

BLOOD BOWL

The Big Orc

Spot light on Traveller's fantastic 2004 Gamesday entry.

By Ruediger 'Traveller' Rickassel

For the Golden Demon Competition at German Gamesday 2004 I was not allowed to bring a entry for the Blood Bowl Category as I had won a prize in this category last year. However, I still hungered to enter something with a 'Blood Bowl' flavour.

I receive the newsletter from Forge World every few week. I was browsing through when the Ork stickbomber figurine, my first thought was; "hey, that's something, I can convert into a Blood Bowl sculpt! I also remembered the cover of the first " Blood Bowl Compendium " published in 1997, where the self-portrait of Gary Morley as a Blood Bowl player is on the cover. Gary Morley, of course, was the sculptor of the third edition Blood Bowl models.

The first stage was to remove the 40K stuff of this Ork (soon to become an Orc!). All the weapons and ammunition packs had to disappear. As this is a resin model it was quite easy to remove these parts. The resin base was cut to get a better angle of the miniature as a Blood Bowl player. Also the 40k grenade-throwing arm had to be cut to get a better ball-throwing angle.

The second stage was the 'green stuffing' part. This was the most time consuming part. I learned the hard way to only 'green stuff' a single area per day! After an of hour work I had finished a buckle on the back and started another one at the front... and guess where I put my fingers around first... to say I was not happy with myself was an understatement!

At first I planned to convert the existing 40k shoulder pads into Blood Bowl pads, however they didn't look any good. So



I used a marble from my collection as a base for forming the round shoulder pads. The chain mail was also difficult! After checking some websites and asking the ever-helpful Steve Buddle for information I tried and re-sculpted this many times. I'm still not pleased with the result. Removing the ammunition packs left a flat area on the right leg of the trousers, so I green stuffed some creases in the trousers to cover this area. Sculpting the fingers of the ball hand with parts of the existing cut fingers was a mistake as I learned later. Next time I will sculpt a full new hand!

After building a base out of plaster and priming the whole thing black, the third stage was painting the miniature using my traditional Orc team colour scheme. It's not easy to paint large plain areas without detailing! I think a kind of 'basic airbrushing' would have been better. After repainting some parts a few times thanks to the critical views of my girlfriend and the kids I then cut and painted the battle damage last.

The fourth and final stage was building a nice pedestal for the miniature as the angle and the posture of the body wasn't good enough to keep the base flat for presentation. I didn't paint the wooden pedestal as I like the plain wooden look of it as a contrast to the painted miniature. For viewers, not knowing about Blood Bowl, I added the sign made of slater plastic fonts

I entered this miniature at the German Gamesday 2004. But I entered it in the wrong category as a " Inquisitor style and size " miniature. And, in my personal opinion, my entry couldn't compare with the other great Inquisitor entries. Unluckily the GW staff didn't realise my mistake, too. The right category would have been the 'Open Category'. A slightly bitter taste after over 10 weeks work... anyway another project finished, now for the next!



The Ork(c) in the early stages.



Now that's one big ball, he'll need more than a 3+ to pick that up.



Ruediger used a large marble (a tenner?) as a base for his green stuff shoulder pads.



It took Ruediger quite a few attempts (he's still not happy with it) to get the chain mail right.



Orc Boars don't seem quite so menacing in this scale.



A closer look at the detailing of the shoulder pad.



Gary Morley's largescale Blood Bowl sculpt was the inspiration for this.



Another detail shot of the pre-painted Orc back.



The finished model in all its glory.



Close up on one of the finished shoulder pads.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ruediger Rickassel is known as 'Traveller' online. As well as being a fantastic modeller and painter he (as his nick name suggests) is very fond of travelling. You can view his other fantastic models on his website www.blood-bowl-miniatures.de