Gridiron Gazette : Goblins

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Without a doubt, the ultimate crowd-pleasing team has got to be one chockablock with goblins in. No blow too low, no rules unbent or unbroken, they are the mischief makers beyond compare. Expect anything and you won't go too far wrong!

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Financial investment

Cabalvision deals increase payments every year and many teams use it to recruit new staff or players. Not the Rats - what did they do? Hire a huge bouncy castle of course!

Swamp Dome

The Rats play home matches at the Swamp Dome in Ubrovnia. In true goblin style, its name is only 50% accurate – it is in a swamp but has no dome! Their stadium is 2 large floating rafts roped together. With a capacity of only 183 fans, you can buy a lifetime ticket for only 3 chickens and a bag of rats.

After the collapse of the NAF the Rats were one of the few teams to keep ownership of their stadium . . . after all, who would want it?

Low expectations

The Lowdown Rats have never won a trophy or a team award for anything! They are the only 'major' team to not have a player in the much-vaunted Hall of Fame as well!

Slann-like

One game, Hubris Rakarth cast a spell to change the Rats into giant frogs. He soon turned them back when it was clear they played better as frogs than goblins!

The Lowdown Rats – as goblin as it gets!

- By Dolf Ungerhaagen

The Rats and their obsessive fans have proven it's not about the winning, it's about the ability to kick someone when they are down and get away with it! The ultimate sneaky team, no two games with them are ever the same.

2473 - The team are formed by Boz Blacklung, who suffers from delusional dreams as he's convinced the Rats will be the next big thing. One of their earliest games involved the 'Curse of the Chaos Khazi' incident which sets the tone for the madness to follow.

2477 - The players strike rages but the Rats continue to play. They end up losing 3-1 to the Asgard Ravens who field their cheerleader squad led by Kari Coldsteel in a brutal match.

2480 - In a pre-season 5 ball exhibition game, with seconds to go, the Rats are 23-20 ahead of Durum's Destroyers. Hopes of winning a game finally are dashed when 4-armed Dwarf Hammerfourth the Black throws 4 scoring passes all at the same time!

2482 - The Rats play the Drakwald Evergreens, an all Treeman team. It had been a long, hot summer and so late in the game when they set Stripling Goldleaf on fire, in moments the whole team was ablaze. The biggest forest fire in decades completely toasted the entire Evergreens team.

The Rats were to use this tactic again in a later game against The Galadrieth Gladiators. Unusually the High Elfs hired a Treeman for a season who 'sprinted' to the end zone where he would take root and wait for the scoring passes. The Rats surrounded him with kindling and reduced him to ash!

2483 - At last the Rats win their first ever game against the Averheim Archers. Riots break out from both sets of fans forcing officials to reverse the result to restore the calm.

2485 - Grimwold Grimbreath, captain of the Dwarf Giants, breaks the NAF record for most fouling kills in a match against the Lowdown Rats, booting 3 hapless goblins to death.

2488 - The Dwarf Giants return for another game which proves even bloodier than the last. This time the Giants manage to kill all 16 Rats on the team in a single match!

2503 - Finances had long been left to the goblin accounting firm Dungflinger, Grotsnik & Snitch. Their inability to count above 5 or to agree on whose fingers and toes to use bring the Rats to the verge of economic collapse, forcing them to fold.

Hippocratic Oaf

Unusually for goblins, the Rats take the health of their players very seriously. As well as making drug use mandatory, they were the first team to use on-field Snotling Medics. The untrained blighters scampered onto the pitch to wake KO'd players, usually doing more harm than good!

The Rats even tried alternative medicine, using the ideas of apothecary "Prikka" Gobzpew who practiced 'acute'-puncture. Anyone injured would be stuck continuously with needles until they went back on the pitch - consequently nobody came off injured! In one season the only injury recorded is Gobzpew himself who mysteriously vanished.

Hop to it! Squigs in action.

By Gerhardt Schtumpf



Goblins have long been famed for their farming of several species of the virtually untamable Squigs. They have made it onto the pitch on numerous occasions, much to the fans delight and their opponent's trepidation. Riding a bounding ball of rage and teeth, what can possibly go wrong?

