

Gridiron Gazette :

Black Orcs

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This month we stomp off to the Badlands and ask who is the biggest and baddest around. We set our eyes firmly on one of the newer teams in the game - the Black Orcs!

INSIDE

Orcland Raiders

The only constant is change

Varag Ghoulchewer

Singing in tune!

Thunder Valley Greenskins

A storm's history

Skragger

Never say die!

What makes an Orc?

Gurgnie's work-out routine

Who's Who

The full player and staff directory



Far Albion Cup

The Raiders were to travel to Albion and win the Far Albion Cup (an imitation, not the near mythical original which was lost). In a bid to solve some of their financial problems they promptly sold it when they returned from Albion rather than returning it the following season!

Chanting fans

A big part of the Raiders game relies on intimidation and the fans join in the fun. A common chant reverberating around Raiders games is . . .

"We're green . . . we're mean . . . we're baaad!

You're dead . . . you're dead . . . you're deaaad!"

Dirty tactics

Black Orc ball handling is famously bad, in part it's why they need to field a handful of goblins to do all of the flash stuff for them. The Raiders however still prefer to carry with the ball with Black Orcs if they can as it suits their slow grind offense. How do they improve their ball handling? By plastering their hands in sticky dung!

In more traditional underhand tactics, be very afraid if the Raiders turn up to a game with a caged squig or two. It's not uncommon to find they 'accidentally' escape into the opponents' dug out, eating their reserves!

Orcland Raiders – money matters

- By Dolf Ungerhaagen

The Gazette has tussled with the Raiders before, way back in issue 10 when we looked at their early history as the Severed Heads. We revisit the Badlands again to chart further changes on the team as the Black Orc rebellion was to lead them down a different path.

History - part 2!

2487 - The Severed heads had all but gone bust following the collapse of the NAF. King Ironclaw buys the team and moves them to Orcland. The clan chieftains object to the move but are all killed by the revolting players - the Orcland Raiders are born! Cruel-Eye the Ogre is appointed as head coach.

2488 - Ironclaw's investment in the team is limited . . . after all the old owners and management are dead so he has nothing to fear. The financial situation remains dire despite the new set up and so the Raiders go on the road as a pot hunter team.

2490 - The Raiders enter what is unquestionably the most successful decade the team has known in any of its guises. They outperform pretty much every other team by making the finals of one of the Majors five times in the next twelve years. They start by winning the Blood Bowl in front of a remarkably small crowd. This is due to a fall out with goblin referee Mucka Goldtooth who barred all of the Raiders fans from the game! Their cash flow problems aren't solved despite lifting the trophy.

2492 - Controversy in the Chaos Cup final as they lose a tight match to the Dwarf Giants. Orcidas, the tournament sponsors, then award the Raiders with significantly more prize money than the winners. The clothing company claim no greenskin bias (yeah, right) but the Raiders' financial woes are alleviated.

2494 - Back in the Chaos Cup, the Raiders go a step further this time and lift the trophy. The team is definitely on the up and yet trouble is brewing. Black Orcs are breaking away from Orc teams all over the league, discontent stirs in the Raiders dressing room.

2495 - The Raiders win another major as they add the Spike Magazine trophy to their cabinet; it'll be their last bit of glory as a regular Orc team.

King Ironclaw sees the writing on the wall as more Black Orc rebellions take place and decides to get out while he can. He sells the team and at the same time spitefully releases many of the players from their contracts. Bloodshed ensues as a number of the Raiders starting line-up are fed to the team's troll as fights break out. Only the Black Orcs and the hardier goblins remain . . . plus a well-fed troll.

2502 - Controversy strikes as Orcish fans give the team a bad name. In one game in Altdorf, one of the Raider fans streaked naked across the pitch in a green flash! Rather than getting the usual jeers and cheers it turned the stomachs of onlookers. The fan was hauled before a magistrate as witnesses complained "I can't get those green things out of my head" and another "I won't be eatin' green vegetables for a while, I can tell you that right now!". Shocking!

