

## Meet your HOTT Lax Head Coaches (2017)

**Tyler Haines** (Hammers). Tyler, who is the head lacrosse coach at Ragsdale High School, is in his third year coaching with the Blackhawks. Tyler has emerged as one of the Blackhawks's best sideline coaches and often will coach one or more of the Blackhawks's travel teams. A native of Westminster, MD and a graduate of Winters Mill High School (where he earned All-Carroll County honors), Tyler played goalie for four years at Frostburg State University. During his senior year (2014) at Frostburg, Tyler saved 58% of his shots, had a goals-against average of 7.76, and saved an astounding 40 of 62 shots on goal in two games against NCAA D3 runner-up Salisbury. Tyler plays goalie on the Adult Blackhawks travel team.

**Joel Mize**. (Category 5, Co-Head Coach). Entering his 4<sup>th</sup> year as a Blackhawks coach, Joel Mize is the founder and head coach of the North Davidson High School lacrosse program. Having grown up in Davidson County and played multiple sports, Coach Mize put in endless hours of organization, recruiting, fundraising, and coaching to bring lacrosse as a club sport to NDHS in 2014. After 3 years of competing at the club level and improving each year (finishing 11-5 in 2016), Coach Mize spearheaded the huge leap to the varsity level in 2017, and competed in its first varsity season in one of the area's toughest conferences. Known for his passion for the game and the upbeat energy he brings to the field, Coach Mize led his HOTT Lax team last summer to top seed in the playoffs and reached the title game before losing a heartbreaker in overtime. He also led his team to an undefeated record in last summer's K-Vegas Classic, during which he got dunked in the dunking booth in order to win \$1,000 for the new NDHS varsity lacrosse program.

**Rob Thomas** (Category 5, Co-Head Coach). A graduate of Greensboro's Page High School, where he starred as a midfielder in one of the Triad's best lacrosse programs, Rob then played midfield at St. Andrews University before transferring to Mt. Olive University for Trojans' inaugural 2013 season. At MOU, where he finished out his collegiate career and earned his degree, Rob was a full-field middle who also occasionally took faceoffs. This is Rob's second year as a

Blackhawks coach. He and his wife, Kelly, are also the owners of Blackhawks team dog “Lovie.” Rob is a key player on the Adult Blackhawks travel team.

**Sam Newland** (Pachyderms). Sam is entering his 6th year of coaching with the Blackhawks, having started as the program’s defensive coordinator and moving into his current position as head high school coach. He coached the spring Blackhawks to two winning records, in 2014 and 2015, and continues to assist the spring program. He also coaches at West Stokes High School. Sam’s HOTT Lax teams have won each of the last two HOTT Lax titles, in 2015 with the Littering Hippies and in 2016 with the Goliath Groupers. A native of Vienna, VA, Sam attended and graduated from George C. Marshall High School, where in addition to playing lacrosse, he also played football and basketball and was a member of the swim team. He then attended and graduated from Guilford College, playing 4 years as a midfielder and faceoff specialist (and playing with a herniated disc during his senior year). Sam currently plays midfield on the Adult Blackhawks travel team.

**Justin Pearson** (Crease Monkeys). Entering his 6<sup>th</sup> year as a Blackhawks coach, Justin is one of our program’s most versatile coaches, successfully working with all positions and all experience levels. He has coached several of our travel teams over the years. A native of Morristown, NJ, Justin played football, basketball, and lacrosse at Morristown High School in the sports hotbed of Morris County, where he received numerous all-division and all-conference awards. Justin then entered Greensboro College, playing lacrosse as an offensive midfielder for Coach Dan Cetrone for four years and earning his degree. Justin has also coached at Glenn High School and at St. Pius X and started a lacrosse club at Kiser Middle School. He also coaches basketball. A true student of the game of lacrosse, Justin is one of our “go-to” coaches for high school players trying to navigate the college recruiting process. Justin also is considered one of the best young officials in the Triad. Justin is one of the Adult Blackhawks most electrifying scorers as a midfielder.