

# THE SKINK'UN

## ATHENA BLOOD BOWL LEAGUE SEASON 8 WEEK 12 REVIEW



NORTH DIVISION

SOUTH DIVISION

EAST DIVISION

FINAL STANDINGS

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Who's going to the play-offs?

So, ABBL Season Eight has reached the end of the regular season and we are in to the Play-Offs! Some teams showed a lot more commitment than others and the Commissioner's Office had quite a bit to think about regarding who got those cherished Play-Off spots. Before we dive in to each Division and see who has come out on top, we're going to take a little look at some stats and figures.

Despite the un-played games and the naturally lower numbers as a result, this season saw quite the increase in averages. Last season there were 121 games played, 367 TD's and 509 CAS's with this season seeing only 82 games played with 283 TD's and 394 CAS's. But the average amount of TD's per game increased from 3.03 to 3.45 and the average amount of CAS's per game increased from 4.21 to 4.8! On top of this, we saw 55 Fatalities, more than any other season in the ABBL. DEF/INT's doubled from 3 to 6 while COMP's were down from 204 to 196 but the average rose from 1.69 per game to 2.48 probably due to the East Division providing 98 of those all by themselves!

We also saw some player records broken yet again but we'll cover those separately a little later in the issue. For now, let's have a look at each individual Division and see who's made it in the Wildcard slots.

# NORTH DIVISION

Team	Played	Un-played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Net T/D	Net Cas	Points	Skink un rating	Skink un coach rating
Wolfenburg Bulls	8	4	7	0	1	9	-8	43	62.7	36.9
Daylight Gobbery	9	3	3	2	4	-9	0	32	0.8	22.2
Underworld Chiefs	10	2	3	2	5	-5	-13	25	48.9	45.0
Da Gobsnaperz	8	4	0	1	7	-13	6	17	27.5	33.4
Middenheim Mindbreakers	4	8	1	2	1	3	-3	-17	47.3	32.2
The Mc's	2	10	1	0	1	3	4	-20	44.7	40.1

## Inter-Divisional Results

Middenheim Mindbreakers      0      2      Hel Fenn Harriers

Ratmaninovs                      4      2      Wolfenburg Bulls

The final two games in the North were Inter-Divisionals. In what we think is a first for the ABBL, we had two Vampire teams taking each other on in a North vs East clash between the Middenheim Mindbreakers and the Hel Fenn Harriers. The scoreline doesn't really do the game justice as the Harriers only barely managed to score the 2 that they did. However, they kept the Mindbreakers to no score at all (despite Ivan 'The Animal' Deathshroud causing problems all game long), the first time the Mindbreakers didn't manage to score in a game! With only 4 games played all season, the Mindbreakers weren't going to qualify for the Play-Offs before the game started but the Harriers now had an outside chance, more about them in the East Division round-up...

The other game saw the final match the Bulls needed in order to qualify for the Play-Offs. Unfortunately for them, their winning streak was brought to an abrupt end as the Ratmaninovs got four past them for the response of just two. To heap further woe on them, the Skaven also injured three players, forcing them to miss the Quarter-Final (one of which was the Ogre, Billy Goat Gruff) and outright killed another. They may be through but it's going to be a tough game whoever they face...

The Bonus and Penalty points fell as follows:

Category	Team	Amount
Touchdowns	Wolfenburg Bulls	19
Casualties	Daylight Gobbery	18
Completions	Wolfenburg Bulls	19
Deflections/Interceptions	Daylight Gobbery	2
Un-Played Games	Middenheim Mindbreakers (8)	-24 pts
	The Mc's (10)	-30 pts
Games Conceded	The Mc's (1)	-4 pts
Un-Played Games Awarded as 0-0 Draws	Wolfenburg Bulls	8 pts
	Daylight Gobbery	6 pts
	Da Gobsnaperz	8 pts
	Underworld Chiefs	4 pts

The final table points have been adjusted to reflect these additional changes.

So, it's official! The Wolfenburg Bulls progress to the Play-Offs as North Division Winners while, for the first time ever in their history, the Daylight Gobbery have qualified for the Play-Offs in 2<sup>nd</sup> place! We can only speculate if history would have shown a different result had the Mc's and Mindbreakers got their games in, especially if the Chiefs had pulled a couple of victories there and a few more casualties. But, the 6 Bonus Points earned by the Goblins have given them their well-deserved chance at the big prize and the Chiefs will have to consider trying again next season – 25pts not enough to see them through in the Wild Card slots.