Varag Ghoulchewer – Star Focus

- By Gerhardt Schtumpf

One player has dominated the Orcish Blood Bowl scene for decades and has become synonymous with the mighty Gridiron Waaaagh! It is of course, none other than the chewer of ghouls himself!

2471 - Varag didn't start off as a Blood Bowl player. Instead he was a miner who had worked himself up to the position of foreman in the Wolfleg lead mine, just east of the Drakwald forest. Then one day the Gouged Eye raided the mine, carrying a number of Orcs, including Varag, off into slavery.

2472 - Varag was no willing slave and caught hold of one of the Orc guards and crushed his skull with only his bare hands. Rather than have him executed, coach Severlimb knew talent when he saw it and had Varag train with the 'Eye's team

2474 - The Gouged Eye reach the Blood Bowl final but the first team are massacred by Vynheim Valkyries. Making a late debut in the game, Varag is one of the few Orcish survivors.

2475 - Short on players, Varag becomes one of the Eye's starting XI. He soon shows a tactical brain and a rare cunning on the pitch and is made team captain. After biting an opponent in a game against the Champions of Death he earns the moniker that will stick with him - Ghoulchewer.

2477 - Led by Varag, the 'Eye win the Chaos Cup for the first time ever. In the following 5 years they will go on to win it twice more (2482, 2483) in a period of dominance. The big prize, however, eludes him.

2478 - The 'Eye have rebuilt quickly and are back in the Blood Bowl final again. They fall to another loss, this time against the Skavenblight Scramblers. Varag makes them pay however by killing their Rat Ogre and crippling 3 linerats and a gutter runner.

2495 - The 'Eye return to the Blood Bowl final yet again in a tough match against the Elfheim Eagles. Late on Varag uses his brain rather than brawn and sets up a play where it looks like he has the ball. The Eagles swoop in on Varag only to find too late it was a cunning ploy! A sneaky goblin scores to win the game!

2499 - The Black Orc revolution is in full swing and so Varag walks out on the 'Eye and join the Thunder Valley Greenskins. He takes them all the way to the Blood Bowl final where they meet the Bogenhafen Barons who end up victorious. Varag is left with 4 final appearances but with only 1 victory. Foiled again!



Straight Outta Orcton

In 2503 Varag proved there was no hard feelings as he reunited with the Gouged Eye to appear on a rap music album. Being the most gangsta Orc in existence, he lent his vocals to the rhyming talents of Orc rapper Duff Daddy. Varag said "Iz got such mad-phat skillz, I coulda been a stone-cold supastar! V Dog got da flava!". Can he actually sing? Well, we're not going to tell him he can't - he's already on 733 civilian kills, we don't want to give him an excuse to add more!

Dress to impress

Left over from his miner days, Varag is heavily tattooed. A number of those tattoos are too obscene for a family friendly sports show like Blood Bowl. Therefore, Varag has to cover them up with his uniform before he can play.

Talking of his uniform, Varag is definitely one to display trophies. His ghoulish shoulder pad is well known. What many don't realise is that his helmet is carved from an Ogre's skull and his codpiece from a Troll's... parts. Varag adorns himself with worthy opponents - you'd better watch out Griff!

Hey good looking!

In 2502, after almost 30 years battering the opposition on the scrimmage line, Varag took some discrete time out (3-4 weeks) of the game to get some cosmetic surgery. His face over time had been battered so badly that even his teammates couldn't stand to look at him!

Ugly may terrify the opposition, but when even your own side can't look you in the face you know you have a problem!

Minty fresh

It's not just how you look, but how you smell that's important. Many will be surprised to learn that Orcs take oral hygiene very seriously. When you have such fine tusks, the last thing you want is for them to drop out due to bad brushing! Varag has become the star face for mouthwash advertising - his particular brand sweetens the breath and removes those tricky blood stains!

Rock-tribe Limbrippas

The Limbrippas may need rethink their name to something more toofy. Their trophy room is pretty empty, but it does contain a delightful necklace made from teeth.

During a game against the Rexalotl Razordons, the Black Orcs took special offense at the presence of a Kroxigor. It became their focus for the whole match where the poor creature was knocked down and had its teeth yanked out one by one. They totally lost track of the ball and the game losing heavily, but they had their prize by the end of it!

