

Gridiron Gazette : Snotlings

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It took a long while for snotling teams to emerge and be recognized for what they were, as many people thought they were just baby goblins. This month the Gazette holds its nose, goes down to the Drops, and shines the spotlight on these mischief makers!

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Snotshire Dribblers

Although no longer playing, the Dribblers are trail blazers in the snotling world. Sadly, in the wake of that trail are the bodies of just about everyone associated with the team!

Night Goblin Shaman Nabling Wartnose, the original founder and owner of the team didn't actually get to see them play. He trained the team and led them in a number of exhibition games. However, tragically he was to die of a mushroom overdose before the opening game of their first ever tournament. Perhaps that is just as well, in that game the Redmeadow Rangers killed all but two of the Dribblers in the opening half. The surviving pair then fell victim to the crowd in a pitch invasion!

The Dribblers were not to fall at the first hurdle however! A new coach and players were found, and they fought on that season. They made their name by disguising a pump wagon as a mobile stage for their cheerleaders to perform on. The 'stage' was to burst forth and squash anyone who looked like they might score. When it did lurch into action, they swiftly lost control of it. It careered across the pitch and into the stands killing 233 fans, 14 NAF officials, a number of the opposition and all but two of the Dribblers. The snotlings disbanded the team, what a first season!

From small beginnings

- By Dolf Ungerhaagen

The history of snotling teams is relatively brief (a lot like this issue of the Gazette) and very, very bloody. What snotlings lack in size, however, they certainly make up for in relentless optimism and determination, however ill-founded it may be. The snotlings' start in Blood Bowl isn't thanks to ogres as many would think, but as we wend our way through their history, it was goblins who made it all possible.

Snarky Kneebiter, the goblin Head Coach, has been attributed as the first person to put a snotling team together. The team in question never played any professional or amateur games, they were purely a training team for Snarky's goblins to practice on. Beating up some snotlings was enough to restore any wounded pride the goblins may have gotten from whoever last gave them a right good stompin'.

Another goblin coach, Grot Bilegit of the Bog Boyz was the first coach to include a pump wagon on his roster. The Bog Boyz had recently had a very lethal encounter with a Deathroller which squished 9 of their first team players flat. So enraged was Grot, he was determined to field something similar himself. The best he could come up with was to hire a snotling pump wagon which wasn't terrible but didn't match up to the power of a Death Roller.

Another goblin innovation which saw snotlings take to the pitch once more came from the coach of the Lowdown Rats, Boz Blacklung. One of the issues goblins faced was that their players were so weedy and despite their thick heads were knocked out easily. Boz decided that they needed some on the pitch medical assistance and so the short lived (in every sense) position of the snotling medic was born. The first ever snotling medic was actually just an autograph hunting fan in the wrong place at the wrong time. His moment of fame in dashing onto the pitch, encouraged others to sign up and have their time in the limelight. The issue was the snotlings were even easier to kill than the goblins and absolutely zero medical training was invested in them. It was doomed to failure!

Around this time, ogre teams were re-evaluating who they should be partnered with. For quite some years they had played alongside goblins, but it was never a particularly harmonious relationship. The goblins were too sneaky by half and easily outwitted the ogres who were meant to be in charge. Snotlings however were a different matter and soon legions of them began to appear on ogre rosters all over the Old World. They were playing the game at last!

The ogres and snotlings worked well together for a number of years, but things were due to change once more thanks to a goblin. Night Goblin Shaman Nabling Wartnose is known to have had a mushroom addiction problem, perhaps it was this that gave him the insane idea of setting up an all snotling team. Whatever the cause, the Snotshire Dribblers were formed and snotlings finally began to play Blood Bowl in their own teams. One team was instantly invited to take part in the Thimble Cup, as the Halflings were keen to have someone smaller than themselves who could be relied upon to finish last each season.

All snotling teams soon caught on and before you could hurl a rock at a dung pile they proliferated greatly all over the Old World and the Bad Lands. Snotlings, it seems, are here to stay! However, given the ever-changing nature of Blood Bowl, the little critters weren't quite done yet. They have recently started to appear on Denizen teams. Who knows where they'll turn up next!



