

Gridiron Gazette : Reikland Reavers

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The Reikland Reavers have been the dominant force in the game for the last 3 decades. In this edition of the Gridiron Gazette we take an in depth look at their history and their squad.

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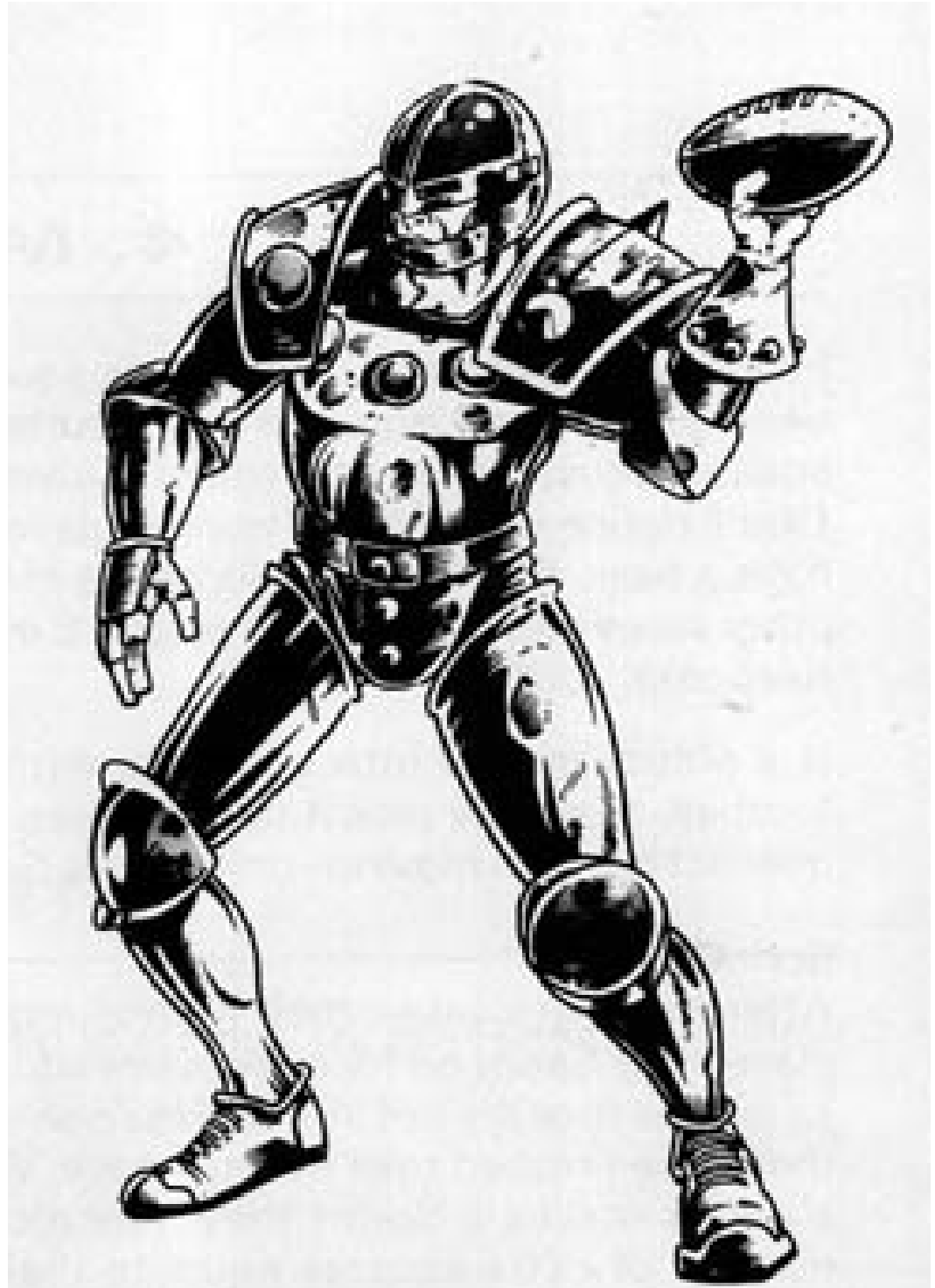
Feeling scared? You
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The full Reavers player &
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The Griswells

The family made their original fortune from a large meat pie empire. They diversified into sports in 2389 and haven't looked back.

