
May 2018



Meet the Player Miles Hill (#35):

Miles Hill, who has been playing wheelchair basketball for six years (two of which he has played with us), has proven himself not only to be an elite player, but he has also demonstrated to us that he is a man full of wisdom. He plans to bring these valuable qualities to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the fall of this year.

When he is on the court, Miles emphasizes the importance of “energy and communication.” “They are the only two factors you can control, and when you bring both of those, then the wins tend to come too,” Miles said. These components of the game assisted Miles in developing his game; he has focused on these aspects of the sport during his six years of playing basketball, which has not only helped him in becoming a quality guard for his varsity team, but he also quickly become one of our best players, providing us with much-needed boosts of energy and communication on both ends of the floor.

Off the court, Miles has been a strong proponent for individuals with disabilities. “advocating for yourself is not being selfish; rather, it is an important aspect of learning how to live successfully with a disability,” the young man stated. Miles has participated in a multitude of wheelchair basketball demos and other adaptive sporting events in order to illustrate to the people of the greater Triangle area that individuals with disabilities are to be respected and treated equally along with those who are able-bodied.

To say that we are proud of Miles is more than an understatement. We are in awe of him. He is taking a huge step in his life by not only going to college and playing for a collegiate team, but also by leaving his home to pursue an independent life. Thank you for everything you have done for us, Miles. You are one of our dearest brothers, and we wish you the best as you begin your journey to college and adulthood.

Upcoming Events

Birthdays:

William Christy (5/25)

Akeem Hassell (6/9)

Tee Foster (7/15)

Miles Hill (7/20)

(Since we will be taking a break this summer from writing our newsletters [see the Important Announcements section], all the summer birthdays have been lumped together.)

Important Announcements

We will be taking a break from composing newsletters during the summer. We will resume writing and publishing our newsletters at the beginning of next season.

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 well-being through vigorous physical exercise, skill formation, and healthy fellowship with other persons with disabilities.

Important Websites:

<http://trianglethunder.org>

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

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 other supporters for assisting us in achieving our goals:

Stalls Medical and Adaptive Vans Inc.
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
Shea Serrano and his Twitter followers
Dan Hudgins from Johnson's Jewelry of Raleigh

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We would also like to take the time to thank and recognize our GoFundMe donors! Without each and every one of them, we would not have been able to go to Nationals and represent the greater Triangle area:

**Deborah Pergerson
Anna Kouba
Gloria Johnson
Mary Christy
Michael Brown
Michele Cerrentani
George Lally
Mark Turnpenny
Kathy Lewis
Tara Barber
Anthony Roberts
Patrick Watters
Joseph Ng
Patricia Dodenhoff
Brian Dautel
Charles Strickland
Jennifer Webster
Jean Plow
Amy Roberts
Lynn Stewart Kester
Gary and Ann Marie Weaver
Sandra Locklear
Tim Shaughnessy
Shanon Linzer
Brian Pizzalato
James Garneau
Michael Olin
Margaret Taylor**

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Letter from the Editor:

Almost one year ago, I met with a few of my teammates during basketball practice, and they offered me the opportunity to write the team's newsletter. I accepted the position immediately because, throughout my six years of playing on this team, I have been treated not only like a valued teammate, but also as an integral piece to a close-knit family. Whenever I needed a ride to practice, or whenever I needed someone to hear me vent about my personal stresses and concerns – both on and off the court – my coaches and teammates have been there for me. I found it not only morally right, but also long overdue that I assist the team in any way I could in our collective goal to go to Nationals.

Since writing this newsletter, I have noticed a significant change in how we are valued by the people in our city. When I first joined the team, we only had a few family members and friends come watch us play, both during practices and games. Now, through this online newsletter, our fan base has grown exponentially. The bleachers were nearly – if not entirely – packed at every home game. These same fans brought signs and were extremely vocal, yelling out “defense” if we needed to make a defensive stop or “let's go, Thunder” if we needed to make a run. Our fans – from those who have supported us since the beginning, to those who joined us this past season – have been vital to our success on and off the court. Thank you, fans for all the support you have given to the team. Each and every one of you are vital to our success, both on and off the court.

Additionally, I want to thank Coach Kevin and DeVonna Douglas for giving me the opportunity to compose the team's newsletter throughout this season. I am also grateful for my teammates' support throughout this season. Moreover, I want to express my gratitude for Kevin Jones for publishing the newsletters on our website, and I want to praise Mary Katherine Lewis and Carrie Hall for all the work they have done via social media and fundraising, which has assisted the team greatly in our financial goals. Lastly, thank you, David Emory, for being the team's ball-boy during our warmups prior to our games. Every individual has done their duty excellently, and I cannot wait to see how we increase our fan base next season!

Sincerely,
William Christy

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