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SPORTS

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Charlotte may host old rivals

Pirates may meet Wolfpack in '96

By **LEONARD LAYE**
Sports Editor

N.C. State and East Carolina are close to renewing their college football rivalry with a game in Charlotte's new Carolinas Stadium.

→ "It's more of a probability than a possibility," said Ken Haines, vice president of Raycom, the Charlotte-based television and marketing company organizing the game.

→ Haines said the matchup was not yet certain but said it could be scheduled as early as 1996, the first year the stadium near uptown Charlotte will be open.

"The best way to describe it is we're in the exploratory stage," N.C. State athletic director Todd Turner said.

Carolinas Stadium will be home to the NFL's Carolina Panthers, which owns the facility. Panthers officials said when the stadium was in planning stages they hoped to have other events there.

Raycom has been trying to put together the Wolfpack-Pirates matchup. The Charlotte Regional Sports Commission has been working on another college game between North Carolina and South Carolina.

The N.C. State-East Carolina rivalry has been intense in previous years but has not been played in recent seasons.

Earlier this year some N.C. legislators said they would try to force N.C. State and North Carolina, two of the state's four ACC members, to play the Pirates if athletic directors would not make such arrangements on their own.

← "We've been talking to both schools for two or three years now," Haines said. "Both schools have told us they would like to play the game. We're in the process of discussing it now with the stadium people."

Rich Sheubrooks, director of the regional sports commission, could not be reached for comment on the status of a proposed North Carolina-South Carolina game.

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Staff writer Sam Adams contributed to this article.