Da Gobsnaperz had a disappointing run after the promise they showed in Season 7 but they did bring the pain to some teams, causing 16 casualties in 8 games, not a bad average of 2 a game. The less said about the Mc's, the better, the ABBL does not tolerate players being sold in to slavery (it's fine if they're slaves when they start of course – looking at you Chaos Dwarves!) and they will not be welcome back. The Mindbreakers managed an impressive 10 TD's in the 4 games they played, including a 5-0 mauling of Da Gobsnaperz but their inability to pull themselves out of their coffins sealed their fate as the season progressed. It's looking unlikely we'll see them next season. Do we think the North will dominate the Play-Offs? Let's take a look at the South...



# SOUTH DIVISION

Team	Played	Un-played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Net T/D	Net Cas	Points	Skink un rating	Skink un coach rating
Subcity Skavengers	11	1	7	3	1	22	-9	43	70.8	40.2
Fire Valley Fateweavers	11	1	6	3	2	7	9	34	51.8	49.8
Mileham Villans	12	0	4	4	4	0	35	31	54.3	46.6
Midden Moor Mudlarks	12	0	5	3	4	0	-19	30	27.8	59.6
Skryre Fyreblades	10	2	3	1	6	-5	-4	18	69.3	48.5
Luton Lizards	12	1	0	1	11	-25	-11	16	42.8	33.2

## Divisional Results

Skryre Fyreblades 0 1 Mileham Villans

Skryre Fyreblades 0 4 Subcity Skavengers

Skryre Fyreblades 3 0 Luton Lizards

The final run of games in the South saw the Fyreblades trying to make something of their season. Unfortunately, their opponents weren't much in the mood to let them get anywhere! Firstly, the Villans stole the show with their fists and the game ended with just 4 rats left on the pitch! The second game came against the eventual South Winners who were merciless in a 4-0 victory over the Skaven. This game also saw Roger Rogre meet his end at the feet of Brokun Toasta, a mere Goblin... There was at least one bright moment, their last game saw a 3-0 victory against the Luton Lizards but last season's Semi-Finalists have had a rotten season and rumours are they may not be returning next season.

The Bonus and Penalty points fell as follows:

Category	Team	Amount
Touchdowns	Subcity Skavengers	31
Casualties	Mileham Villans	52
Completions	Luton Lizards	9
Deflections/Interceptions	Subcity Skavengers	1
Un-played Games	Skryre Fyreblades (2)	-6 pts
Un-Played Games Awarded as 0-0 Draws	Fire Valley Fateweavers	2 pts
	Subcity Skavengers	2 pts

The Subcity Skavengers are run away winners of the South with the Fire Valley Fateweavers coming in to 2<sup>nd</sup> place so both these teams qualify for the Play-Offs. The Mileham Villan's murderous form and final win of the season against the Fyreblades has seen them get just enough points to squeeze through and qualify for a Wild Card spot at the expense of the Midden Moor Mudlarks who lose out by a single point. The South has 3 teams vying for the title and, with the Cup Final between The Skavengers and Fateweavers, many would not be surprised if these teams met each other in the League Final also.

At the other end of the table, the poor Luton Lizards just couldn't get going. Coming in late in the season to replace the Marienburg Bluebloods, they inherited a losing record and were, arguably, in the toughest Division of the ABBL. We hope to see them next season however. The Fyreblades just didn't live up to Season 7's hype unfortunately and may well be bowing out for Season 9.

The South saw 38 games played in total with 190 Casualties, more than either of the other Divisions, largely due to the almost record-breaking 52 caused by the Villans, 2 shy of equalling the record set by the Petty Hate Machines last season. Much gnashing of teeth and cursing was sent in the direction of the Mc's, their non-game concession robbing the Villan's of their chance to make ABBL history. They'll certainly be in with another chance next season and whoever faces them in the play-Offs will need to be prepared for a painful game.

As for the top two teams, how do we think they'll fare? Well, the Skavengers have scored more touchdowns than any other team in the League this season, 4 away from meeting the record set by the Chrace Lions back in Season 6 of 35 mostly due to Slym Pikkins, the Gutter Runner who has smashed the TD's scored and SPP's earnt in a season. If he gets taken out, whoever faces them could be in with a chance. The Fateweavers have had no real stand out stars all season and have (somewhat against convention it must be said!) presented a united team front against all their opponents. Will this team ethic see them through? We'll just have to wait and see...

