

TAMPA, FLORIDA

BEN CARPENTER



QUICK FACTS

AGE: 22

LOCAL TEAM: Tampa Thunder

OCCUPATION: Student at University of Central Florida

ABOUT BEN:

Tampa Thunder's Ben Carpenter's start at power soccer literally went from the ground up. In 2003, the Atlanta Synergy came to Carpenter's hometown in Florida where they put on a clinic to seek interest. Carpenter decided to join a group there and they "wanted to go the next step and start {their} own team." Since then, Carpenter and his team have been rolling. "We haven't won any national championships, but we have placed second in the US in 2014, and second in North America in 2010," says Carpenter.

Next year will be Carpenter's first World Cup, although he has international experience as he was member of Team USA in 2013 when they went to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. "I was extremely determined to make this team; my two prior international experiences with the sport gave me a real hunger to compete against the best of the best on the world stage," Carpenter explained. Carpenter was 16 and a bit too young to join the last World Cup team, so "competing in a World Cup has been a driving point for {him} since then."

Carpenter is a hands-on, creative guy when he isn't on the court; you might even say that he brings his creativity with him to games. In his free time, Carpenter enjoys "building things with my friends and family, from robotics projects all the way to costumes for conventions." Carpenter is a senior at UCF, currently studying mechanical engineering. Right now, he is in the middle of an internship at Ashland Technologies, an amusement park ride fabrication and design company in Orlando, and hopes "to enter into the amusement park industry as an attraction designer and engineer upon graduation."