Current owner, JJ Griswell Jnr, can often be seen at the Old Bowl. He has a staff of 11 directors and secretaries who scribble down his every word. Behind them are a further 10 legal, financial and admin staff who cover all of the day to day running of the club.

Leading the Reavers is far from a one-man operation!

Old Bowl Stadium

The Reavers home stadium has a capacity of 71,411 but this is dwarfed by the Emperor Luitpold stadium, also in Altdorf, with a capacity of over 100,000.

The Old Bowl, despite the name, is famed for its modern facilities, astrogranite pitch and the temperate weather conditions that Altdorf enjoys. The stadium itself may be welcoming, the fans and the Reavers themselves, less so!

Recently JJ Griswell Jnr tried a cost saving initiative where the staff at the Old Bowl were replaced by Snotlings. It was a short-lived enterprise due to issues with workers rights, food hygiene and some alarming stories around toilet safety!

The Early Years

- By Dolf Ungerhaagen

The Reavers we have come to love or loathe haven't always been the well-oiled, trophy winning machine that they are today. They are a team that started with humble beginnings and endured protracted periods of poor results.

Altdorf Acolytes

2389 – The Griswell family spot a business opportunity when a spot opens up in the NAFs Oldlands Conference. They put together a business consortium who raise the funds to found a new team – the Altdorf Acolytes. Under the leadership of Johann Weisshaupt they have a successful first season and finish 4th in the conference.

2396 – The Griswell Memorial Stadium, the home of the Acolytes, collapses during a terrible storm. Rumours abound that the owners in trying to cut costs had used cheap unskilled labour and poor materials in building the stadium. The team doesn't fold however. Instead, DD Griswell Snr plans something bigger and better, laying the foundation for the Old Bowl in Altdorf. The team move to their new location and with it change their name – the Reikland Reavers are born! The new name clearly brings them luck, they win the Whiteskull Challenge Cup for the first time.

Reikland Reavers – a new hope?

2399 – Although Blood Bowl was played far and wide, it was until this year that the NAF began to properly codify it. The Reavers played the Dwarf Giants and it soon became clear part way through the game that each team had different interpretations of the holy texts of Nuffle. Agreement could not be reached on who was right and the game almost started a war between the Empire and Dwarf strongholds. This was the catalyst to the NAF publishing a unified codex of rules years later.

2411 – DD Griswell Snr dies and his son DD Griswell Jnr takes over. Blind Willey Muller sees his chance and black mails the new owner, using etchings of an indiscretion or two he had indulged in with the Reavettes, the Reavers cheerleading squad. DD Griswell Jnr gives in to blackmail and makes Muller the Reavers head coach. This starts the first of several low patches for the Reavers with a string of terrible results in Mullers incompetent hands.

Spike! Magazine are critical of Muller's handling of the Reavers and so are banned from the Old Bowl for years. Fortunately, their head office and more specifically the Spike! Tower overlooks the stadium, allowing journalists to still watch and report on the Reavers matches.

2420s – The team recover from the damage of the Muller era and become quite the force in cup competitions. The Reavers win the Whiteskull Challenge Cup 6 times in the decade.

2432 – Things take a turn for the worse as the Reavers resulting in a 14-year dip. A match against the Nurgle's Rotters saw all of their starting 11 players infected with the rot. Eight that could still play were quickly sold to the Subterranean Slimeballs, the rest were let go. The Reavers had to build up their entire squad all over again. In possibly a related incident, DD Griswell Jnr died soon afterwards and his son JJ Griswell Snr succeeded him.

2462-3 – The Reavers begin to show promise once more. They make the Blood Bowl final twice in a row. They lose each time but have put a marker down for the future.

2468 – From tragedy comes a new era. During a tense game, JJ Griswell Snr gets too close to the pitch and is targeted and killed by the Asgard Ravens. JJ Griswell Jnr takes over and the modern incarnation of the Reavers who will go on to dominate the sporting world are finally born.

Griff Oberwald – Star Focus

- By Gerhardt Schtumpf



In terms of impact on the game, Griff Oberwald is in a class of his own. His peers are few in number in terms of skill and fame. Let's delve into his career and see how he hit the ground running . . . and scoring . . . and punching really hard!

Griff moved from von Strudel college to the Reavers but had to wait 2 years to make his debut. It took place in the Blood Bowl 2485 final where he played as a lineman; Griff scored the winning touchdown but also received a 2-match ban for ripping off 3 ears and a nose against the Darkside Cowboys! He certainly made his mark!

