

Gridiron Gazette :

High Elves and the Union

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In this month's issue we look at the teams from the majestic isle of Ulthuan and how repeated scandals eventually brought about the creation of the Elf Union.

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Cooking up a storm

The Gladiators are one of the few teams who keep a weather mage permanently retained on the staff. Stormbrew Highcloud's skills came into play one game while facing snotling opposition. Smeggy 'the Glider' Marshjuice had been making quite the name for himself with his new winged outfit. Tossed by the team troll he literally flew over the opposition teams heads. That was until Highcloud conjured up a storm to whisk him away into the heavens and on a one-way trip around the frigid far reaches of Norsca.

Looking good

All Elf teams are pampered, but the Gladiators took it to new levels, their spending was beyond excessive. Hot spring saunas, personal teleportation spells and chimera skin kitbags were the norm. No preen too far, no pamper too exotic. It's no wonder the team faced financial ruin when the NAF collapsed and the money tap was turned off.

Underachievers

With one solitary Blood Bowl title to their name, the Gladiators have never lived up to their promise. All of their other awards and honours lack any real credibility such as 'Best Post Match Party - 2470' or 'Most Aesthetic Pass - 2483'. It's about time they won something!

Galadrieth Gladiators

- By Dolf Ungerhaagen

Considering they are Ulthuan's premier team, the Gladiators have something of a checkered past. Their early history appears to be somewhat lost, most likely the players and staff were too focused on decadent partying to actually write anything down. Thus, their recorded history begins in the 2460s but in reality they are a much older team than that.

History

2468 - The Ashvale Valar and Dar-Ellarath Beachtrees teams both financially collapse and as we'll see later the Elfheim Eagles are formed. However, the best players from both teams were actually signed by the Gladiators and saw the team go on a 3 year high with the bolstered new talent.

2470 - The zenith of that high sees the Gladiators win the Blood Bowl trophy, defeating the Gouged Eye in the final. Their first ever win of one of the majors saw the most expensive post-match parties ever recorded. At the behest of Morvael the Phoenix King, the party spread out over all of Ulthuan. Sadly, the players themselves, after such a bruising encounter with the Orcs, missed it. They were too busy getting emergency apothecary and hair stylist appointments!

Morvael was so pleased he demanded the team win the trophy again next year as an excuse to throw another such party.

2471 - The Gladiators had been developing the running game, in odds with the normal majestic High Elf preference for passing. They went the whole season and didn't throw a single pass as they focused on the run. It was a disaster! They are dumped out of the Blood Bowl and in a rage, Morvael exiles the team from Ulthuan! They are forced to play on the road.

2485 - After a barren patch the Gladiators reach the Blood Bowl quarterfinals where they play the Dwarf Giants. 2-0 up and with the Giants reduced to 9 players, things were looking good. Then a dummy ball packed with explosives killed one of the High Elves - a cruel trick! The Gladiators and their fans stormed over to the Giants dug-out for revenge but met the immovable wall of the Giants cheerleading squad. 110 fans were killed, most of the Gladiators squad injured and unfit to continue. The Giants went on to win the game!

2489 - With the NAF collapsing, the Gladiators fall on hard times. In desperation they sign a huge sponsorship deal with McMurty's to promote something called a 'veggie' burger - would you believe it was meat free? Clearly aimed at the Elf market. As part of the deal a name change is also forced on the team, for one season only they became the McMurty's Big Murt Gladiators.

2490 - The Court of Eagles, a conclave of High Elf princes, buy the Gladiators and restore the previous team name. At last, fans thought, this once great team would have some pride and honour restored. Alas no, even this new deal had some small print that was to see the Gladiators descend further into farce. The owners were now allowed to play themselves if they wanted to and so eager but talentless young princelings took the place of seasoned veterans on the pitch.

2492 - Trying to arrest their descent, the Gladiators sign Bo Gallanté and results seems to improve but he only stays for a season. He's never said why he left but clearly something wasn't right with the team.