* picture curtesy of Knut_Rockie

Kappa and Brawler were one of the earlier squig hopper teams to pound the pitch and hammer the opposition into the astrogranite. Kappa was a renowned Squig Hunter who had cornered a particularly large Cave Squig in a Fungus Brewery. Ever cunning, Kappa sent his team of hunters in first. Brawler, as he was to be called, ate the lot of them, drank gallons of beer and fell blissfully sleep. Kappa then snuck in to tie him up but Brawler awoke and hopped out the cave, dragging a tangled Kappa along with him. Spotted by a Blood Bowl talent coach, bouncing around, they were offered a contract and never looked back from there! In their first game alone, Brawler ate 13 players . . . technically not all of them were on the opposition!

The lesser known Fuggit and Biter can also be found still playing if you look hard enough. Fuggit is a great example of stubborn tenacity (or stupidity, it's really up for debate). It took him years to master riding Biter, he fell off and got seriously injured a lot! Eventually when the pair reached an understanding of sorts the offers came flooding in!

Cage Fighters

True to their name, the Squig Hunters team mascot, kept caged at the side of the pitch, was a huge Cave Squig.

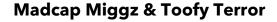
In a game against the Mootland Mountaineers, its handlers were too busy watching the game and not the mascot. It duly broke out and scoffed 6 Halflings before it could be restrained!

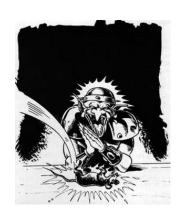
Don't hand it to him!

Diglit of the Grotty Stealers was forced to retire after fumbling the ball near a squig. He was one arm lighter after unadvisedly reaching to retrieve it . . .

Big Bad Wolf

The Lowdown Rats have tried squigs with mixed success, but they really sank to new depths when they attempted to teach Blood Bowl to a giant black Warg. Let's just say that it didn't go so well. The Warg vanished into the swamp after it ate 6 players then seriously injured 4 assistant coaches and the apothecary. It also took their only ball. Maybe Squigs are not so bad after all!





In a player poll of 'Most terrifying experience on the pitch' it's no shock that Miggz and Toofy have been rated number one for two years in a row! Currently they are the go-to squig hopper pairing for hire. They have come on a long way since their first appearance where they effectively failed to appear, instead Toofy was too busy scoffing as many of the crowd as he could.

Facing Miggz and Toofy on the pitch is one thing, but as many of the opposition have found out, their usual tactic is an early strike before the game. One of their favoured hunting grounds is the other team's locker room, jumping in when they least expect it. The dungeon beneath the pitches has also proved to be another dangerous spot for the opposition, no-where is safe!

What no Gits?

Some fans will be disappointed to see few references to the Evil Gits here. They have long been a team with an identity crisis. Are they a goblin team or a Renegades team? Fear not gentle reader, the Gits will appear when we get all chaosy!

Old injuries

Goblin teams aren't known for their bravery, but the Norgit Nosepickers take cowardice to a whole new level! Realising the opposition had hired Grashnak Blackhoof, the entire team suffered recurrences of old wounds and injuries to avoid playing!

Oh for shame!

Do you know what the dubious claim to fame of the Bad Moon Brotherhood is? They are the first team ever who fail to beat the Crud Creek Nosepickers!

Rules made to be broken

The Deadrock Dodgers stand out for rule breaking, even amongst goblin teams (and that's saying something!). They have broken every single one of the rules in Blood Bowl except one, a feat no other team has managed. The one rule not broken? Using your beard to tickle a referee, introduced after a Grudge Bearers game. False beards anyone?

The (not) good, the (really) bad, the (very) ugly . . . and the other one

By Rusty Hoelle

How can one write any review without covering the 4 most famous goblins there are on the astrogranite? These fab 4 stand tall in the goblin world and are the envy of their greenskin peers. One has to wonder how they have all lived for so long!

