

Bridge II Sports - Press Release

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Wheelchair Basketball Takes Over PNC Arena

Bridge II Sports brings elite all-stars, corporate/community organizations and adapted sports together on the court to 'Change The Game' at AUGUST MADNESS

On **Monday, August 19**, the squeak of sneakers will be replaced by the sound of wheels screeching and metal banging when PNC Arena is transformed into three courts of wheelchair basketball competition, all for a good cause.

The 8th Annual [August Madness Wheelchair Basketball Tournament Fundraiser](#) supports local nonprofit organization [Bridge II Sports](#), creating life-changing impact for youth, adults and Veterans with physical disabilities through year-round adapted sport programming and special events.

"With its roots back in the NC Pro AM with Jerry Stackhouse and Josh Powell trying wheelchair basketball, August Madness has grown as an opportunity for all in our community to experience and see what individuals with physical disabilities can do, rather than see the limitations." said Ashley Thomas, founder and CEO of Bridge II Sports and a wheelchair user herself.

"We believe in the power of play to bring people together, open eyes and minds, challenge perceptions and break down barriers. It is incredible to watch elite all-stars with and without disabilities and people from all parts of our community come together for a day of competition, fun and respect."

This year Bridge II Sports is proud to announce **MetLife** as the event sponsor for August Madness.

Corporate and community organizations will be joining MetLife on the court with teams of their employees who will pair up with an All-Star athlete to experience wheelchair basketball first hand. Teams will compete for the coveted 'Golden Ball Trophy' in this good-natured tournament.

To date teams from the Triangle and beyond will include **MetLife (2), Glaxo Smith Kline (2), RTI International, Van Products, Smith Debnam Law, PNC Arena and ATC Innovative Mobility with registration continuing to August 12th. Wounded warriors from Ft. Bragg and Camp Lejeune will also be participating.**

Teams are raising funds leading up to the tournament to increase their chance of the #1 pick at [THE DRAFT on Sunday August 18th](#). The Draft is an exclusive evening celebration at PNC Executive Club in the Durham Bulls Athletic Park. Guests will mingle with All-Star draft picks including **former Harlem Globetrotter Johnny 'Hawk' Thomas, NBA/WNBA legends Chucky Brown, Phil Ford, and Chasity Melvin alongside several elite wheelchair basketball players from NWBA teams.** Teams will go 'on the clock' to make their pick just like in the big time.

Tournament day at PNC Arena on August 19th is open to the public with free admission and parking.

There will be plenty of activity off the court as well for spectators. **Microsoft is hosting an interactive adapted e-gaming and assistive technology in the workplace exhibit on the concourse.** Bridge II Sports will be featuring adapted sports including bocchia and cycling.

The first ever wheelchair **Mascot Game** will tip off at 5:30pm matching a team including **Ms. Wuf from NC State, Ramses from UNC, the Carolina Hurricanes' Stormy** and others against Bridge II Sports athletes and local media personalities.

The August Madness championship game will follow at 6pm.

Sponsors for this year's event include Capitol Broadcasting Company, PNC Arena, and major event sponsor MetLife.

MEDIA COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

Media interested in covering Bridge II Sports events may contact Bridge II Sports' Marketing Manager, Brad Rosell, atbradr@bridge2sports.org or by phone at (866) 880-2742 ext. 3. Media will be required to check in at the event and review/sign [Bridge II Sports Media Policy](#).

*Important Note: Media interested in attending The Draft on August 18th must RSVP with Brad Rosell prior to the event.

Bridge II Sports is a North Carolina non-profit organization dedicated to developing and implementing opportunities for youth and adults with physical disabilities to realize their potential through sports participation. Through adapted sports programming, special events, awareness initiatives and team development, Bridge II Sports aims to empower persons with physical disabilities to "Find the Player Within" and challenge community perceptions of disability. Bridge II Sports provides year-round adapted sports programming and several adapted sports events including Valor Games Southeast for Veterans and members of the armed services with disabilities and regional wheelchair basketball tournaments.

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