2501 - Lucien Swift, long term and long-suffering team captain leaves the Eagles to become a full time free booter with his brother. Without his steady hand at the rudder are the Gladiators about to plunge into another period of poor form again?

Prince Moranion – Star Profile

- By Gerhardt Schtumpf

There are a few players who seem to excel at being unpopular even amongst their own fans. The Dragon Prince is certainly one of them!

Moranion was once in line for the Phoenix throne itself and a long life of duty and honour. However, fate was to take him down another path as he found his martial prowess could be put to good use on the Blood Bowl pitch.

He first played for the Caledor Dragons, one of the oldest High Elf teams. Moranion was one of the few survivors of the infamous match against the Nagarothe Nightwings in 2384. Playing in a Druchii cavern stadium, half the Dragons died when an opposition pass knocked free a number of huge stalactites, decimating their defensive line.

Keen for more glory, Moranion set up a team in his own image - the Dragon Princes. They were made up only of the most elite within Ulthuan society and would only deign to play teams of equal merit. Predictably there weren't any and in 2451 the team disbanded having not played a single game.

Eager to actually play a match, Moranion returned to the Dragons and purchased the team - it doesn't hurt to be fabulously wealthy. Despite his leadership, or maybe because of it, the team failed to make any real impression until the collapse of the NAF. Moranion was able to fund the team himself when others collapsed and they have since entered a relative golden era, making the Blood Bowl quarter-finals several times.

Being of such a haughty disposition, Moranion has always struggled to connect with common fans. When interviewed he once said they 'must work on their hygiene'. He really doesn't help himself, does he? This led to chanting of 'Prince Moranion is a girl' about the aloof Elf.

Any lesson he may have learnt about Blood Bowl management, it's a shame he didn't transfer it elsewhere. He opened a restaurant unsurprisingly called 'Moranions' in Ulthuan. The guest list was to be super exclusive. The reader may be shocked to learn the restaurant mostly sits empty as they won't serve the majority of people who would consider going.

What next for the Dragon Prince? Who knows, more poor decisions served with a heavy dose of arrogance and utter lack of self-awareness most likely. What a guy!



Bo Gallanté - oozing confidence

'The Beau' certainly has something to say not just about himself, but also about pretty much all of his more decorated peers. He was content to lambast other High Elves calling Moranion's fashion 'so 2340' or the Swift twins 'Try-hards' but he was always careful to avoid any bad words for his Dark Elf cousins . . . if anything he sucks up to Roxanna Darknail. However, it all went wrong when he said Jordell Freshbreeze had 'awful hair'! A grudge match was arranged between the Fire Isle Phoenixs and the Athelorn Avengers. A boot to the face and the humiliation of crawling off the pitch while that match continued despite his protestations was enough for Gallanté to see the error of his ways. He returned in the second half, shook Freshbreeze's hand and avoided him for the rest of the game. Has he learnt his lesson . . . ?

The Lions of Chrace

The Dragons weren't the only team to fall foul of the Nightwings in a cavern stadium game. In 2391 the Lions players were struggling to see in their game when the Dark Elves provided no artificial lighting at all.

None of the High Elves reserves were able to see the bottomless pit their dug out was placed next to until they stepped into it

Fulathian Filibusters

The Filibusters were well known for pre-game shows that lasted so long (potentially decades) that the opposition got bored or too old to play.

They foolishly tried this trick against the Champions of Death. After such a long delay half the crowd died, Tomolandry reanimated and sent the fans on a pitch invasion. The Filibusters are fighting their way out even now!

High Seas Surfriders

The vanity of Elf teams is legendary, nobody preens like an Elf. The Surfriders took it to new extremes though. They took so long to get ready for each game that in the end they could only attend every other one, being forced to forfeit the other.

To prove that vanity isn't just a High Elf trait, the Great Hawks Wood Elf team are exactly the same!