He missed most of the 2486 season after contracting scarlet fever from a Skink while playing against the Lustria Croakers. However, his talent had already well positioned him within the team. When Oberwald's cousin Orlak Sturmtrang stepped down as the captain of the Reavers in 2487, a young Griff, now in his familiar Blitzer role, was promoted in his place.

4 Blood Bowl winners medals, 3 Spike! Magazine player of the year awards, Rookie of the Year, AFC player of the year and countless other awards reflect his greatness. The only misstep? The small incident where he was caught bragging that "I'm better than Sigmar". A temple founded in his name was then burned down by the Grand Theoginist. Although a PR nightmare for the Reavers, the fans loved him for it! Imagine their shock then, when he was to suddenly leave the Reavers!



Promotions, Endorsements & riches beyond compare

Griff's basic appearance fee is 1,000 gold crowns per game, but this is dwarfed by money for personal appearances, sponsorships and bonuses etc. The Reavers own the Greystone Creek gold mine in the Dragonback Mountains, its sole purpose is to dig Griff's enormous wages. Only Hubris Rakarth and Morg N' Thorg have the same financial clout within the game.

Griff has also released the 23rd version of his autobiography, more than even Lord Borak who has done a mere 11 iterations of his own. Each one outsells the last as his fame and fortune rises! It remains unclear as to whether Griff writes the books himself.

A lover and a fighter

Griff is almost as famous for his love life as he is for his playing abilities. Divorced 5 times, Griff is on the look out for wife number 6. Gossip papers abound with rumours of his relationship with Bretonnian singer Celine DeLionne and also with Sonia Redwulf the Amazon All-Star Blitzer. Griff likes to keep his options open!

All this means he can have problems with his exes. Toria Oberwald (wife number 3 for those of you counting) was once the victim of an Orcish kidnap attempt. The plot failed, but Toria had her legs broken in the bungled scheme.

Griff also has a son he has never officially claimed from an amorous encounter in Wolfenburg. The Reavers are keeping a close eye on him though in case he turns out to be like his father!

Perfection Lost!

Griff has lost not one but two teeth on the astrogranite. Lord Borak the Despoiler knocked one out and now wears it as a lucky charm necklace.

The other was dislodged by virtual unknown Orc Blitzer Brobrag.

NBC show

Hit show 'Just Griff' returns for more 30 minutes episodes featuring nothing but pictures of Griff. Guaranteed to be a hit and to promote another baby boom in Altdorf in 9 months' time!

Trophy Cabinet

Blood Bowl Winners
(2471, 2479, 2485, 2487,
2491, 2499, 2558)

Blood Bowl Runners Up
(2462, 2463, 2472, 2475,
2478, 2488, 2559)

Whiteskull Challenge Cup
Winners (2396, 2399,
2400, 2401, 2402, 2403,
2405, 2412, 2422, 2423,
2424, 2425, 2426, 2427)

Chaos Cup Winners (2448,
2461, 2463, 2470, 2498)

Chaos Cup Runners Up
(2559)

Spike! Magazine Trophy
Winners (2488)

Spike! Magazine Trophy
Runners Up (2560)

AFC Champions (2462,
2463, 2468, 2471, 2472,
2479, 2483, 2485, 2487)

AFC Divisional Winners
(2462, 2463, 2468,
2471, 2472, 2479, 2483,
2485, 2487, 2494)

The Dungeon Bowl is the
only major to prove elusive

The Kneecapper

Max Mittleman is most
famous now as a chainsaw
wielding Referee . . . light
on the rules, heavy on the
dismemberment.

Many forget Max was once
a star Blitzer for the
Reavers. He still has a
hard core of Reaver fans
known to help him
dispense justice on and off
the pitch!

The New Order rises

- By Rusty Hoelle

Unquestionably, Helmut Zimmer is a tactical genius, but many would argue he has the easiest job in the world. Is it luck or skill that fostered the talents of the Mighty Zug and Griff Oberwald? The New Order sits firmly on their shoulders as they drive the Reavers from success to success.

2468 –JJ Griswell Jnr hires Helmut Zimmer as Head Coach. Zimmer brings with him a tough new professional regime called the ‘New Order’. Instantly a new player catches Zimmers eye, a fat young apprentice in need of moulding called Zug.

2472 –Orcidas as sponsors of the Chaos Cup begin introducing their own rules. One of them being that all teams who enter must have an Orc on the roster. The Reavers refuse and don’t play in the Chaos Cup for the next several decades.