Where Nobbla Blackwort is concerned there is an ongoing argument as to who is more famous - Nobbla himself or his chainsaw Choppy? Could it be that the goblin is actually overshadowed by his own equipment? Although Choppy was retired in 2503, he will long be held in fond regards by the fans for the countless blissful memories of blood and gore he gave us. Who could forget the 14 decapitations against the Icecastle Wolves in 2501? The question is can his replacement, Rippy, live up to the name and also overshadow the green lunatic holding him as well?

Chief mischief maker Scrappa Sorehead is still trying to live down the shame of his match against the Middenheim Maulers in 2503. Human Blitzer Roight Cleane knocked him off his pogo stick, snatched it up and bludgeoned Scrappa repeatedly with it. Scrappa hasn't been the same since. Where is the goblin we all know and love who pounded on the head of one of his own teammates when playing for the Lowdown Rats, causing a pitch invasion? Will the fun-loving fella from 2492 return who broke into the commentary position Jim and Bob occupied and wreaked havoc? We hope so, we miss that guy! Who knows the psychological damage that being beaten with your own stick can cause a goblin?

We have only good things to write about Fungus the Loon he is the bestest goblin of all, everyone knows that. Songs should be written in his name and statues built (for him to smash down again of course). He is probably the most famousist Blood Bowl player of all time, which no-one can argue with, of course they can't. (Editor's note - We all lost near and dear ones in the Great Reporter Massacre of 2491 and will write whatever Mr. Loon wants in order to avoid a repeat of such events).



* picture curtesy of Knut_Rockie

Last and certainly not least of this quintessential quartet is of course Bomber Dribblesnot. He is perhaps the most misunderstood of all of them. Orphaned at a young age, he joined the circus and handed out gifts to the audience while being shot out of a cannon. Even now on the Blood Bowl pitch he is still handing out gifts that he lobs to anyone around him. Be careful though they aren't party poppers! He's the man, errr goblin, to get things started with a bang!

If it can go wrong . . .

By Lastiges Weisschen

As any fan will tell you, the joys of supporting a goblin team is that you never know what's going to happen one moment to the next. Some of their madcap schemes occasionally work, but when they don't, it's even more entertaining!

Sometimes even just turning up for a game makes for a really poor tactical choice. Why oh why the Scarcrag Snivellers ever elected to play the Chaos All-Stars only they will know. The highlight was they did stop Morg N' Thorg scoring in the game. However, this was because their piled-up bodies on the goal line were so high he failed to leap over them and dropped the ball as he tumbled down, squashing the last living Sniveler dead on the other side!

Even food can get you in a ton of trouble when you least expect it. Boss Grobblehod of the Grotty Stealers was on a terrible run. The team had lost for 2 years straight and the owners were going to sell the stadium for real estate. To cheer up his players, Grobblehod stole a bunch of Halfling pies, . . . little did he know they were infused with warpstone pepper. The mid game mutations they all suffered? Hilarious!

The record books are full of misfiring goblin antics. Take the highly disputed record for highest pogo jump ever. The Lowdown Rats say it belongs to Ardo Snakebite who hit a trampoline trap and shot out of the stadium. Alas poor Ardo landed head-first in a cess pit! However, the Evil Gits have a contender of their own when Dag Gobguzzla hit a landmine and died in a red and green explosion. The Gits claim bits of him went higher than Snakebite!

Trampoline traps also put paid for Krazy Snotcheez who had pogo sticks surgically inserted into both legs. It seemed like a genius idea until he bounced into the trap and then took off, never to be seen again!



Always the masters of innovation, the Lowdown Rats were the first team to add spikes to pit traps as the regular version didn't hurt enough. Using the new and improved pits in their own training sessions proved their point (!!) but at a bloody cost!

Questionable Tactics

The primary Blood Bowl tactic for your average goblin involves running away. Imagine everyone's surprise when the Scribbage Scrabblers tried forming a cage and driving into the opposition's half of the pitch. The Darkland Bulls surrounded the unfortunate cage and from there it got messy. Groundsmen are still scrubbing bits of goblin off the pitch, even now.

Feeling hungry

The Badland Baddies are in the record books for all the wrong reasons! Troll Rumble-Gut Rockbelly broke the record for Most Team-mates eaten in a match when he consumed the entire team, coaching staff, cheerleader squad, team mascot and 120 fans! Not content he ate half the Southstorm Squids arena too!