Forming the Union

Ulthuan has a long and sordid history of scandals which gained more attention than the game itself at times. Who could forget that time when the Phoenix King was seen wearing a Darkside Cowboys jersey - oh the shame!

The Wood and Dark Elves weren't themselves immune from the shameful behaviour of some of their own leaders and teams. Who could forget that it was the Darkside Cowboys cheerleading squad who ran off with Nikk Three-Horn when the NAF collapsed.

It reached a point where a number of the players had had enough. They wanted what they did on the pitch to be the headlines and not related to another financial collapse or some steamy gossip on which coach had been caught with their pants down. A number of Elves decided to break away and form their own teams and so the Union was born. Their focus was what happened on the pitch and not what happened off it.

The number of Union teams swelled with the collapse of the NAF. Without funding many teams folded and so the unemployed Elf players looked to the Union for a new home. Although Elf Union teams are mostly made up of High Elves, it is not uncommon to find both Wood and Dark Elves in their ranks.

Elfheim Eagles – founding fathers

- By Rusty Hoelle

The Eagles were definitely the first team to be formed in the Union model. Unlike the teams who were to follow, it wasn't through some higher purpose. Instead, they were the brain child of a financier who saw a gap in the market and grasped an opportunity.

History

2468 - The 60s were a time of financial hardship for many Blood Bowling teams. Businessman Valahar Gallanté completed hostile take overs of Dar-Ellerath Beachtrees and the Ashvale Valar. Gallanté asset stripped both teams by selling their best players to the Gladiators and their stadiums to developers who would turn them into open air markets. With the collapse of a third Elf team, he acquired the Vale Stadium and hired Perellian Ashblade to mold the remaining Wood Elf and High Elf players into a team. He also acquired the services of a masseur . . . or more accurately a powerful wizard to aid the team's progress.

2471 - Orcidas take over the running of the Chaos Cup and eject the Eagles for no other reason they they were Elves. Although the NAF step in to reverse the decision, the Eagles vow never to take part again!



2472 - The team's wizard teaches the players the infamous Quagmire spell - it produces small areas of quicksand to slow the opposition. In one game against the Bright Crusaders, the players cast it so many times that the Crusaders entire arena sinks below the earth! The NAF, with the aid of the Colleges of Magic, ban on-field spell casting.

2480 - Despite only being 12 years old, the Eagles reach the Blood Bowl final and cause a huge upset by defeating the Nurgle's Rotters. The team's wizard was largely responsible again as he animated the grass and turned a number of the Rotters players into ambivalent college students! It turns out the masseur was the best investment Gallanté had made! Speaking of the owner, he also made a fortune on the game having bet 200,000 golf crowns on an Eagles win at 15-1 odds!

2488 - With the collapse of the NAF the team begin to struggle financially. Gallanté starts selling starting spots on the team to high paying Ulthuan nobles. This causes a player revolt and a number leave to join one of the newly emerging Union teams.

2495 - Ashblade rebuilds the team in a remarkably short space of time and they storm their way to the Blood Bowl final, scoring some huge wins. A sneak play by Varag Ghoul-Chewer in the final though sees the Gougued Eye come away with the victory.

2497 - The team suffer serious losses to the Dwarf Giants who inscribes the Master Rune of Flatulence on the team. The resulting . . . err effect . . . saw a number of Eagle fatalities and players seriously injured by the aroma.

2500 - More glory awaits in the final of the Spike! Magazine trophy but any hopes are cruelly dashed by the mailed fists and spiked boots of the Thunder Valley Greenskins. A lot of the Eagles starting lineup are lost.

2501 - Valen Swift leaves as captain and takes the best of the remaining starting line up with him. The future looks bleak for the Eagles. Can Ashblade work his magic again . . . ?

The brothers Swift

- By Lastiges Weisschen

Everyone knows about the Swift Foundation set up to help struggling young players or the twins' trips to Norsca from the cabalvision show "A Swift trip up north". Their saga on the pitch is what really gets people talking.

