

UTAH SNITCH



OFFICIAL SPORTS NEWSLETTER OF THE UTAH QUIDDITCH ORGANIZATION

Fliers on Fire!



The Crimson Fliers did it again on Jan 8th with a dynamic win against the Utah Hex, 100 to 40!

Newly fallen powder and fresh hot chocolate started off the match on a pitch engraved into the crisp snow. The foggy air was frigid on one of the worst air quality days of the season. Notwithstanding, the Fliers stepped up their game scoring 80 times before the Hex's first goal!

Most notable was the level of sheer grit shown by the Fliers with a record number of tackles, opponents sent packing into the snow, and blocks by their star Keepers. The Hex Seeker caught the snitch, ending the match.

Afterword, an action-packed exhibition match was played with a mix of Hex, Fliers, and Woods Cross High School players on impromptu teams of the "Jets" and the "Sharks."



Is the Western Region Cup in your sights? Looking for some California Sun? Then you wouldn't want to miss our next event!

On Feb. 5th at 12:00 PM MST, the UQO will host an online meeting for all players in Utah who are interested in attending and competing against World Cup class teams in the Western Region Quidditch Tournament in Southern California on April 2nd and 3rd. All you have to do is join the "UQO Online Meeting" group on Facebook and then join the group chat. See you there!



In this Issue:

- New Teams and Meetings!
- Utah's 1st Quidditch Player
- Valentine dos and don'ts?
- More matches in the Snow!
- And more!

Upcoming Events

Western Tour Meeting:	Feb 5th
UQO's 1st B-Day:	Feb 26th
SLCC Club Meeting:	Feb 26th
Hex open Practice:	Feb 26th
Match – Fliers @ Judge:	Mar 5th
Match – Hex @ Judge:	Mar 5th
Snow Cup Final:	March
Western Tournament:	Apr 2nd, 3rd

(The dates of future events may be changed or adjusted. Please visit our website for up-to-date times, specifics, and for more upcoming events)



Running points for our current season:

1. **Crimson Fliers:** 360
2. **Utah Hex:** 230
3. **Judge Memorial:** 140
4. Other Teams: (Pending)

Do you have questions about when and where our next games will be? Feel free to check out our calendar on our site, or send us an email, any time!

New Teams!



One Year ago, Utah had one working team registered with the IQA. In 12 short months, our favorite sport has exploded into 14 teams stretching across the state! The popularity of Quidditch and the level of interest here in the West are far beyond what anyone seems to have thought possible, and we are only getting started!

Our "Local Teams" page has been updated to help you find the team nearest you, and get in touch with your team's captain in seconds! Feel free to use our directory by clicking on this link found on our home page:



Current List of Utah Teams:

- Alta High School
- Brigham Young University
- Davis County
- Davis High School
- Grantsville High School (Ghost Riders)
- Judge Memorial High School
- Kaysville High School (Bloody Barons)
- Ogden Hallows
- Salt Lake Community College
- Timpanogos High School
- University of Utah (Crimson Fliers)
- Utah Hex
- Utah State University
- Utah Valley University
- Woodcross High School (Red Caps)



First Meeting

Will the Salt Lake Community College Quidditch team be the next rising star in the world of Wizard Sports? You will help decide!

Bruins from SLCC campuses throughout the state are invited to attend the first SLCC Quidditch Club official meeting, to be held at the Redwood Campus. The meeting will take place on Saturday, Feb 26th at noon at the Abraham Markosian Library (next to the Student Center) downstairs in room 50.

The students starting off the club are already off to a good start creating posters and blanketing the campus – Good luck Bruins!



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Top 5 Valentines For Your Quidditch Crush



Is she the kind of girl who always finds the snitch? Is he the kind of guy who never misses a shot? Chances are, that if you can't wait until the next time you can tackle your secret someone, than it might be a good idea to send a Valentine their way.

But what can you do? Never fear, here are a few tips to win the heart of just about any Quidditch player out there. There is no need to wait until the next Yule ball to make your move – we've got you covered! Listed below are the top 5 heart-felt remedies for your love-sick searching. Good luck!

5. Sneak-in a shout out. The Utah Snitch and the Monthly Seer are only two Quidditch Newsletters around. If your matches are covered in a school newsletter or something, make a call to remind the writers about how awesome your crush's plays were. A quote about them with your name on it couldn't hurt!