What can go wrong . . . ?

The Sneaky Beakers came up with the genius plan to disguise themselves as Gnoblars for their game against the Fire Mountain Gut-Busters. They didn't allow for the Ogres direct and somewhat simple thinking. To solve the quandary of who was who - they ate anything small! The Ogres guzzled all of their own Gnoblars and the entire Beakers squad in short order!

Pilot error

Alas poor Cipper Chock! He was once thrown so hard by his team Troll that he flew out of the stadium and into the Sea of Claws. Flying is dangerous!

Out of the frying pan . . .

Handy Slit-Sides was the Lowdown Rats star catcher and excelled and finding space on the pitch to receive a scoring pass. Alas playing on a goblin team meant no-one was actually going to throw him the pass to catch!

Eventually Handy realized that things were never going to change and so moved to a team where his talents as a catcher would be appreciated - the Darkside Cowboys. This was never going to work out because (a) the Cowboys played the running game and (b) due to a mix up with paperwork, the Dark Elfs assumed he was an offering and sacrificed Handy to Khaine before his first match. He made a splash on the pitch but it was his blood rather than his talent!

Dirty Rotten Cheaters!!

- By Pierce d'Organ

"I reckon our win streak in '71 came down to two fings: cheatin', and not gettin' caught cheatin'." Klevva Klogs from the Greenboyz.

As any goblin will tell you, it's not the winning that counts, it's the cheating and getting away with it! The Greenboyz have been lucky enough to go through two golden periods in their history, the winning streak of '71 and then 16 years later in '87 they managed to go all season without having a single player sent off. Going half of a game with no expulsions is exceptionally rare for a goblin team, a whole season is quite frankly madness!

The rumour mill is rife with tales of how the Greenboyz got away with it in '87. Some say that they kidnapped the referee's pets, others that large donations were made to RARG charities. Perhaps it was just the more typical tactic of crying for hours outside the referees changing rooms . . . or a combination of the three! Whatever it was, it seemed to work a treat in '87 and yet by '88 it had all come crashing down. Spivvy No-Legs and his team suddenly found themselves on the wrong end of a 2-year match ban!

In mark contrast the Scarcrag Snivellers have a strict no secret weapons policy which they more or less adhere to. Ok, there was the game against the Dwarf Giants where a Death Roller killed 3 players, the cook, the Chief Coach, Deputy Coach, Deputy Coach and Deputy Coach and so they ended up lobbing bombs to try and stop it but that doesn't really count!

Goblins bless 'em are totally unprejudiced - they will cheat and backstab anyone, even other goblins! The Scarcrag Snivellers once kidnapped the head coach of rivals the Lowdown Rats. For months they tried to force the Rats secrets out of him but with no luck. Eventually they gave up and kicked him out, only to find he had stolen their secret play book!

It's not just about the weapons though. Grom Shady mastered the art of kicking and deflating the ball at the same time, making it very hard for the opposition to throw when they finally retrieved it. There is literally no aspect of the game goblins won't cheat at if they think they can get away with it



Stealing ideas!

The Bog Boyz goblin team suffered 9 deaths at the hands (well huge steel cylinder) of a Dwarven Deathroller. Head Coach Grot Bilegrot was so impressed he wanted to get one of his own. Alas the best they could do was to hire a Snotling Pump Wagon instead, will it have the same impact?

Behind closed doors . . .

Wood Elf team the Oakglade
Defenders deserved everything they
got for fielding an entire team of just
Wardancers. To combat that, the
Moonshine Gitz threw a Fanatic into
their dressing room at half time and
locked the door. It resulted in
collapsing the stadium and killing both
teams entirely . . . but it got the job
done!

Flattened figures

Statisticians are still trying to resolve the anomaly of the infamous Deathroller Massacre match of 2500.

The Karak-Kadrin Kingsmen in one brutal drive, killed 18 goblins from Dem Rotten Gits. Nobody seemed to be aware there were 18 on the pitch until they started peeling off the flattened bodies!