Valen had decided to retire in 2472 and to become a fashion adviser instead. It was not long after his brother Lucien had become captain of the Galadrieth Gladiators. Jealousy perhaps? Who knows. There followed a 12-year absence from the game as he turned his back on Blood Bowl until a lost bet with Lucien saw all of that change in 2484. As a result, he agreed to return to the astrogranite, but not for the Gladiators. Instead, he was made captain of the Elfheim Eagles.

Records were soon to start tumbling, Valen came back an even better player than when he left. He soon held the Eagles record of 25 completed passes in a row and the NAF record of 65 pass attempts without being intercepted. He still kept up his fashion work on his side as evidenced when he said "We're here to play Blood Bowl, not to look good. Of course, we can't help it if we do anyway . . .".

Lucien clearly wasn't happy. The Eagles were eclipsing the Gladiators in form and profile. The Gladiators star blitzer was starting to feel like he was playing in his brother's shadow. Tensions arose between the two as they increasingly fell out publicly. It all came to a head in 2487 when Lucien challenged the Eagles to a game to decide which was the better team and brother. It was an unusually tense affair for an all-Elf game that didn't involve Dark Elves. Several times the game was paused as fights broke out in the stands; the brothers weren't the only rivals struggling to control the tempers. The game turned out to be a classic and eventually went to overtime. With the clock ticking down Valen had the ball and the Eagles were on the attack. However, Gladiators blitzer Alarion Pureheart slipped through the Eagles defences and clattered into Valen with a thumping tackle. The thrower went down heavily, breaking his collar bone and spilling the ball. The Gladiators recovered the ball and went on to score the winner, but all of the cabalvision camras were on Lucien rather than the Gladiators celebrations. Lucien was instantly at his brothers' side, more concerned for his well-being than the games result. The brothers were reconciled on the pitch - it was a ratings smash!

Jump forward to 2501 and Valen leaves the Eagles for good, taking a number of their best players with him. Rumours circulate of a dip in form and a drinking problem with a weakness for Bloodweiser. The brothers set up the Kallahir Swifts and began running their own team, modestly named after themselves. That with their charity organisations and documentary series on cabalvision (about themselves, naturally) should keep them busy.

Celestial Comets

What do Dungeon Bowl players do when they graduate college but don't get signed to a Blood Bowl team? They create their own team of course! The Comets were formed when Elves of all races grouped together to make their own team and venture onto the astrogranite. However, they didn't entirely leave their old habits behind them. Before the game kicks off the Comets have been known to set up teleporters 'borrowed' from a College dungeon and place them under the trap doors on the pitch. It certainly explains why a player in the Comets backfield carrying the ball can suddenly appear in the oppositions half so easily for an unexpected (not to mention quick) score. Sneaky blighters!

Soaren Hightower

You could almost feel sorry for Soaren if, like every other Elf, he wasn't so full of himself. He is probably the second-best passer in the league, unfortunately the best passer is also on the same team!

Clearly the Eagles wizard 'Masseur' has been at work again. Soaren is known for his 'Disguise' pass which has flummoxed a myriad of opponents. Whenever they think they are about to intercept a pass, they suddenly find themselves holding a pigeon or worse!

He'll be regretting his run in with Elijah Doom which ruined his good looks. In a tense Elven Kingdoms League match, Doom flattened Soaren and knocked half of his teeth out calling him a 'ridiculous peacock!'. Hard to argue with that really!



Galandril Silverwater

Galandril is perhaps the most famous cheerleader to strut the sidelines. She quit the Tiranoc Titans in favour of the Elfheim Eagles for an eye watering contract. Her secret was her innate magical ability and the way it could inspire fans and players alike. Now retired, she has recently written a book called 'My Life's Great' and released a straight to cabalvision fitness show.

Who's Who High Elves Exclusive is the word.