# EAST DIVISION

Team	Played	Un-played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Net T/D	Net Cas	Points	Skink un rating	Skink un coach rating
Ratmaninovs	10	2	6	3	1	9	5	36	99.8	47.5
Kirchenstein Templars	10	2	7	2	1	7	17	32	50.3	67.6
Green Glade Packers	9	3	4	5	0	5	-13	32	63.5	46.5
Hel Fenn Harriers	12	1	3	3	6	-1	-18	27	49.0	69.9
Petty Hate Machines	8	4	2	1	5	-5	22	20	75.4	53.2
Woods Wiccan Wonders	6	6	1	2	3	-2	0	-7	70.3	64.5

## Divisional Results

Kirchenstein Templars                      2              1              Hel Fenn Harriers

## Inter-Divisional Results

Middenheim Mindbreakers              0              2              Hel Fenn Harriers

Ratmaninovs                                      4              2              Wolfenburg Bulls

The start of Week Twelve in the East saw the Hel Fenn Harriers with an outside chance of qualifying as a Wild card. All they had to do was win both their remaining games and get a Deflection or Interception to steal the Bonus Points from the Ratmaninovs. They achieved a win against fellow Vampires, the Middenheim Mindbreakers, despite Ivan 'The Animal's intervention and went in to their final game against the Templars with hopes high. Unfortunately for them, the Templars had other ideas! They were in need of a win also with the Green Glade Packers breathing down their necks, ready to snatch the automatic qualifying spot off of them and this, combined with their fanatical fervour saw them through in a tight game that almost saw the Vampires equalise in the dying seconds of the game to ruin the Templars season.

The Ratmaninovs were looking to seal the deal in the East as they played their final game of the regular season, hosting the undefeated Wolfenburg Bulls from the North. The Skaven were in no mood for

leniency and, blatantly dis-regarding any respect due to an undefeated team, ripped them apart. Literally. The Bulls not only lost 4-2 but suffered 8 casualties, leaving them ill-prepared for the Play-Offs. The Ratmaninovs on the other hand, go in to the Play-Offs as Winners of the East and in a strong position.

The Bonus and Penalty points fell as follows:

Category	Team	Amount
Touchdowns	Ratmaninovs	29
Casualties	Petty Hate Machines	33
Completions	Hel Fenn Harriers	41
Deflections/Interceptions	Ratmaninovs	1
Un-played Games	Woods Wiccan Wonders (6)	-18pts
	Ratmaninovs (1)	-3pts
	Kirchenstein Templars (1)	-3pts
	Petty Hate Machines (2)	-6pts
Un-Played Games Awarded as 0-0 Draws	Green Glade Packers (3)	6pts
	Petty Hate Machines (2)	4pts
	Kirchenstein Templars (1)	2pts
	Ratmaninovs (1)	2pts

The Green Glade Packers took no part in Week 12 but had already done just enough to secure their spot in the Play-Offs. They lost out on automatic qualifying by just 2 Touchdowns being on equal points with the Templars but had scored the most points in the ABBL without automatic qualifying and so enter as the first place Wild Card. The East see's 3 teams through to the Play-Offs.

Despite missing out on qualification, the Harriers have set a new record for the most amount of Completions in a single regular season with 41, not that it did them much good in the end! The East also provided us with the highest scoring Draw in ABBL history with a 4-4 scoreline between the Green Glade Packers and Ratmaninovs back in Week Eleven. The East was also one of the deadliest Divisions in the League with 16 fatalities caused out of 32 games! Only the South achieved more.





# FINAL STANDINGS

North 1 <sup>st</sup>	Wolfenburg Bulls	8 games played	37 league points	6 bonus points	43 points total
North 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Daylight Gobbery	9 games played	26 league points	6 bonus points	32 points total
South 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sub City Skavengers	11 games played	37 league points	6 bonus points	43 points total
South 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fire Valley Fateweavers	11 games played	34 league points	0 bonus points	34 points total
East 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ratmaninovs	10 games played	30 league points	6 bonus points	36 points total
East 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kirchenstein Templars	10 games played	32 league points	0 bonus points	32 points total
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Wild Card	Green Glade Packers	9 games played	32 league points	0 bonus points	32 points total
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Wild Card	Mileham Villans	12 games played	28 league points	3 bonus points	31 points total



# QUARTER FINALS

So, the regular season has drawn to a close and, for most teams, the uniform is being packed away, funerals are being paid for and the bombs are being stored (somewhat) safely away in preparation for next season. But for 8 teams, it's time to move on to the knock-out stage so who is facing who in the Quarter Finals?