Troll on a stick

He's a rare sight on the Blood Bowl pitches nowadays. If you've ever heard tales of Brainz the Troll Pogoer then despite how absurd it may sound they are probably all true!

Better late than never

Mace-Head Magee is stone deaf, he can't hear a thing. Well, that's what he told officials anyway as be missed the final whistle and killed 4 Bright Crusaders after the game was called which set a new NAF record!

Who's Who the goblin gallery of awesome

The following are players or members of staff who at some stage of their careers have played on Goblin teams

Goblins

Name	Team	Status
Ard Baz	Greenboyz	Alive
Badgers Wrath	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Buksnag	Grotty Stealers	Alive
Classic Hammock	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Colour Impressed II	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Diglit	Grotty Stealers	Retired - became a Head Coach
Dirty 'Arris	Unknown	Retired
Disco Trevor	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Drowned Puppy	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Dug "Elbows" Snitchit	Lowdown Rats	Retired
Dwight T. Boogie	Green Machine	Alive
Fantastic Spanner	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Figgit Spleenpuncher	Lowdown Rats	Retired
Gilthy Figgis	Greenboyz	Alive
Fugwit	Grotty Stealers	Alive - played as a Catcher
Funky Clam	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Fuzzy Justice	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Grabby Goz	Greenboyz	Alive
Grom Shady	Unknown	Alive - played as a Kicker
Gufberk	Grotty Stealers	Alive - played as a Catcher
"Handy" Slitsides	Lowdown Rats	Dead - Mistakenly sacrificed by the Darkside Cowboys
Klevva Klogs	Greenboyz	Alive
Lord of Swing	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Mace-Head Magee	Unknown	Alive
Nobby No-Fear	Greenboyz	Alive
Norgit No-nose	Lowdown Rats	Retired
One Ear	Unknown	Alive
Roasted Goat	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Snirbad "The Cobbler" Greenguts		Alive
Solid Azza	Greenboyz	Alive
Speedy Snik	Greenboyz	Alive
Sporkey "Spork" Sewerbreath	Unknown	Dead - Brain splattered by Lord Borak the Despoiler
Two Legs	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Alive
Wigginz	Greenboyz	Alive



Fanatic

Name	Team	Status
Fungus the Loon	** Freebooter **	Alive
Whirlin' Skrod	Greenboyz	Alive

Pogoer

Name Ardo Snakebite

Lowdown Rats Boz Badoing Greenboyz Krazy Snotcheeze Unknown Scrappa Sorehead ** Freebooter **

Team

Status

Dead - fell head first in a cess pit

Dead

Dead - bounced into the sky, never seen again!

Alive



Chainsaw Looney

Name Nasher Snotrun Nobbla Blackwort Nutty Nork Spivvy No-Legs

Team Unknown ** Freebooter ** Greenboyz Greenboyz

Status

Alive Alive Alive

Retired - became a team owner



Bommas

Name Bomber Dribblesnot K. Blammo The Black Gobbo

Team

Status ** Freebooter ** Alive Greenboyz Alive ** Freebooter ** Alive



Doom Divers

Name Cipper Chock

Team

Unknown

Dead - Thrown out of the stadium and into the Sea of Claws



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Trolls

Name	Team	Status
Basher	** Freebooter **	Alive
Big Lunky	Greenboyz	Alive
Brainz	** Freebooter **	Alive - the only Troll Pogoer
Ozbog	Grotty Stealers	Alive
Ripper	** Freebooter **	Alive
Rumble-Gut Rockbelly	Badland Baddies	Alive



Other Races

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

Name	Position	Team	Status
Fuggit & Biter	Squig Hopper	** Freebooter **	Alive
Kappa & Brawler	Squig Hopper	** Freebooter **	Alive
Madcap Miggz & Toofy	Squig Hopper	** Freebooter **	Alive
Ned	Snotling	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Two	Snotling	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Three	Snotling	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Four	Snotling	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Five	Snotling	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Ned Six	Snotling	Grotty Stealers	Dead - Squished in training
Nork the Dork	Orc Lineman	Grotty Stealers	Alive
Sputum Boilbrain	Snotling	Lowdown Rats	Alive



Staff

The below are Goblins who have worked on any team.

