

BLOOD BOWL

Darkthunder Cheatahs

Team history of Coach Geggster's highly successful team

By Paul Gegg

Team Colours: Yellow & Green
Head Coach: Geggster
Players: Skaven
Home Stadium: Darkthunder Park

From the sewers of Darkthunder seventeen years ago, the Cheatahs have come a long way. Taking to the field with the maximum complement of Runners, the Rats guarantee high scoring games. If they can just make a defensive play now and then, then maybe another title isn't out of the question. Lock up your daughters - it's the Cheatahs!

2488 – Following an extremely violent soccer match, Darkthunder High Football Club face a lengthy ban. Retiring Scramblers star, Breet Braingulper, spots potential and persuades them to play Blood Bowl instead. Without local opposition (or a team bus) they struggle to get games, but still, the Cheatahs are born. It doesn't take them long for their sneaky tactics to give them a reputation as dirty as well as fast - and the new name of the Cheatahs sticks.

2491 – A serious outbreak of Red Pox Plague leads to a shortage of good players and the Cheatahs are forced into an

uneasy alliance with local warpstone-mining Chaos Dwarfs. It turns out to be a great move as they beat all-comers and storm to the College Bowl. Squeek Festerpelt scores a brace as they push the Luccini Destroyers aside 2-0. Seepus Stinkfist lifts the Cheatah's first trophy.

2493 – Disaster. A pre-game Doomwheel stunt goes wrong and smashes through a supporting pillar at the opening of the newly-built Darkthunder Dome. The Chaos Dwarfs blame the rats for the stadium collapse and set up a touring team with the insurance. The Cheatahs go back to playing in the park, alone.

2502 – The resurgent Cheatahs, just rats these days, finish 28th at Blood Bowl Resurrection, but the news is at the Spiky Tournament where they lose 8-1 to Longshot's Padawans thanks in the main to four blitzes. Braingulper blames elven magic, but it's not enough for the fans and he is forced into hiding. The team join the Albion Capital league - the ECBBL.

2503 – Siras Weaseltongue affirms his place in the Hall of Fame with nine of the 22 team TDs at Blood Bowl XLII. Unbeaten, they finish 9th, receive the Most Touchdowns



Team shot of the Darkside Cheatahs

Award and jump to second in NAF rankings. The year ends in tragedy though, as Siras is killed in a grudge match against the Homicidal Hashrats. His promising son, Sark, succeeds him into the team.

2504 – A great season for the Rats. Most Touchdowns (jt) at the Dungeonbowl is followed up by a semi-final defeat at Blood Bowl XLIII to the eventual winners, Mordredd's Apocalypse (ahem, maybe stuffing is more appropriate - there really wasn't too many Skaven on the pitch at the end of losing 4-1 to a killer Undead team).

The Cheatahs go on tour to Bretonnia and Estalia and fight their way to the Barnabowl final - defeating home team, Barcaskaven in an epic 4-3 Over-Time scorefest. The year comes to an end as the Cheatahs help Team Albion win the Eurobowl in Frankfurheim. New NAF rules are raced through the BBRC to bring Skaven down a peg or two, but too late for Barnabowl hero, Squisk Skuttlestuff, who dies after a horribly-high challenge from a psychopathic Lutecian elf at Eurobowl.

2505 – The Cheatahs carry on good form at the year's Blood Bowl and after three big wins on day one are leading overnight (though immense credit must go to the unknown

Cheatah's fan that injures the Munich Comedians' Star Ogre with a laser-guided rock on the opening kick-off...) Early on day two, a crunch game against The Conquerors of the New World ends 1-1 and is ultimately the Cheatahs downfall as they narrowly miss out on a place in the Blood Bowl Final to... the Conquerors. Fourth is an improvement on 2504, however with the game getting noticeably bash-heavy - many of the star Cheatahs are considering retirement and fans start to wonder if the team's best days aren't maybe behind them now.

HONOURS

Blood Bowl 2503, Most TDs and 9th.

Blood Bowl 2504, 5th.

Blood Bowl 2505, 4th.

Dungeonbowl 2504, Most TDs and 4th.

BloodBarnabowl 2504 Champions.

Part of the Eurobowl-winning Albion Team in 2504.

Hall of Fame: Squeek Festerpelt, Siras Weaseltongue, Carcharias (early induction - and if you saw the size of him, you'd understand).

PLAYER RECORDS

Most Games - Bilus Bigfoot - 156. Consecutive games too! Not bad for someone with only a large boot for armour (although it is a very pointy boot and has ended many a career...)

Most TDs - Sark Weaseltongue - 54.

Most TDs in one game - tied between Mortis Quickstride - 5 against the Erengard Spadassins BB2504 and 5 for Sark Weaseltongue against the Munich Comedians BB2505.

Most Casualties (career) - Blart Smashrip - 22.

Most Casualties in one game - Carcharias - 4 versus the Pearly Wights 2503 - with the infamous ghoulie defence that went oh-so-wrong for the Wights.

Most Passes - Rude Blunderpaws - 45 passes for 2370 paces.

Best Passing Performance - Sark Weaseltongue - 252 paces for 3 TDs (still under appeal - apparently magnetic catching-gloves is seen as unfair by some) against the West Wayland Hawks at BB 2504.

Best Fatality (voted for by Furtune) - For - the homicidally-exciting Jergel Yellowbelly who decapitated Heinrich Holtzschof, the Bogenhoffen Braves star-thrower, with a sickening two-footed challenge in the opening exchanges of his 2503 debut - before running in the recovered ball (and the lose head) for a surprise 2-0 start. Alas, Jergel only played another two games - a seen-it-all-before mummy ended his short career with a painful-looking spike, but he is remembered.

Best Fatality (voted for by Furtune) - Against - Brisk Queeksilver - After scoring twice against bitter-league rivals, the Drug Rats, the star-runner is caught and flattened by a fridge-door-wielding rat-ogre. Fridge magnates don't let the opportunity pass and tie in famous big guys the world-over to lucrative sponsorship deals. New rules are needed to add fridges to on-field weapons - supposedly banning them.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul Gegg is the very successful coach of the Skaven team, the Darkthunder Cheatahs. The Cheatahs, along with Paul, have appeared at nearly every Blood Bowl tournament in Europe and must hold some record for the most travelled team. Paul will be sharing his experiences of playing with a Skaven team in an upcoming issue of Fanatic Online.

TEAM OF 2505

| | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Caradis Pox | Linerat (capt.) |
| 2 | Pund Bedwetter | Linerat |
| 3 | Dunkan X | Linerat |
| 4 | Friblik Conk | Linerat |
| 5 | Poopus Pox | Linerat |
| 6 | Bilus Bigfoot | Linerat |
| 7 | Fungal Tailchaser | Linerat |
| 8 | Booma Ironson | Thrower |
| 9 | Rude Blunderpaws | Thrower |
| 10 | Septik Kranium | StormVermin |
| 11 | Blart Smashrip | StormVermin |
| 12 | Carcharias | Rat-Ogre |
| 13 | Toxus Cold-Eye | Gutter Runner |
| 14 | Moist Kenazzar | Gutter Runner |
| 15 | Sark Weaseltongue | Gutter Runner |
| 16 | Queek Sewerstain | Gutter Runner |



Toxus Cold-Eye, Cheatas Gutter Runner