Mighty Crud-Creek Nosepickers

- By Gerhardt Schtumpf

The 'Pickers are undoubtedly the premier snotling team playing the game at the moment. As we'll see, that doesn't actually mean they are any good . . .

2488 - *The Nosepickers began, as many of the best ideas do, in the tavern over a few ales. A number of snotlings, fed up of the booting they were getting from ogre teammates (and no doubt inspired by the Dribblers) were drowning their sorrows in fungus brew. They fell in with a dwarf named Bong the Mighty who wore a 'Bloodweiser Best Newcomer' medal stuck in his beard. Late into the night, a plan was hatched - Bong would coach the newly fledged team!*

2489 - *What a first tournament for the Nosepickers! Entering the Jolly Green stunty league, they 'win' the wooden spoon after a series of mishaps. First up they tried to kidnap the Spore Boyz's main weapon, their fanatic. It backfired spectacularly as 50 of their sidelines staff (50? Not even the Reavers have that many!) were killed in the attempt. On the pitch results were equally as bad, being mauled by the Bakers Dozen and even losing to the Spider Stalkers who could only field 6 players. Any further chances they had of success were consigned to the dung heap when a pump wagon lost control and squashed 13 of their own players flat!*

For the next 3 years the Nosepickers struggle on, sticking to stunty only competitions. Even in these, each new game brings fresh disasters although with glimmers of improvement . . . faint glimmers.

2492 - *These glimmers flare into a spark. Once more playing in the Jolly Green league again, the Nosepickers manage to pull off a draw against the Bad Moon Brotherhood. This becomes headline news and corporate sponsors suddenly were keen to invest in everyone's favourite no-hopers. However, Bong vanished overnight, not to be seen again, leaving behind his medal, now disentangled from his beard. The Dribblers promptly sell it for 2 copper pieces. The spark of hope is snuffed out as they go on to lose their next 27 matches.*

2493 - *After a coach load of . . . well . . . coaches come and go, Luthor the Inglorious takes the reigns. With his tactical genius they manage 13 draws giving hope for the future after all.*



Fabulous Pheifholm Fungus Farmers

The farmers are a team bent of revenge! In the early days their only association with Blood Bowl was that they farmed mushroom fields beneath Pheifholm stadium. Then one day all of their crop was lost by a burrowing Skaven team, on their way to a game.

The peace-loving Farmers swore revenge for this travesty! They formed their own Blood Bowl team and began to tour the Old World. Secretly, in each stadium they visited, they would dig down and plant new fields of mushrooms beneath it. They are now cultivating crops over half the known world!

Brutal Beinhofen Bonebreaker Brawlers

The Brawlers struggled to settle on a team name to be proud of until one night in a tavern. They had just been thrashed by the Nuln Ironflankers. As it turned out the 'flankers were also celebrating in the same pub, but refused to share a post-match convivial drink with the snotlings. When they called fungus brew 'swill', things really kicked off. Both sides claim to have won the fight. The Ironflankers killed 8 snotlings and suffered 2 minor injuries in return, including a broken finger (probably from repeatedly punching a snotling in the face). Following such a remarkable victory (in their eyes) they settled on a name - the Brawlers were born!

Dazzling Drinkwater Death Defiers

The Defiers were victims of their own success. They had just finished a remarkable streak of 30 games where 5 players actually survived and decided to celebrate by drinking halucifungus. Most of the next 62 hours of madness were not recorded properly, but 13 goats met an untimely demise in their antics. The authorities then stepped in and rather heavily handedly hanged the remaining members of the team for breaching the peace.

The team with no name

One snotling team whose name is now lost were coached by a troll. He would carry the team to each game in a sack. They vanished after the Troll turned up late for one game, with no team in the bag and with terrible stomach ache!

Phoenix Snotlings

Many would argue the Phoenix boys were the first proper snotling team because they pre-date the Dribblers. Looking to make a splash, they challenged infamous minotaur star Madbull Chainspleen to a match. It lasted 20 seconds as one vicious swipe of his forearm killed the entire team. Scholars argue on whether this counts as a game at all or just a brawl.