Name	Position	Team	Status
Boss Grobblehod	Owner	Grotty Stealers	Alive
Boz Blacklung	Owner	Lowdown Rats	Alive
Diglit	Head Coach	Grotty Stealers	Alive
Fink da Fixer	Assustant Coach	** Freebooter **	Alive
Greezing	Spy	Da Deff Skwadd	Alive
Grob Snotflicker	Head Coach	Greenboyz	Alive
Grot Bilegit	Head Coach	Bog Boyz	Alive
Grub Snittle	Head Coach	Lowdown Rats	Dead - Dressing room brawl went too far!
Kris P. Lpiznot	Head Coach	Super Goblin Shindig Squad	Dead - Flattened in a rock tossing contest
Peikko the Mad Gobber	Head Coach	Lots of teams!	Alive
Pogo Doomspider	Head Coach	Inventor	Dead - Rocket accident
"Prikka" Gobzspew	Apothecary	Lowdown Rats	Dead - Team didn't like his 'treatment'

Staff - continued

Name	Position	Team	Status
Shaman Nabling Wartnose	Head Coach	Snotshire Dribblers	Dead - Overdose on mushrooms
"Slimy" Stranglegut	Head Coach	Evil Gits	Alive
Snark Kneebiter	Head Coach	Unknown	Alive
Spivvy No-Legs	Owner	Greenboyz	Alive
Veelbur	Spy	Da Deff Skwadd	Alive
Yugwitz	Spy	Da Deff Skwadd	Alive



Officials

Name	Position	Status	
Lowdown Scurflick	Referee	Alive	
Mucka Goldtooth	Referee	Alive	



Other 'famous' Goblins

Name	Position	Status
Big 'Ead Plegmface	Inventor	Alive
Big Fatty	Mud Wresler	Alive
Bogsnik	Bookmaker & Gangster	Alive
Bulk Slogan	Mud Wrestler	Alive
Gunther the Gobbo	Bookmaker	Alive
Mr Ger	Gangster	Dead - Stabbed to death
Mr Bil	Gangster	Alive
Spungo the Magnificent	Mud Wrestler	Alive
The Flatulator	Mud Wrestler	Alive



Goblin Teams

Bad Moon Brotherhood	Grotty Stealers	Sneaky Beakers
Badland Baddies	Lowdown Rats/z	Snivelling Gitz
Bloodskull Brutes	Mayhem Gnashers	Spider Stalkers
Bog Boyz	Moonshine Gitz	Spiderwood Sneakers
Deadrock Dodgers	Norgit Nosepickers	Spore Boyz
Dem Rotten Gits	Rock Steady	Squig Hunters
Green Machine	Scarcrag Snivellers	Super Goblin Shindig Squad Yeah Baby!
Greenboyz	Scribbage Scrappers	Swamptide Squealers

Editors notes

There is one goblin coach missing from the above lists Hymie Snivel. He now only exists in an alternative dimenson where he set up and owns the Lowdown Rats and not Boz Blacklung! Poor Hymie, gone and almost totally forgotten.

Some may ask where is Skarp Sorehead the goblin Pogoer? Skarp played for the Underworld Creepers and so technically wasn't on a goblin team.

Looking ahead

In issue 4 of the Gridiron Gazette we'll be taking a break from our team reviews and instead we'll be flicking through the NAF book of records to answer questions like

- Who owns the record for most decapitations?
- Why are NAF scribes deliberately vague?
- ➤ Which is the longest game ever? We'll settle the debate!
- Who owns the record for the most dog biscuits eaten in a game? We'll give you a hint it's this guy below

See you in Issue 4, it'll give you something to sink your teeth into!



Final Fact!

Knowing you are useless can be turned to an advantage. Former head coach Kris P. Lipznot, before his untimely splattering, realised there was only one way for his team to become famous - they would have the longest team name ever! With this in mind the 'Super Goblin Shindig Squad Yeah Baby!' team were formed, but were forced to drop the 'Yeah Baby!' as it wouldn't fit on theit team shirts!