2470s-80s –The golden era begins for the Reavers, they reach the Blood Bowl final 7 times under Zimmer as proof of the impact of the New Order.

2483 –The Reavers sign their first-choice pick at The Crush, a young rookie by the name of Griff Oberwald.

2485 –A talented youngster makes his debut, few at the time knew his name, but that would soon change. Griff Oberwald steps onto the world stage.

2489 –With the collapse of the NAF many of the famous teams fold altogether or are forced to continue on reduced terms. The Reavers have established themselves as the richest and most powerful club in the world at this point. With the revenues this brings in, plus the astute financial leadership of the Griswell family, the Reavers dominance continues unabated.

2492 –The Reavers take legal action against Port D’Aquitaine who also use the name Reavers and have done so for over 100 years, longer in fact than the Reikland team. Miraculously they win the court case and the Bretonnians are forced to change their name to the ‘Power’. Few can match the financial muscle of the Reavers.

Later that year the Reavers win the Blood Bowl for a record fifth time, beating arch-rivals the Middenheim Maulers. When interviewed afterwards, Griff Oberwald said “Why did we win? Because we’re simply the best Blood Bowl team there is. That’s why”. Few could argue with him.

2494 –Cracks begin to show. The Reavers lose unexpectedly in the Blood Bowl semifinals to Da Deff Skwadd. With retirements and star players moving on, questions are raised.

Late 2490’s –Much to everyone’s shock and dismay, Griff Oberwald elects to leave the Reavers and join the Bogenhafen Barons . . . the end of an era?

The Mighty Zug – Star Focus

- By Lastiges Weisschen

A man of few words, Mr Zug, first name The Mighty, has plagued scrimmage lines for decades in a relentless, slow paced scythe of destruction. Is he just misunderstood though? Probably not, no.

2468 – Zug is taken on by the Reavers as over-sized, over-weight simpleton as part of their orphan program. Coach Zwimmer takes him under his wing and the transformation of Zug begins.

2476 – Ready to make his debut, Zug smashes his way through the Middenheim Marauders, seriously injuring 8 of them before halftime.

2485 – Zug kills the referee who disallowed the only catch of his career to date. This, in his mind, justified action results in a 3-match ban.

2488 – Zug appears in the very last AFC v NFC end of season clash before the collapse of the NAF. He marks the occasion by killing Tom Ashfield, star Wood Elf lineman of the Athelorn Avengers

2492 – A respectful rivalry is born in the Blood Bowl final. Karla von Kill recovers from being KO'd by Zug and knocks him down in return! Ever respectful of talent, Zug gives her a nod of admiration after the game.



The sweet rewards of extreme and relentless violence

With a career spanning over 30 years, Zug has racked up quite the collection of honours

Blood Bowl Winners medal (2479, 2484, 2487), Blood Bowl Players Medal (2483), McMurty's Spamburgers Footballer of the Year (2482, 2484, 2485), Anti-violence Watchdog committee worst tackle of the year (2484, 2487) & Grim Reaper Award for Most Entertaining Death (2502)

Arguably he is even more proud of the records he holds, chief amongst which are 'Most Players bitten in a match' in the 2485 final against the Darkside Cowboys and also 'Most Beer drunk after a match' out-guzzling even the best Norse and Dwarf drinkers. Astounding! This led him to being the face of Bugman's Trollbrew in their advertising campaign

Killer of killers!

Assassination attempts are just part of daily life if you are top of the Blood Bowl tree. Pity the poor assassin sent to kill Zug. So far, he's managed to slaughter 7 of them!

Something to get your teeth into

It's a little-known fact that Zug owns the largest collection of Orcish teeth in the world!

Zug is not dead!

Recently news hit the streets of Zug's passing. He'd actually fallen into such a deep sleep in a training match, everyone thought he was dead! Drinking Ded Bull before training has now become mandatory!

Hygiene optional

In 2492, Zug wore the same shirt all season, he never took it off and never washed it. The shirt became magically embroiled with the essence of pure Zug, making anyone that now is lucky enough to slip it on as hard as nails.

Forever young

Questions are raised on how exactly Zug stays so young. Some say its magic, Zug puts it down to a regular diet of Orc meat!

The Forgotten Reavers

- By Pierce d'Organ

The Reavers are the biggest team in the world –but the fans attention only revolves around Griff and Zug. What about the other Reavers? Do they ever get a look in?