Steel-Toof Smashas

It's not always about how 'ard you are, it's about how 'ard you look. The Smashas apply the simple psychology of trying to terrify the opposition before the game even starts.

To this end, all of the Black Orcs affix huge pieces of jagged metal to their teeth. It's clearly basic enough to not be considered bioniks and therefore escape the attention of the Piecemakers.

Although it may be highly unnerving, watching the Smashas crunch through rocks and metal bars as part of their warm up routine, it's not the best thought out plan. They lose an awful lot of their own players to dental issues like tooth ache!

Thunder Valley Greenskins - new kids on the Blorc

- By Rusty Hoelle

The Greenskins have a brief but promising history. Created after the great Orc schism, they have quickly risen to the top of the game.

History

2491 - The Greenskins are one of the first Black Orc teams to be formed following the mass exodus from regular Orc teams. Frugg One-Eye is appointed head coach and he in turn signs Fink da Fixer as assistant coach. Arguably it's this move that led to the Greenskins being the first Black Orc team to field goblins on their roster. Using goblins was to prove instrumental in their 4-0 win over fellow Black Orc team the 'Ardened 'Eadkrakers in their debut game.

Over the coming seasons, word from inside the Greenskins dressing room is that One-Eye is increasingly nothing more than a figure head and its Fink who is running the show.

2492 - They are accepted in the Badlands League for the first time and have a solid first season.

2493-97 - Clearly better coached than the opposition, the Greenskins dominate the local league and cup. They win the Badlands league five times and the Black Orc Tribal Cup three times in a five-year period. They seem to be virtually unstoppable.

Records are a little unclear . . . but at some point during this time, Fink became more demanding and wanted more power. He was never going to be allowed to run the team openly and so he left the Greenskins and set himself up as an independent contractor. He had already done enough to ensure his reputation and so the offers came flooding in. Without Fink to lean on, One-Eye left the team soon afterwards. Rather than appoint a new coach, team owner Furgog Ragtoof took over himself and continued with the same winning approach as Fink.

2498 - Leaving the Badlands, the Greenskins dip their scabby green toes in the wider ocean of Blood Bowl. They enter the Spike Magazine trophy and win it at the first attempt. Clearly no fluke, they beat the Champions of Death in the Semi Finals and the Elfheim Eagles in the final.

2499 - Another Orc team who were able to beat the Eagles in a major final catches the eye of Varag Ghoulichewer. In Orcish terms, the Greenskins pull off the coup of the century by luring Varag away from the Gouged Eye to many Raider fans shock and dismay.

2500 - Ragtoof has one sole intent this season . . . winning the Blood Bowl. They withdraw from all other competitions and focus their training on one great run at the end of the season. They march to the final, defeating the Darkside Cowboys, Wolfenburg Crypt-Stealers and Gouged Eye on the way. However, they meet a Griff Oberwald-led Bogenhafen Barons in the final and fall short of their goal, losing 3-1.



Gurgnie Schwarzenorc

- By Lastiges Weisschen

Some players are consummate professionals and do all of they can to prepare for matches. For some, this mean learning the team's playbook and doing their homework on the opposition. For others it's ensuring they remain in tip top physical condition in readiness for whatever the match throws at them.

Gurgnie is a Black Orc who has taken his physicality to the extreme. Many, quietly behind his back, liken him to the Halfling Arfie Shortzenegger, who is another player dedicated to bodily perfection.

Dedicated fans can pick up Gurgnie's book 'Da Encyclorcpedia of da Modern Bodybuildin' for the bargain price of 12 teeth, available at a concession stand in most Bad Land stadiums. In his book, Gurgnie outlines his training regime, going into great detail about his workouts and the punishing routine he puts his body through. His unique exercises include:

Bellsquigs (Strength) - lifting as many squigs as you can as often as you can. You only stop when you can't physically lift any more or the squigs get that restless, hungry look in their eye.

Squig Running (Speed) - Boot a cave squig as far away from you as you can and then run! If you can make it away from the squig you can carry on training, if not. . . well it might get bloody. Grugnie lost a finger doing this!

