 13 assists last season.



GOLF

SAMANTHA MARKS: This Maitland, Fla., native is the only UNC recruit that played in the 2012 Women’s U.S. Open. She also recently won an AJGA event.

KEAGAN CUMMINGS: A native of Ireland, Cummings is the 34th best recruit in this year’s class, by Golfweek’s Junior Rankings. He was a member of the 2009 Irish Under 16 Team and the 2011 Irish Boys Home Internationals team.



VOLLEYBALL

VICTORIA MCPHERSON: McPherson is a 6-foot-2 middle blocker from Oakland Park, Fla., and is the Tar Heels’ highest ranked recruit. Prep Volleyall’s Top-100 Senior Aces lists McPherson as the 56th

best high school senior, as she lead her North Broward Preparatory School team to the state title game.



SWIMMING

LAUREN EARP: This Canadian swimmer was tabbed as the 14th best recruit by CollegeSwimming.com, and has seen some success in the middle-distance freestyles and breaststroke events.

In the 200/400-meter freestyles, she has posted career best times of 2:00.72/4:17.96.



SOCCER

SUMMER GREEN: This Milford, Mich., native set the scoring record at the U17 CONCACAF Championships and won the tournament’s Golden Boot award.

REILLY PARKER: Parker joins Anson Dorrance’s staff from Danville, Calif., and is ranked by Top Drawer Soccer as the fifth best incoming midfielder.

ANDY CRAVEN: Craven comes to UNC as a transfer from College of Charleston. Originally from St. Simon’s Island, Ga., Craven was a standout for the Cougars. He also won SOCON Freshman of the Year.

JOEY AMON: Tabbed as a five-star recruit and the tenth best in the country by Top Drawer Soccer, Amon was also a member of the 2011 USA FIFA U17 World Cup team.

‘God particle’ search has ties to UNC paper

The quest began with a paper that Peter Higgs wrote at UNC.

By Samuel Mason
Staff Writer

The discovery from the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, of a new particle is being hailed as a victory for particle physicists everywhere.

What is less known is that the paper that launched the 50-year quest to identify the particle was written by a post-doctoral research associate while spending a year at UNC.

Chris Clemens, chair of the UNC department of physics and astronomy, said two teams of research scientists simultaneously announced the results of their research in Switzerland, which showed with an extremely high degree of probability the existence and energy of the Higgs boson particle.

This particle, sometimes called the “God particle” to the chagrin of scientists, is widely thought to confirm the presence of a force field predicted by the standard model of particle physics, a theory which attempts to explain how the universe works.

The theory claims there is a universal force field that gives mass to all elementary particles.

“I personally consider it a real triumph on all fronts,” said Bruce Carney, a physics professor and UNC executive vice chancellor and provost.

While CERN’s discovery represents the culmination of the search for the elusive Higgs boson, the origin can be traced back to the state.

In May 1966, an academic paper written by then-post-doctoral research associate

Peter Higgs — the particle’s namesake — was published in the Physical Review, an academic journal, based on some complex mathematics he performed at UNC’s Bahnsen Institute of Field Physics.

While Higgs brought the nucleus of this idea over from Edinburgh, he worked out the kinks at UNC, said Eugen Merzbacher, longtime friend of Higgs and retired physics professor at the University.

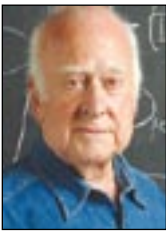
“It gave him the leisure to complete the work and to write it up,” he said. “He didn’t have to teach, so it was very important.”

Carney said the Bahnsen Institute was a mecca to theoretical physicists of the day.

He said some notable physicists were drawn to the state in 1957 due to the General Relativity Conference — a staple event among physicists.

Higgs was at UNC for the 1965-66 academic year on invitation to study gravitation. While at the University, Merzbacher said Higgs traveled to other universities to present his theory.

He returned to researching mathematical physics at the Tait Institute at the University



Peter Higgs spent 1965-66 at UNC, where he wrote the paper that led to the search for the Higgs boson particle.

of Edinburgh after leaving UNC, where his fame continued to grow with the evolution of the standard model of particle physics.

Merzbacher said he would characterize Higgs as polite but modest, with a good sense of humor.

“I think he has fond memories of Chapel Hill,” he said.

Celebration continues regarding success at CERN, but Clemens said there is more science to be done. The energy of the particle, while answering some questions, raises others.

“That’ll be the interesting conversation: now that we know this number, why is it that way? Does it have to be that way, or is it just in our universe it happens to be that way, and if it weren’t we wouldn’t be here to discuss it,” Clemens said.

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