The Reavers squad is enormous. Head Coach Zwimmer constantly switches players in and out of the first team depending upon the opposition. Griff and Zug remain constants, but the other starting births each week are always up for grabs.

There may be healthy competition to play in each position, but has it really helped everyone else outside the big two? With no one else assured their position and game time, have the others really developed as they should?

Take lineman Ritter von Baum –famed only for being pushed by Orcs into a spiked pit trap and somehow surviving to tell the tale. Or there's Schembeckler – what do we know of him other than he survived a cave-in during a game of Dungeon Bowl that killed 4 other Reavers? Nothing.

Other stars in the making left the Reavers, such as Manfred 'Silver Balls' Mincer who joined rivals the Middenheim Maulers. In much later years Dirk Heldmann and Spinne Schonheit were also tempted away to other outfits.

With Griff finally gone to the Barons and the Reavers leaking talent, is this the end of the New Order or will Zwimmer be able to find the next big star?



Putting the boot in!

Luther von Hooper –Star kicker of the Reavers, Luther held a standing challenge open to anyone who could punt the ball further than he could. Should anyone be able to out kick the Hooper, he would then pay them his most recent match fee. For many months Luther went undefeated, easily besting all who came, who kicked and who fell a long way short.

He was eventually undone by an unlikely challenger in an inebriated Dwarf. Von Hooper felt confident, how could someone with such stumpy legs kick the ball very far? Much to his surprise however, the Dwarf booted the ball so hard it flew over the stadium and out of sight. If von Hooper had looked a little closer, he may have noticed the Rune of Greater Kicking branded onto the Dwarfs boots! Who said cheats don't prosper?

Meet the Meissens!

Fans and journalists can be forgiven for confusing the two Meissens! Young Gregor Meissen has broken all records for the Nuln College of Advanced Mathematics team, catching 320 passes last season

His namesake "Surehanded" Gregor Meissen is still being mourned after his recent death. He survived the gridiron and retired as a pundit on the CBS show Wellentag Night Blood Bowl. Rest well "Surehands" –you were the best!

Playing with the Hand

Karl Spiel was the unlucky victim in the infamous 'Hand of Gork' incident in a Reavers v Gouged Eye match. The Orcs viciously fouled Spiel on the score line repeatedly with no fear of the officials getting involved as they had blinded the Ref before the game!

Keeping it in the family

Orlak Sturmdrang made his name coming on in the 2485 Blood Bowl final after then Reavers captain Wolfram von Beck was killed in the first 90 seconds of the match.

Sturmdrang was made team captain after the game but it never really suited him. Two years later the pressure of fame, hordes of girls and leading the Reavers was too much. He stepped down from the captaincy which was passed to his cousin –Griff Oberwald.



Frantic in the Finals

- By Gerhard Schtumpf

The Reavers appearances in Blood Bowl finals in recent years has been anything but dull as they have suffered a number of tumultuous events!

2463 – The Reavers play the Vynheim Valkyries at one of the few finals not to be played in the Emperor stadium. It was moved to the Valkyries home ground, the frozen Longship Stadium. Foolishly the Reavers were in short sleeves and flat shoes and so were outmatched by their Norse opponents in the challenging conditions.

2475 – The Reavers were in a good position at half time against the Oldheim Ogres. It all went wrong in the 2nd half however and they lost 3-2. The whisper is Mr Bones, the Ogres owner, poisoned the Reavers drinks

2479 – The Lustria Croakers twice reached the 1-yard line and twice were halted with punishing Reaver defense. “We croaked” they said afterwards of the loss

2488 – The Reavers played the Darkside Cowboys in the final for the 2nd time in 4 years. At half time, Nikk Three-Horn vanished with the NAFs treasury and the Cowboy cheerleader squad. The Cowboys won the game and the NAF was left on the verge of collapse



Recruitment Policy

The Reavers may be based in Altdorf, capital of the Empire, but they'll hire players from all over the world of man as Jean-Paul Mussen (Bretonnian) and Luigi di Passella (Tilean) will attest. However, when it comes to non-Humans, they are a lot more particular. Have you ever seen a Reavers team with an Ogre on it? The answer is no surprisingly. I guess in Coach Zwimmers mind, why take an Ogre when you already have Zug, who is already the size of an Ogre. Halflings do make the occasional appearance, but it only tends to be the elite end of the Halfling scale (which is pretty small) such as Puggy Bacrombreath. Should they cast their net wider . . . ?