### **Wolfenburg Bulls vs Fire Valley Fateweavers**

The Bulls have had a superb season, only marred by their last game and not being able to get all their games played. In comparison, the Fateweavers have had a mixed bag, starting off strong, having a mid-season wobble where they lost 2 games in a row to Snotlings and Vampires and ending with Draws. However, their Big Guys have really come to the fore for them when needed and this is something the Bulls will be lacking going in to the game, courtesy of the Ratmaninovs devastating 8 casualties in their last game before going in to this one. It's going to be tight but we're finding it hard to see where the muscle is going to come from for the Bulls and the South may just edge it.

### **Subcity Skavengers vs Kirchenstein Templars**

Both of these teams only suffered one loss during the season and, perhaps tellingly, the Skavengers one came at the hands of the Templars in an Inter-Divisional in Week 7. However, both teams have developed and advanced since then and the Skavengers have the more complete version of Slym Pikkins, the GIT for Season 8. With this scoring threat on the board, revenge is easily with the Skavengers grasp but if the Templars can take him out early, things will be a mite tougher for the Denizens. But, to do this, they'll first have to get past the Skaven Blitzer, Rusti Nail (Most Casualties Caused winner of Season 8) although they do have powerful weapons in their own right in the form of Blitzers Donatella Hexenmord and Leonardo Von Blitzmark (Joint Most Fatalities Caused Season 8) to perform this task. We have no idea who's going to win this one but it's going to be close!



### **Ratmaninovs vs Mileham Villans**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> place Wild Card qualifier takes on the Winner of the East Division in this opposing clash of playstyles. While the Villans have been busy murdering their opponents, the Ratmaninovs have gone for out-scoring them and this game will see one of two things: A huge amount of Touchdowns for the Skaven or a huge amount of Casualties for the Villans. Or maybe, if we're lucky, we'll even see both! Last season's GIT, Ava Puffski is still a massive scoring threat, despite losing his crown to Slym Pikkins this season while MIA (Joint Most Fatalities Caused Season 8) for the Black Orcs has certainly been bringing the pain against any opponent brave enough to stand in front of them. We predict the Skaven will get through but whoever they face next will likely be thanking the Villans...

### **Daylight Gobbery vs Green Glade Packers**

The Gobbery have finally made it! After 4 seasons of effort, they've made the Play-Offs and their reward is... playing the only undefeated team in the League! With just 3 wins under their belt, nobody expected the plucky little fellas to make it this far but some hard-fought Draws and bonus points courtesy of Star Troll Ron Pow-Ers making key Deflections and Interceptions has finally see them get here. Nobody with any kind of Blood Bowl knowledge thinks they'll get any further of course, especially when looking at their opposition. The Green Glade Packers have made it through without any losses this season in what was a very tight Division. Unfortunately, they lost their promising Treeman, The Faraway Tree in their last game played but they still have Oakley Acorn Jr and Basil Bramble, the Wardancers eager to cement the Packers' name in ABBL history. There aren't many backing the Gobbery but, you never know, just maybe...





# PLAYER AWARDS

With the end of the regular season, it's time to confirm which players got which awards. Without further ado:



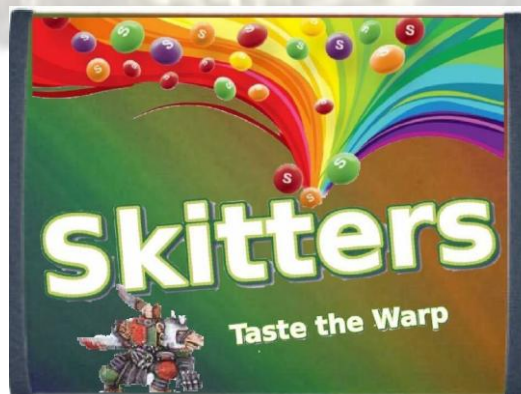
**Most Touchdowns:** Slym Pikkins of the Subcity Skavengers – 23

This Gutter Runner has managed to completely smash the TD record set last season. Even more impressive is the fact that he didn't even get to complete a full season! Expect this record to stand for some time to come.



**Most Casualties:** Rusti nail of the Subcity Skavengers – 15

Another player from the Subcity Skavengers, this time one of a far more violent persuasion! Not only did he get 15 casualties in the regular season, he also managed a few in Friendlies and Cup matches. Just 1 shy of matching the record, he'll probably be up for another go next season!