Death Wish

There is something decidedly sad about this band of snotlings. Most teams use huge names to big themselves up, but the 'Wish players seem to have taken a more literal approach to it.

Devastating Doomspire Death-Dealers

The Death-Dealers took their name from a stunning run of casualties. They made 14 kills in 14 games against other stumpy opposition. Success can go to your head as they found out. Buoyed by this deadly feat, they arranged a match against a lower league orc team, the Jagged-Tooth Smashers. The orcs utterly ripped them a new one, killing 26 snotlings in the game.

Statisticians do struggle with snotling teams as their numbers seem to vary. The general rule they follow is only the first 16 kills count, all the extras are ignored.

15 seconds of fame

- By Rusty Hoelle

Snotlings careers are tragically brief - hilariously so! Many pundits don't bother to learn their names before each match because what's the point, 80% of them will be dead by the end of it. There are a (very) few who stick in our minds . . .

Bingpot

Playing for the Towering Tiny Bay Terrors, Bingpot was the driver of the pump wagon 'Da Mighty Roller'. He had the questionably genius idea of replacing the crew with a writhing mass of squigs to truly terrify the opposition. Not the worst idea and it was emulated elsewhere, but Bingpot was no squig wrangler and so became a squig snack before he could see the success of his hair brained scheme.



Weeze

Fewer snotlings would have had more supportive parents. Weeze was taught to ignore his size and to dream big. A positive mental attitude and unchecked self-belief meant you could achieve anything. Poor Weeze died trying to emulate his hero Varag by attempting to consume a ghoul. Talk about biting off more than you can chew!

Flinga

Playing for the Stupendous Sundertown Slime Slingers, Flinga invented 'Fungus Sticka' which he originally threw at the opposition as it was highly poisonous. However, it could also stick snotlings to their Fun-Hoppas which was way more useful. Alas when Flinga was killed in a match, the recipe for 'Fungus Sticka' was lost with him.

Snotling Freebooters - is there a demand?

Believe it or not there have been a number of snotlings who actually forged out a career in the freebooting market. Most of these go freebooting simply because their own teams folded due to everyone else dying. One wonders what teams would be desperate enough to hire them, but at least they are cheap

Bogi Dungbreath is actually a little marvel. Given to terrible fits of rage (he suffers a terrible form of really, really, little man syndrome) he has been known to face down players 10 times his size and come out on top. Surprisingly strong for a snotling, he would give any halfling or goblin a run for their money in an arm-wrestling contest.

Grit Smelly is a snotling who has formed real leadership potential. He excels at bossing other snotlings about and has been remarkably successful in creating team coherency. This makes him a target for the opposition, but Grit has developed admirable combat skills which have dramatically increased his survivability on the pitch.

Snoti Snotson is super-fast for a snotling and can outrun even an orc blitzer, the fastest of the regular greenskins. This makes him probably the most sought after of the freebooters because Snoti is a genuine scoring threat.

Playing away from home

- By Lastiges Weisschen

There have always been snotlings who were so desperate to get into the game, they played for anyone. These rarely ended that well . . .

Sputum Boilbrain

Sputum had a brief career, even for a snotling, for the Lowdown Rats. He still holds the record as the heaviest snotling to ever play the game. Standing at 24 inches tall, he weighed an astonishing 115 lbs! Poor Sputum collapsed and died the first time he ran onto the pitch for a training game. The effort of running was too much for him!

Trashcar Daggerplague

Trash was actually a pretty decent player for the Oldheim Ogres. He was their go to ball hugger when they wanted to lob someone down the pitch for a quick score. This went horribly wrong when he was intercepted by Greybranch Oakwillow the treeman who subsequently squished him flat.

Ned 1, Ned 2, Ned 3, Ned 4, Ned 5 and Ned 6

The Neds were more of a training aid for the Grotty Stealers goblin team. They were used for throwing practice by Ozbog the teams troll in order to save on goblin lives. It wasn't uncommon for Ozbog to get through six Ned's each training session, splatting or eating them . . . or indeed both.

