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October 2017

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**Meet the Players:** Kevin Bailey, Chris Rivera, and Josh Lewis: Kevin Bailey (#43), the head coach and small forward of the Triangle Thunder, puts a strong emphasis on the mental component of the game of wheelchair basketball. During practice, Kevin always tells his players to “think during practice, so you don’t have to think in the game.” This piece of basketball wisdom allows the team to play the game with naturalness. We practice plays routinely to the point where we know what to do a majority of the time, and we don’t have the fear of making mistakes which, in the head coach’s eyes, is the most “rewarding” aspect of being a coach: “The most rewarding experiences for me as a coach are all the little experiences... When I see the players come together as one to play a good defensive possession. When I see the players successfully run an offensive play that requires teamwork and unselfishness... Those are the moments that are rewarding to me.” Chris Rivera (#5) and Josh Lewis (#2) are the team’s assistant coaches and main shooting guards. Additionally, both men are eager to work with their teammates. “As an assistant coach, my goal is to learn how to be a more effective coach off the court while learning the strengths of each of our players,” said Rivera. Josh Lewis reinforces his fellow assistant coach’s words when he talks about his favorite aspect of being an assistant coach. “Something I really enjoy as an assistant coach is the one-on-one coaching I get to do with some players. I like breaking down plays and strategies with teammates and trying to explain things in a helpful way,” said Lewis. For both Chris and Josh, being an assistant coach is not about harshly critiquing their players and teammates. Rather, they, like Kevin, want to reemphasize the importance of getting the team to properly execute the “little things” on the court on a consistent basis. All three men have one common goal: make the team play *team* basketball. They have the knowledge of the game to help the team achieve this goal, which makes the Kevin, Chris, and Josh the perfect coaches for this team.

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## Upcoming Events

### **Birthdays:**

Alan Richardson (10/9)

Kevin Tenney (10/11)

## Important Announcements

The deadline for website orders is October 10<sup>th</sup>.

All catalog orders have been sent to Yankee Candle. They will be delivered between 3-4 weeks.

The Triangle Thunder start off the season undefeated as they picked up two victories as they soundly defeated the Triad Trackers (48-26; 56-40) in their season-opener. Akeem Hassell was the highest scorer in the first game (15 points); Tee Foster, Sam Ballard, and Chris Rivera each scored the highest amount of points (12 points) in the second game.

The Triangle Thunder will travel to Harrisonburg, Virginia to play the Harrisonburg Cardinals on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

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The Triangle Thunder is a competitive and recreational wheelchair basketball team representing the Greater Triangle Area Community. We provide opportunities for men and women with a variety of disabilities to become involved in the sport of wheelchair basketball. Our goal is to foster each participant’s social and well-being through vigorous physical exercise, skill formation, and healthy fellowship with other persons with disabilities.

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### Important Websites:

<http://trianglethunder.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/trianglethunder/>

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**Thank you to our main sponsors! We would not be able to play the sport that we love in the city that we love without their help!**



**We would also like to thank and recognize our new sponsors for assisting us in achieving our goals:**

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