Goblin-Wrangling (Agility) - Try and catch a goblin with its leg roped to a stick.

Krunches (Ball control) - Squeeze someone's hand until you can hear it crunch! Great training for keeping a grip on the ball!

Do all of this and you too could be like Gurgnie!



Fun with food 'n' drink!

Snark Spiketongue

What seems like a good idea at the time, sometimes needs a little more thinking through. Snark came up with the cunning plan of covering himself in gravy in order to make himself more slippery and hard to get hold of. This worked a treat against Elf opposition who tended to leave him alone as they didn't want any gravy splash back to ruin their outfits. What he didn't take into account was the impact it would have on an Ogre team. The Tusk Peak Tyrants hunger rage was triggered and put their front line into a feeding frenzy. Poor Snark didn't live to see the error of his ways!

Big Grug

As Grenzstadt Granddukes player Terry Kesperlich found out to his cost, never challenge a troll to a drinking contest! Big Grug of the Steel-toof Smashes tipple of choice is Tasty Goblin brew. Less beer, more caustic acid. Kesperlich dissolved from the stomach down after 5 mouthfuls!

Mad Jonnen

You never know when you're going to be hungry! Mad Jonnen, one-time coach of the Orcland Raiders always kept enormous turkey legs in his pockets for when the need took him.

Skragger . . . I'll be back again . . . and again!

Some players just don't know when to quit or when to say die . . . despite actually dying several times! Take Black Orc Skragger as an example. He rose to fame as team captain of the Orcland Raiders and for a while did the unthinkable - he held the record for scoring most touchdowns in a season. A Black Orc actually scoring is fairly uncommon . . . but to hold the scoring record? Skragger was clearly no ordinary Black Orc. He found himself in a feud with the Hoffnung brothers that eventually resulted in his death following an off the pitch confrontation. You would think that would be the end of him but no, Skragger was soon back. This time he was playing for the Champions of Death as thanks to a friendly Necromancer he had been raised to unlife. Was he just a shambling, mindless zombie? Oh no, he had returned as a very prince of grey limbo, a fearsome vampire! A Black Orc vampire is every bit as scary as you might imagine but his reign of terror was short lived. Skragger was beheaded and his head shrunk . . . that seemed to be the end.

But no! He returned to the pitch once more, head grafted onto the body of a Troll on the Chaos All-Stars. Relentless!

Who's Who biffing, bashing and boxing with the Black Orcs

These are all players who have hit the pitch under the Black Orc banner.

Black Orcs

Name	Team	Status
Burg Grobleg	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Retired
Dorgrub Bonestompa	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Gorbag "Rabid" Foamface	Orcland Raiders	Retired
Grom Mad'Un	Orcland Raiders	Alive
Gurgnie Schwarzenorc	Grimfang Gougers	Alive
Gurgurz Irontoof	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Kolath Headripper	** Freebooter **	Alive
Krundarz Rockjaw	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Skragger	Orcland Raiders & others	Dead
Tiny	** Freebooter **	Alive
Urgar Rancid	Orcland Raiders	Retired
Vorlug da Rippa	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Wagdrak Steelfist	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Varag Ghoulcwewer	Gouged Eye, **Freebooter** & Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Zukerv da Puncha	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive



Goblin Bruisers

Name	Team	Status
Fink da Fixer	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Retired
Grivler	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Skrum	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Snark Spiketongue	Rock-tribe Limbrippas	Dead - Eaten by the Tusk Peak Tyrants
Stikz	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Strok	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Tirk	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Zraccik	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive



Trolls

Name	Team	Status
Big Grug	Steel-toof Smashas	Alive



Black Orcs who played for other teams

Name	Team	Status
Blacktusk	Moonfang Marauders	Dead - killed against the Hochland Harbringers
Da Fridge	Gouged Eye	Dead - killed by the Chaos Cup
Fingurs	Brobrag's Big 'Uns	Alive
Krug Painspear	Gouged Eye	Alive
Krusha	Black Water Boyz	Dead - killed by an Ogre
Rip Sorepain	Gouged Eye	Alive
Skurf Limb-Render	Severed Heads	Alive
Smashjaw	Gouged Eye	Alive