Zip the Snotling

Zip actually signed for the Chaos All-Stars . . . although it's not really clear if there was a contract involved. It's more likely the All-Stars used him for the convenience of his size. Zip was sewn into a football and was hurled down the pitch in a game against the Vynheim Valkyries. He landed, stuck his feet out of little holes in the ball and sprinted over the line to score! The officials were less than impressed and disregarded the score. It seems a player must be holding the ball for it to count and not in a ball!

Smeggy "The Glider" Marshjuice

Imitation is the greatest form of flattery. Smeggy took note of the success of Doom Divers and dreamed of taking to the skies himself. He found a tailor to adjust his kit and fit wings to it so, as his nickname suggests, he could glide through the air. His first match with his new outfit was against the Scarcrag Snivellers and it was a huge success. He managed 156 yards in 8 short flights. Their next game was against the Galadrieth Gladiators who had Stormbrew Highcloud, the weather mage, on the payroll. Smeggy took to the air again only to be caught by a sudden strong squall that sent him flying out to Norsca, never to be seen again.

Zibbit

Zib is currently on the run! Leader of the 'Pump my ride' initiative, he gained a reputation for turning anything into a classy pump wagon - whether the owner wanted it or not! When Baron Durprine found his steam tank had become a pump wagon, that was the final straw. Zibbit is now a wanted man . . .well . . .snotling.

Yib the talent scout

If it wasn't for Yib, it is most likely the Blood Bowling world would never have heard of Fungus the Loon. In 2491 it was Yib who found Fungus crashing about and disturbing the idyllic Estalian countryside. Somehow, Yib has a calming effect on Fungus and he was able to save him from the authorities and instead take him somewhere that would appreciate his talents - the Blood Bowl field.

Don't think Yib did all of this for charity or out of the kindness of his heart. No chance! The snotling keeps virtually all of the money Fungus earns and has even started something of a side gig with him. Yib set up his own demolition company and in Fungus he has a very willing wrecking ball.

Ibby Stickyfingers

Ibby is a sad loss to the game. He was the face and voice of snotling punditry and had a popular following. Then one fateful game he took a small camera down to the pitch side of a Chaos Cup final to get close to the action. Stepping too close to Gobbler Grimlich, he was suddenly pulled into the mutant toad's cavernous mouth. Ibby remained stuck in his mouth for some time. Like a pro, he continued to give commentary on the game and shoot images from inside of Grimlich. That is until Grimlich swallowed

Vic Tallsnout

Vic is a sportswriter with a brief career at Spike! It's unclear if he is one snotling or several stood on each other!



Who's Who . . . the irritant or Swarm of Snotlings

These are all players who have played on snotling teams for frequently very alarming short periods of time.

Snotling Fun-hoppa

Name	Team	Status
Cheez	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive
'Fun 'Da Fungi'	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive



Snotling Stilty Runna

Name	Team	Status
'Fik 'Smartinose'	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Retired
Sodz	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive



Snotling Fungus Flinga

Name	Team	Status
Flinga	Stupendous Sundertown Slime Slingers	Dead - killed by a Blitzer
'Madnose' Mix	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive
'Shortarm' Nilli	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive



Snotling Pump Wagon

Name	Team	Status
Da Mighty Crusha	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive
Da Mighty Roller	Towering Tiny Bay Terrors	Alive
Da Royul Wagon	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive



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Snotlings

Name	Team	Status
Bingpot	Towering Tiny Bay Terrors	Dead - Eaten by Squigs
Bogi Dungbreath	** Freebooter **	Alive
'Dropper' Pop	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive
Grit Smelly	** Freebooter **	Alive - plays as a Blitzzer
'Mash 'da Masha'	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Retired
Odz	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive
Pik the Terrible	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive
Pip 'Nimbletoes'	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive
Pye 'Facesquasha	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Retired
Smeggy 'The Glider' Marshjuice	Unknown	Dead - Caught by a magical wind and thrown into the sky
Noti Snotson	** Freebooter **	Alive - plays as a Runner
Weeze		Dead - Tried to eat a ghoull
Wyne	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive



