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November 2017

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**Meet the Players:** Michael Atkins (#20) and Tee Foster (#21)

Michael Atkins is one of the Thunder's point-forwards, and he is the cofounder of the team. Back in 1993, Michael, along with the help of fellow cofounder Laurie Holly and a \$1000 donation from WakeMed, established a local wheelchair basketball team here in Raleigh. This year, Michael was unanimously chosen by the team to be one of its captains, which is a fitting role for him as he is one of the squad's most accomplished players. Throughout his twenty-plus-year career, Michael has always emphasized to his teammates the importance of conducting oneself with good character: "We got to represent the team in a positive way. We have to show sportsmanship above everything else." For Michael, a player's talent is utterly meaningless if he or she does not carry him or herself with good character on the court. Michael believes that every member on the Thunder should conduct themselves like grown men and women, because those are the kinds of people that will be accepted to the team.

Tee Foster, like Michael, is a point-forward, and he was also unanimously chosen to be one of the Thunder's captains. Tee's philosophy as a team captain is straightforward: "Play hard and do your best. Never give up; no matter what things look like on and off the court. Most of all, just have fun." Tee has always abided by this philosophy in twenty-two years of playing wheelchair basketball, and he plans to implement his beliefs into the team, so that it will benefit the team's overall success throughout the season. Furthermore, like Michael, Tee also believes that it is important for the players to be "a role model on and off the court." The main reason why Michael and Tee are our team captains is because they understand that the scoreboard is not the only aspect of basketball that matters.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Birthdays:**

Chris Rivera (11/9)

Travis Smith (11/17)

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**Important Announcements**

We would like to thank those who participated in our fundraiser! We sold \$1274 in products, and our profit, in sales, is currently \$509! Our Yankee Candle fundraiser has been extended to the end of December for online orders only. Our group number is 999970339.

The Triangle Thunder split their two games with the Harrisonburg, Cardinals, winning the first game (63-55), and losing the second game (52-45). Tee Foster scored the most points for the Thunder in both games (24 points in the first game; 24 points in the second game).

The Triangle Thunder will be battling the Richmond Rimriders on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The Triangle Thunder will also travel to Hampton, Virginia on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for the Virginia Beach Tournament.

The Triangle Thunder will have their next home game on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, against the Fayetteville Flyers.

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**Important Websites:**

<http://trianglethunder.org>

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

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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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**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:**

**Wilmington Medical Supply Inc.**

**Village Deli and Grill**

**Ray Price Harley Davidson-Raleigh**

**Simple Twist Café**

**Brett Herrmann from State Farm**

**Tee Foster**

**William and Patty Smith**

**Paralyzed Veterans of America**

**Harry and Susan Linzer**

**Jim and Susan Parker**