Staff

Name	Position	Team	Status
Fink da Fixer	Assistant Coach	Thunder Valley Greenskins & **Freebooter **	Alive
Furgog Ragtoof	Team Owner	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Cruel-Eye	Head Coach	Orcland Raiders	Alive
Frugg One-Eye	Head Coach	Thunder Valley Greenskins	Alive
Krukag Stonehead	Head Coach	Unknown	Alive
Mad Jonnen	Head Coach	Orcland Raiders	Dead - killed during a game of Boat Bowl



Other 'famous' Black Orcs

Name	Position	Status
Angry-Git	Bank Robber	Dead - struck by lightning
Broken-Toof	Bank Robber	Dead - opened a booby trapped chest
Nasty-Git	Bank Robber	Dead - Fell into a bottomless pit
One-Eye	Bank Robber	Dead - Head chopped off



Black Orc teams

*'Ardened 'Eadcrackers
Grimfang Gougurs
Iron-Rok Bonebreakers*

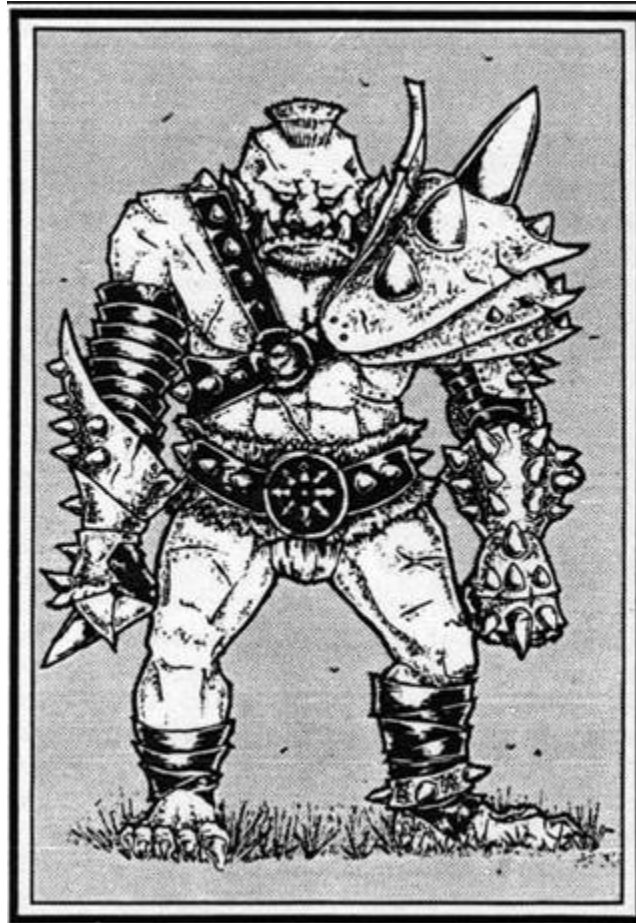
*Orcland Raiders
Rock-tribe Limbrrippas*

*Steel-Toof Smashas
Thunder Valley Greenskins*

Looking ahead

In the next issue, the Gazette we'll be taking a one way ticket to pow town! This is undoubtedly the edition you have all been waiting for as we'll be covering those big, brawny, beautiful lumps, the Ogres! We'll be asking questions such as

- *Why do the Oldheim Ogres struggle to get insurance . . . ?*
- *Just how many 'N' Thorg's are there exactly . . . ?*
- *Dynamic Ogre duos - which one is the best . . . ?*



Final Fact

It was a Black Orc team that caused the Bolgrot controversy. The Thunder Vally Greenskins hired 'Bolgrot' for an upcoming match. It's unclear if the lack of detail in their paperwork was low cunning or just sloppy Orcish administration. Whatever the reason, both Ugroth and Ripper Bolgrot turned up to play which lead to a fall about between the stars, a flash of temper, a slash of chainsaw and a protracted court case. The Greenskins started it but then took a seat on the sidelines to enjoy the action like everybody else!