These are the High Elves who took to the pitch and looked down at any and all of their opponents.

High Elf Blitzers

Name	Team	Status
Alarion Pureheart	Galadrieth Gladiators	Alive
Lucien Swift	Galadrieth Gladiators	Alive
Patricio Arce	** Freebooter **	Alive
Prince Moranion	** Freebooter **	Alive
Valerius Rush	** Freebooter **	Alive
Yorken Soar	** Freebooter **	Alive



High Elf Throwers

Name	Team	Status
Breda Freedom	** Freebooter **	Alive
Landir Yvrace	Lords of Yvresse	Alive
Larholen Swift	** Freebooter **	Alive
Pern Fection	** Freebooter **	Alive



High Elf Throwers

Name	Team	Status
Bo "The Beau" Gallanté	** Freebooter **	Alive
Che-Wai	** Freebooter **	Alive



High Elf Linemen

Name	Team	Status
Galrond Goldleaf	** Freebooter **	Alive
Pierrot Rainforest	Galadrieth Gladiators	Retired
Tharion the Bright	Galadrieth Gladiators	Retired
Ulleria Morr	Unknown	Alive

Gridiron Gazette - High Elf / Elf Union

Other Races

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

Name	Position	Team	Status
Eldrill Sidewinder	Sea Elf Wardancer	** Freebooter **	Alive
Longbark Earthroot	Treeman	Galadrieth Gladiators	Dead - Set alight by the Lowdown Rats



Staff

The below are Elves who have worked on any team.

Name	Race	Position	Team	Status
Angeline Pristine	Elven Union	Cheerleader	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Court of Eagles	High Elf	Team Owner	Galadrieth Gladiators	Alive
Dr Pill	Elf	Apothecary	Bad Bay Hackers	Alive
Galandril Silverwater	High Elf	Cheerleader	** Freebooter **	Alive
Gouriel Denuss	Elven Union	Head Coach	Celestial Comets	Alive
Ilithrion Vale	High Elf	Head Coach	Galadrieth Gladiators	Alive
Jewel Arrendil	Sea Elf	Magical Co-ordinator	Southstorm Squids	Alive
Kaleb Windtalker	Elf	Apothecary	Unknown	Alive
Kalgan Lannersann	Elven Union	Head Coach	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Lasen Waterfall	Elven Union	Team Owner	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Olsen Merlin	Elf	Wizard	Bad Bay Hackers	Dead - killed by the F.A. Cup
Perellian Ashblade	Elven Union	Head Coach	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Prince Moranion	High Elf	Team Owner	Dragon Princes	Alive
Stormbrew Highcloud	High Elf	Magical Co-ordinator	Galadrieth Gladiators	Alive
The Eaglets	Elven Union	Cheerleading squad	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Valahar Gallanté	Elven Union	Team Owner	Elfheim Eagles	Alive



Officials

The below are Elves who have worked on any team.

Name	Race	Position	Status
Citelieth Lawquoter	High Elf	Referee	Alive
Whyte	Elf	Game Wizard	Alive

Other 'famous' Elves

Name	Race	Position	Status
<i>Alyssa Avalos</i>	<i>Elf</i>	<i>Pitchside Reporter</i>	<i>Alive</i>
<i>Mon Jotsun</i>	<i>Elf</i>	<i>BBC Commentator</i>	<i>Alive</i>
<i>Phoenix King Morvael the Impetuous</i>	<i>High Elf</i>	<i>High Elf King</i>	<i>Alive</i>
<i>Sethryn Wyrmsbane</i>	<i>High Elf</i>	<i>Famous Warrior</i>	<i>Alive</i>
<i>Valen Tyne</i>	<i>Elf</i>	<i>Loved crazed Elf</i>	<i>Alive</i>



High Elf teams

<i>Ashvale Valar</i>	<i>Fulathian Filibusters</i>	<i>Lords of Yvresse</i>
<i>Caledor Dragons</i>	<i>Galadrieth Gladiators</i>	<i>Tiranoc Tigers</i>
<i>Dragon Princes</i>	<i>Kallahir Swifts</i>	<i>Tiranoc Titans</i>
<i>Fire Isle Phoenixes</i>	<i>Lords of Chrace</i>	<i>Ulthuan Avengers</i>



Who's Who Elf Union a mixture of Elfish All-Sorts.