Reikland Invitational

Every off season, the Old Bowl hosts a tournament for minor teams to compete for the chance to play a one-off game against the Reavers. If they win, the rookies get to keep the gate receipts but they never do . . . until that season where somehow the Orcs on Brobrag's Big Uns managed the impossible and overturned a 4-0 deficit to steal victory!

Reavers Digest

The Reaver marketing machine is second to none! They regularly send out a million copies of its newsletter, the Reavers Digest. Once you are on their mailing list, its really hard to get off!

Winning the rights

NBC won the exclusive rights to show any and all Reavers matches in an eye watering deal. Such is the might of the Reavers, cabal companies and sponsors such as current team sponsor Four Seasons Coaching Lines will pay vast sums to have their names associated with the Reavers.

All a bit chaotic

During one AFC semi final against the Chaos All-Stars, the opposition turned the ball into a kitten. Somehow the Reavers found 12 other kittens and threw them onto the pitch causing confusion. Two of the kittens turned into balls allowing the Reavers to score twice. The others turned into a cow, a harpsichord, a children's slide, a goat, an unpublished work by Wilhelm Rattlespear, a gooey green thing, two ironing boards, a tax inspector and an elephant!

Who's Who the Reavers roll call

The following are players or members of staff who at some stage of their careers were employed by the Reikland Reavers.

Blitzers

Name	Status
Dirk 'The Hero' Heldmann	Alive - left the Reavers to play for the Bad Bay Hackers
Griff Oberwald	Alive –left the Reavers and joined the Bogenhafen Barons
Helmut Rokstein	Alive
Matthias Meier	Alive
Max 'Kneecap' Mittleman	Retired – Became a Referee
Mighty Zug	Alive
Pieter von Gullet	Alive



Throwers

Name	Status
Fat Mittbrot	Alive
Jacob von Altdorf	Alive
Kurt Helstrom	Alive
Long Bomb Silver	Alive
Ludwig von Kleister	Alive



Catchers

Name	Status
"Fast" Ben Jansen	Alive
Ivan Kellhooper	Alive
Johann Lange	Alive
Luigi Di Passella	Alive
Marcus Sieberman	Alive
Markus Schuster	Alive
Solomon Schuster	Alive
Spinne 'Black Widow' Schönheit	Alive – Left the Reavers and joined the Bad Bay Hackers
"Sure Handed" Gregor Meissen	Dead
Manfred "Silver Balls" Mincer	Alive – Left the Reavers and joined the Middenheim Maulers



Linemen

Name	Status
Brietzal	Alive –left the team due to being bribed to throw a match
Cornelius Krieg	Alive
Dieter Blunt	Alive
Erdich Holstein	Retired
Ernst Daavos	Alive
Gerhard Linebreaker	Alive
Gruff Hackson	Alive
Hans von Broken	Alive
Helmut Headreka	Alive
Henny Himmelstein	Alive
Jean-Paul Mussen	Alive
Johann Berger	Alive
Jules Winder	Retired –became a coach
Karl Spiel	Alive
Karr	Alive
Lothar Ostvald	Alive
Luther von Hoofar	Alive –plays as a Kicker
Orlak Sturmdrang	Alive
Ritter von Baum	Alive
Schembeckler	Alive
Vaz Vaztek	Alive
Walter damm Kempf	Retired
Wolfram von Beck	Dead
Ziggi Abschluss	Alive



Ogres

Name	Team	Status
None!		

Other Races

The below are players from other races who through some strange twist of fate, ended up playing for the Reavers.

Name	Position	Status
Puggy Baconbreath	Halfling	Alive



Staff

Name	Position	Status
Blind Willy Muller	Head Coach	Dead
Blitz Bombardi	Head Coach	Alive –coach in the Hackers era
DD Griswell Jnr	Owner	Dead
DD Griswell Snr	Owner	Dead
Helmut Zwimmer	Head Coach	Alive
JJ Griswell Jr	Owner	Alive
JJ Griswell Snr	Owner	Dead
The Reavettes	Cheerleading squad	Alive

Looking ahead

In issue 3 of the Gridiron Gazette we'll be going green and mean to look at the following and more -

- The history of the Lowdown Rats . . . are they just vermin?
- Not so secret weapons and their impact on the game
- When things go wrong . . . and for Goblins they frequently do!
- The art of cheating