4. Friendly Competition. No matter what they say, reverse psychology can get you places. Is she on the other team? Don't let her out of your sight! Do you see him at practice? Be the first to block his shot! Remember, "playing hard to beat" is not too different than "playing hard to get."

3. Before and After. It's hard to go anywhere with someone you only see on the Pitch. Would they be interested in

some hot Pumpkin Spice after a cold game? Maybe you can find out what their class is beforehand so you can walk with them to practice. Oh, the possibilities...

2. Candies, Notes and Fluffy stuff. No Valentine would be complete without a little something they can take home. A text or Facebook message won't cut it – we're talking tangible things only! After all, this is a full contact serious athlete here, so don't skimp. You're looking for something that simply says – when I get hit in the head with a bludger, yours is the first name I whisper in my delirium.

1. It's all about the Brooms Baby! So what if you don't even play Quidditch? What if this player is so out of your league that you don't even know where to start? We'll tell you where to start. Alivans brooms are the best ones out there. Get them a spiffy Sienna Storm or Scarlet Falcon, and you won't be able to forget your last "singles awareness day" fast enough! Love Potions are for chumps, broomsticks make the magic happen.

As always, we're cheering you on, and make sure to have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Take your
QUIDDITCH TEAM to the
NEXT LEVEL

Become an
OFFICIAL MEMBER
today.

Add your team to the list of officially registered IQA Quidditch teams and receive yearly benefits including possible grants, free tournament entries, discounted Alivans Equipment, a team page on the IQA website, and much more!

Helping out, Out-of-Staters, And You



The Snow cup is approaching its climatic finish and more teams want in on the games! Yet some of these teams come from out-of-state, and a few players will need a place to stay when they are here.

If you can host out-of-state Quidditch players, or if you know someone who may be able to host a player or two, please contact the UQO by phone or by sending a message to utahquidditch@yahoo.com.

Out of state players will be encouraged to bring sleeping bags and such, so they will only need a place to stay, and facilities to prepare to play the next day. Air mattresses, couches, and so forth would be very helpful. Each host is encouraged to take on a minimum of two players for two nights. The Snow Cup tournament will take place on a weekend in March, with more details forthcoming. We only need a few volunteers in order to welcome in our neighboring teams. Thank you so much!

Team Bulletin Board

Welcome to our New Team Bulletin Board!

Here, team captains and players will be able to post messages specifically for their team members. Will your practice be rescheduled? Did someone forget their broom? Post your notes here and have it sent to all of your players as part of our newsletter! Please send notes to our email address and we will make sure to add them to each month's bulletin board page of the *Utah Snitch*.



Meeting Coming Up

All Judge Memorial High School Quidditch Team Players and Friends will be holding a team meeting in a couple of weeks. Please contact Field Captain Jasiek Ottowicz or Captain Genevieve Bennett for more information.



From the IQA to all of Utah's Teams...



The International Quidditch Organization's Volunteer and reporting program has been adjusted so that each TSS over a state will contact each team every two weeks and then report back to their Regional Manager on how that team is doing. Utah teams should expect calls and emails from Utah Teams Support Specialist Nicholas Burk twice a month for a quick report on how that team is doing. We look forward to hearing more good news!



Hex Practice changed from 12:00 to **3:00 PM**

Team practice on the 26th of February will take place at the usual place (South Ridge Park, 5100 S and 4000 W in Taylorsville) yet at a different time. Please adjust your schedules accordingly. Thanks! Also, New Players are always welcome!



Utah's First Known Quidditch Player:



Timothy Riser

“Did you know Quidditch was a real sport?” For years, the rumors and stories spread across the country of a new college coed full contact sport involving elements of different games all done atop a broom. Harry Potter Fans would experiment with the idea here and there, and a game may even be put together to celebrate a book or movie release. Yet for the state of Utah, the prospect of organized teams and practices was only an idea.

It was only an idea, that is, until Timothy Riser of Brigham Young University and others like him decided to take the first step into organizing an official team under the International Quidditch Association.

This month, the UQO would like to honor Tim, and his pioneering efforts in helping to promote the sport like no

other, in our new “Player of the Month” column. Printed in this issue is our exclusive interview.

US: How did you first hear about Muggle Quidditch?