These are all players who have hit the pitch looking fabulous in an Elf Union clothing line

Blitzers

Name	Team	Status
Ferrestrial Goldhoove	Everbold Unicorns	Alive
Ffarren Branchstrength	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Oriel Blaze	Celestial Comets	Alive
Orion Spangletongue	Unknown	Alive
Rufaeo Tryl	Celestial Comets	Alive
Silvyen Swiftstep	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Vorean Dawnstar	Elfheim Eagles	Alive



Throwers

Name	Team	Status
Gwion Falconeye	Celestial Comets	Alive
Jorral Brightarm	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Lariala Vinetree	Kallahir Swifts	Alive
Lyborel Lakebreeze	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Soaren Hightower	Elfheim Eagles	Retired
Solenis Firepass	Celestial Comets	Alive
Valen Swift	Elfheim Eagles	Alive



Catchers

Name	Team	Status
Fanafriel Cleardawn	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Foreleon Summerdraft	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Harelyon Tallelm	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Highelm Lyrpadre	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Ibrahim Golddawn	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Lonell Swift	Celestial Comets	Alive
Nyresol Featherstep	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Oderaen Highreach	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Pinedweller Cumulus	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Threllas Surehands	Celestial Comets	Alive



Linemen

Name	Team	Status
Byufell Triehugger	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Caelis "The Avenger" Thyll	Celestial Comets	Alive
Cathvren Fairlock	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Disoryl Seawind	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Dolfar Longstride	** Freebooter **	Dead - Killed by Roxanna Darknail
Ellenari Tespeth	Celestial Comets	Alive
Erewine Ar-Khorigan	Elfheim Eagles	Retired
Eron Bluetree	Celestial Comets	Alive
Fennel Tallelm	Elfheim Eagles	Retired
Filamir Tylanis	Celestial Comets	Alive
Jarren	Unknown	Alive
Kaprica Rootstem	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Kerredith Morr	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Kyrnos the Reaper	Celestial Comets	Alive
Lassolegs Gladhandriel	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Lithoryl Palesilver	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Moraes Quickstem	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Norelius Quiverstep	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Oakwarmth Salladrien	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Opaldawn Mardiell	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Raichoel Riverflow	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Rowan "Rootstem" Elderbranch	Elfheim Eagles	Retired
Ruatha Tembilin	Elfheim Eagles	Retired
Sussurrus Morr	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Tall Erreden	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Ullerien Morr	Elfheim Eagles	Alive
Urion Brantho	Celestial Comets	Alive
Winsom Anglepoise	Unknown	Alive



Elf Union teams

Celestial Comets

Elfheim Eagles



Looking ahead

In issue 26 of the Gridiron Gazette we'll be looking at old ideas re-imagined as we cast our steely gaze over the Old World Alliance teams. We'll be answering such questions as -

- Where did the original Old World Alliance teams go . . . ?
- What caught out Manfred Weasel . . . ?
- Why is it sometimes more dangerous playing with Dwarfs than against them . . . ?
- Manfred Mincer why is he called silver balls . . . ?



Final Fact!

With the teams captain leaving, the Eagles are in need of new leadership. There is a lot of weight therefore on college signee Orion Spangletongue, billed as being the next big thing. Spangletongue, a stripling youth at a mere 80 years old, has been ripping up the record books in the college leagues. He really shot to fame when he became the first player outside of the professional game, to make a long bomb pass from deep within his own half and then catch it himself to score in the oppositions half. It's a lot of pressure on the young players shoulders, can he live up to it?