**Most Completions:** Lord Notefinuff of the Hel Fenn Harriers – 23

Lord Notefinuff built up a decent completion rate with small passes in the backfield to his fellow Thrower, Prince Vorschtang and the occasional longer pass to his wife, Lady Notefinuff.



**Most Interceptions:** Ron Pow-Ers of the Daylight Gobbery, Brokun Toasta of the Subcity Skavengers & Ava Puffski of the Ratmaninovs – 1

Ron Pow-Ers got his in the same game he got his Interception, Brokun Toasta is another player from the Subcity Skavengers that we haven't really mentioned much but is a potential star of the future & Ava Puffski got his after a terrible throw from the Most Completions winner!





**Most Deflections:** Ron Pow-Ers of the Daylight Gobbery, MIA of the Mileham Villans & Lord Notefinuff of the Hel Fenn Harriers – 1

Ron Pow-ers singlehandedly getting the Gobbery to the Play-Offs with a remarkable level of competency in 1 game, MIA showing that they're not just a big green fist coming straight at you and Lord Notefinuff preventing a win for the Green Glade Packers with his timely Deflection.



**Most TTM's:** George Eats'Em of the Daylight Gobbery – 14

The only player in ABBL history to have retained an Award for 3 straight seasons and to get it 4 times in total! Rumours are he's retiring from active duty at season end but it's going to be a looong time before this one is beaten.



**Most Fatalities:** Leonardo Von Blitzmark of the Kirchenstein templars & MIA of the Mileham Villans – 2

Both of these players have been the bane of their opponents. MIA constantly so, Leonardo is a fresh face in the ABBL. We wouldn't be surprised to see more Fatalities from these two in the Play-Offs.



**GIT:** Slym Pikkins of the Subcity Skavengers – 83

And we end the Player Awards as we began them, with Slym Pikkins earning the GIT and setting another ABBL record. The previous highest SPP count was 67, set last season by Ava Puffski and Slym just blew that away. We'll be keeping an eye on him next season, he's set a pretty high bar!

## COFFIN CORNER

**NOT MUCH DEATH IN WEEK 12 TO REPORT ON SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY. THERE'S ONE FROM THE ALL-VAMPIRE MATCH UP WHERE WE THINK EVERYONE'S DEAD ALREADY ANYWAY... JUST PETE FROM THE HEL FENN HARRIERS IS GONE, TAKEN BY IVAN 'THE ANIMAL' DEATHSHROUD PLAYING FOR THE MIDDENHEIM MINDBREAKERS.**

**THE WOLFENBURG BULLS SUFFERED A FATALITY IN THAT BRUTAL GAME AGAINST THE RATMANINOVs, JEFFERY JEFFINGTON MEETING HIS END AT THE HANDS OF LENIN II AS THE 2<sup>ND</sup> HALF KICKED OFF.**

**FINALLY, WE HAVE ROGER ROGRE OF THE SKRYRE FYREBLADES FALLING AFOUL OF, WELL, A FOUL... BROKUN TOASTA OF THE SUBCITY SKAVENGERS BROUGHT THE RAT OGRE'S CAREER TO AN ABRUPT END WITH A SWIFT BOOT TO THE FACE. PROBABLY FOR THE BEST, THEY'RE LIKELY TO DISBAND ANYWAY.**

## ABBL CONFERENCE

Two of our newer coaches who we're hoping to see a lot more of in season 9 got together for some Conference action.

Clan Mc'Smashintosh      1      0      Thirst Place

Thirst place may be cursed by their pretty forward-thinking team name as the Norsemen managed to deal out their second defeat. To be fair Vamps do need a few games to get their blood flowing.

## ABBL 7'S

No actual 7's games in week 12 but the League is going to the Play-Offs and it's time for our second Sevens Tournament! Last season was won by Deans "I told you I was Ill (recently diagnosed)" who we would like to see defend their title. The tournament has a group stage followed by a knockout stage to see who wins. We already have 9 teams organised in to groups of 3 and a few waiting in the wings. If we get another entrant, we can create a 4<sup>th</sup> group so, if you're interested, keep reading. If you want to win the Tiny Trophy <sup>TM</sup> you can enter your teams from the 7's ladder or add a new team to the ladder and enter them. Games are quick, normally less than 1 hour and good fun.

There is a separate 7's chat group to help organise games on Whatsapp so drop Kev a message on the normal chat (or email him at [k.baker789@btinternet.com](mailto:k.baker789@btinternet.com)) and he can add you too so you can keep abreast of how it's going and arrange games. Good luck to all!