Tim: “I just heard about college tournaments happening on the East Coast, and my friend and I like to do crazy things. It was something you could really get into, but it is more than something crazy – it is a real sport to play and have a lot of fun doing.”

US: In the time you had a BYU team going, what was the best part of the whole experience?

Tim: “The best part was that it was so unlike other sports, but it still keeps the spirit of full contact sports, and I love it.”

US: What was your first practice and game like?

Tim: “We probably went through about a dozen brooms because we all brought mettles brooms which kept snapping, and it was very icy with a few injuries, but we all had a blast.”

BYU’s first team of Quidditch players was organized at least a year before the UQO. It wasn’t an official school club, but when Tim heard about all the new teams starting across the state, he was sure that there is still plenty of interest in Provo to start a new official team.

Tim will be out of the Quidditch scene for two years, as he will be serving a two year mission in South Korea. “I’ll see you guys later,” Tim said. “Best of luck with Quidditch while I’m gone!”



Do you know students who would be interested in joining BYU’s new team? Let us know! All it takes is a few posters, volunteers and players to start Utah’s next great Quidditch team!

What a Year!



A couple of weeks ago, the Utah Quidditch Organization held a birthday party with players from across the state. Some had been playing Quidditch for a while, and some still have yet to get onto the pitch, but everyone couldn’t help being a little impressed with how far the UQO has come in 12 months.

To celebrate our great year and our 12th issue of the Utah Snitch, our staff has prepared a brief history of Quidditch in Utah, including little known facts about how our favorite sport took off...



(“Utah Heroes” Uniform concept art by Ethan Burk, age eight, just after the first two games under the UQO.)



2005 marked the beginning of Muggle Quidditch in Middlebury College in Vermont. A few years later, groups of friends at Brigham Young University, Southern Utah University, and also Westminster College started the first Utah teams. However, with the sport itself almost entirely unknown to the college crowd, these teams fizzled out after time.

In February of 2010, Nicholas Burk came across video promotions of Quidditch online from his home in Salt Lake. That day, he sent a message to Alex Benepe, Commissioner of the IQA (then, Intercollegiate Quidditch Association) asking about which teams were close by.

The answer came that no active teams were in the state at that time, but Alex sent a rule book all the same. Nicholas studied it and put the concepts into practice, playing with his nephew in the back yard. The fun of the game caught not only his, but his friend's attention, and they soon

formed a team originally dubbed "The Utah Heroes." The name was later changed to the "Utah Hex" and the new community team practiced every other week at a nearby park, where the players would teach local kids how to play.

A variety of playing styles and rules were explored, including holding the broom out to a player's side and each player having a snitch tucked in their shorts. However, the team soon found out that the IQA rules were simply the best way to go.

Playing atop dollar store brooms (padded to prevent injury), the Hex honed their skills, however they were not satisfied with playing scrimmages, but were eager to play against other teams. In order to get the word out about their team, as well as help find others and form a network or association, to help organize matches and tournaments, something needed to be established.

On Feb 26th, the Utah Quidditch Organization was formed; however other names such as SLIQ (Salt Lake Intramural Quidditch) were tossed around in the process. On March 1st, utahquidditch.org was set up as an online resource for players within the state.

In only a matter of weeks, the UQO was notified about a new team starting up at Judge Memorial High School. The first official game of the first official Utah Cup was soon arranged between the two teams at Sugar House Park on July 31st (Harry Potter's Birthday) 2010. Soon, other teams were able to find the UQO and more learned about Quidditch through the UQO's presence at fairs and community service.

The rest, as they say, is history. There are now 14 teams within the state with others rumored to be starting up at Weber State and Park City High school! Quidditch games have been covered on every major news network in the state. The UQO is now winding up its second interscholastic state-wide championship, and players from Utah are gearing up for their first out-of-state games!

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this tremendous growth. We look forward to writing the stories of how your teams began, and worked their way to the top! For more about the growth of each of Utah's teams this past year, feel free to visit our News Archive on our website!



Check out the Jan 2011 Issue of the Monthly Seer to learn about a new team in Finland, Winter Tournaments in the Midwest and East side, a list of injuries from the World Cup, Notes from a Quidditch Parent, and the IQA's new partnership with fundraising companies! Also, don't miss New and Exciting Perks to registering your team with the IQA, and more! → Internationalquidditch.org