Snotlings who play on other teams

Name	Team	Status
Ned	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Two	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Three	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Four	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Five	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Six	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Sputum Boilbrain	Lowdown Rats	Dead - Tried to catch the ball
Trashcar Daggerplague	Oldheim Ogres	Dead - Intercepted by a Treeman!
Zip the Snotling	Chaos All-Stars	Alive



Staff

Name	Position	Team	Status
Bing 'Shroomgatherer'	Team Owner	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive
Bong the Mighty	Head Coach	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive - Bong is a Dwarf
Luther the Inglorious	Head Coach	Mighty Crud Creek Nosepickers	Alive
Yib	Player Agent	** Freebooter **	Alive

Other 'famous' Snotlings

Name	Position	Status
Ibby Stickyfingers	BB Announcer	Dead - Eaten by Gobbler Grimlich
Vic Tallsnot	Spike Journal Editor	Alive - Vic may be several snotlings on top of each other . . .
Zibbit	Pump Wagon Pimper	Alive



Snotling teams

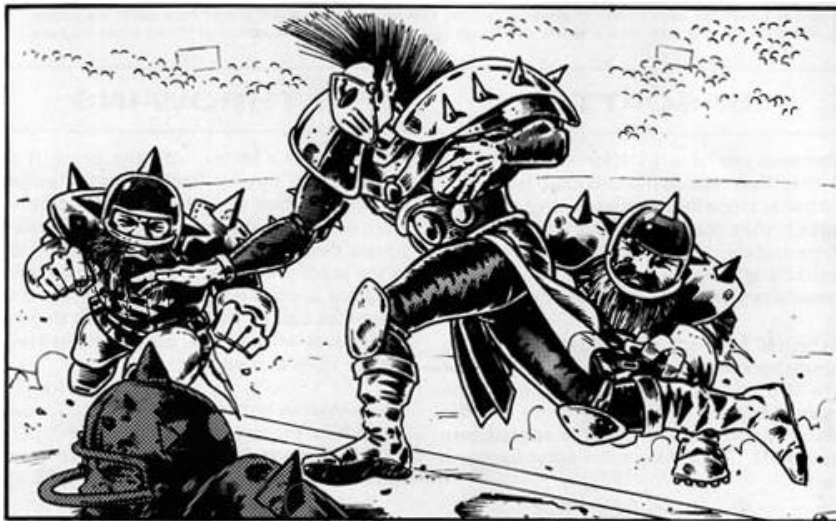
Brutal Beinhofen Bonebreaker Brawlers
Dazzling Drinkwater Death Defiers
Death Wish
Devastating Doomspire Death-Dealers
Fabulous Pheifholm Fungus Farmers
Lethal Litzleheim Legends

Mighty Crud-Creek Nosepickers
Phoenix Snotlings
Snottingham Snot Sniffles
Snotshire Dribblers
Stupendous Sundertown Slime Slingers
Towering Tiny Bay Terrors

Looking ahead

In issue 14 of the Gridiron Gazette we get back to nature and take a lovely stroll through the forests of Athel Loren, taking in the wonderous sights and hoping to avoid spiteful sprites, dastardly dryads and tilted Treemen. We'll be asking questions such as -

- *Is the Cyclone any good . . . or is he just all hot air?*
- *What terrible event saw the Avengers refuse to play . . . ?*
- *Why location matters with the Bil Bali Archers*
- *Should the Treetop Terrors kept their feet (and more importantly thir stadium) on the ground . . . ?*



Final Fact!

All team uniforms have a basic two colour requirement. Getting clothes on snotlings is never easy, the little blighters frequently won't keep them on as they run around naked. Many coaches to get around this have taken to dipping them feet first into vats of paint. The snotlings come out dripping in their new colour, but green from the ankles down, therefore fulfilling regulations!