

The Golden Snidget

- Seeking the Truth -



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The Casual Vacan-what!?

By Rishi

As many of you know, the amazing J.K. Rowling released her new book on September 27, 2012. I have spent the last week or so reading this novel and would like to share with you what I felt about it and whether or not you should read it. The book, for those of you who don't know and without spoiling much, is about the politics involved in a town council after the death of one the main members of said council and the chaos that ensues.

I bought the book with no expectations at all. I didn't read any reviews and hardly knew what it was about. All I knew was that it was for adults and not related to the Harry Potter series. As I read the first fifteen to twenty pages, I immediately noticed that it was indeed for adults and not even close to being suitable for children. Profanity on almost every page; vulgar language from every character; nothing

resembling a J.K.R. story.

To be perfectly honest, after reading those first twenty pages, it took me a while to get back into it. One thing that really bothered me was the font and size of the book. This may seem like a very small issue, but the font and font size were EXACTLY the same as the Harry Potter books. After reading all of those so many times, it was just odd to read. It took a few days to get over it and on a trip to New York City I made this past weekend, I finished the book.

As it went along, it grew on me somehow. Some of the characters really started amusing me in how they spoke and interacted even though a lot of them sounded similar and they were all depressed or evil or suicidal in some way. A lot of the dialogue did kind of sound like something Hagrid would say which was sort of funny.

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Returning \$me

By Jonathan

I'll admit that when Rishi contacted me over the summer, I was unsure of whether or not I wanted to come back to the OQL. The end of the last season left me quite frustrated, and I didn't feel it was worth rekindling my old feelings.

At this point I don't even remember what made me change my mind, but some time later (after I had acquired a version of Windows for mIRC - thank everything) I popped onto IRC and was immediately engrossed once again in all things OQL.

I hadn't realized how much I missed speed typing and "speed scripting", and most of all, the energetic personalities of everyone who frequents #quidditchpitch! The rebirth of OQL this fall has given me some solace during what has been a "riddikulously" crazy semester, and I am absolutely ecstatic for the start of the season. I can't wait to show the rookies this season what we're all about, and I am looking forward to doing the same for many more seasons in the future!

Jonathan out...reporting back to the scripts editor.

Magus's Team Analysis

By Magus

So the teams are decided and the games are incoming! Each team is very strong and versatile; we will definitely be in for some close contests. What follows is a brief summary of each team, their strengths and weaknesses, and some players to look out for.

Lavender Brownies

Andrew[capt], William, Grace, Dania, Ashley, Jonny, Taylor, Reid, Camryn, Keegan, Eno, Kaylyn

The Brownies have a strong chasing/beating core; as a beater himself, Andrew sensibly decided to start by drafting three experienced and proven chasers. Ashley, Jonny and Taylor then provide the Brownies with additional beating options. The main dilemma for this team is the issue of keeping. The ideal option would be Reid, but it's hard to say how quickly he can return to the standard he was at after not playing for so long. I myself (William) can keep, but it would be a shame to waste the contribution I can make as a chaser. The last option is Dania: she has been a decent keeper in the past and has shown how easily she can shake off the rust that comes from not playing for years. We will likely have to make this decision just before matches begin, based on the strength of the opposition's chasing. The Brownies are a little weak in the seeking department, Ashley being our only veteran seeker. We will be looking to develop one or more of our rookies as a seeker if at all possible.

Possible Lineups

Reid [K], Magus/Grace/Dania [C], Andrew/Jonny [B], Ashley [S]
Dania [K], Magus/Grace/Andrew [C], Jonny/Taylor [B], Ashley [S]
Magus [K], Grace/Dania/Eno [C], Andrew/Jonny [B], Ashley [S]

Sleeper: Camryn

Camryn is something of an enigma: she clearly has enormous potential, but as of yet it has never been fully realised. However, I think with some practice this season will be her time to shine and she will prove to everyone what a prolific chaser she can be.

Krûm Brûlées

Cody[capt], Jayson, Amy, Christine, Jacob, Irving, Teddy, Aimee, Aleksander, Annie, Kels, Laurie

Cody surprised me by picking Jayson ahead of Jonathan in the first round, but it actually makes a lot of sense. By choosing Jayson the Brulees have a consistent, reliable keeper and avoid the kind of dilemma facing the Brownies. This means Cody will never have to keep himself and is free to contribute greatly to his team in any of the other three positions. The Brulees have some versatile players which give them many lineup options. Cody, Amy, Jacob, Irving and Teddy are all capable of playing multiple positions at a high standard.

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There is no area in which they are particularly weak; the issue will clearly be figuring out the best way to arrange these skilled players into the strongest possible system. Finally, there is the question of Teddy's availability. As one of the best players in the league, under normal circumstances he would have been chosen no later than the second round of the draft. However, captains were reluctant to draft him earlier as he made it clear he will probably not make it to many games. Cody took the risk of picking him and if Teddy's availability improves it will give the Brulees a massive advantage.

Possible Lineups

Jayson [K], Cody/Christine/Irving [C], Jacob/Aimee [B], Amy [S]

Jayson [K], Christine/Irving/Jacob [C], Amy/Kels [B], Cody [S]

Jayson [K], Cody/Christine/Amy [C], Teddy/Jacob [B], Irving [S]

Sleeper: Aimee

Aimee has not been playing much lately, but based on the evidence of previous leagues she could definitely play a big part in the Brulees' season.

Frozen Chogurts

Melanie[capt], Jamie, Jonathan, Timmy, Jennifer, Alex, Nina, Lisa, Jacqui, Ali, Aly, Emily, Sarah

Since Cody passed on Jonathan in the first round, Melanie was able to grab both Jamie and him on her first turns. Jamie and Jonathan are without question the two best seekers in the OQL, affording the Chogurts a monstrous seeking force. They will be especially difficult opponents in the games which Jonathan seeks, seeing as he will still catch ahead of any of the other teams' seekers and Jamie will be free to chase or keep. On this note, the Chogurts could experience a dilemma similar to the Brownies when it comes to keeping. They will have to decide between Jamie, Timmy, Jennifer and Aly and again this will probably depend on the strength of the opposing chasers at the time. Melanie went on to draft a collection of solid chasers, although I would argue that the other two teams are slightly stronger in this area. Timmy, Lisa, Jacqui and Melanie herself are all capable beaters so the Chogurts should be fine there.

Possible Lineups

Jennifer [K], Jamie/Nina/Alex [C], Melanie/Timmy [B], Jonathan [S]

Timmy [K], Jonathan/Alex/Jennifer [C], Melanie/Jacqui [B], Jamie [S]

Jamie [K], Jennifer/Alex/Aly [C], Melanie/Lisa [B], Jonathan [S]

Sleeper: Jacqui

Jacqui is a pretty underrated beater; I think she could surprise some people this season. Her name is also horrible to type, which is always a plus in OQL.

That's about all. To finish off, I will list each position along with the team(s) I believe have the upper hand there. Happy OQLing and get ready for the start of the season!

Chasing: Brownies/Brulees, **Keeping:** Brulees, **Beating:** Brownies/Chogurts, **Seeking:** Chogurts

OQL Hall of Fame

By Rishi

I would like to proudly announce the induction of six players into this year's class of the OQL Hall of Fame: Jamie, Paras, William, Jennifer, Sujeewan, and Cody! I recently removed the requirement that you must be retired to make the Hall of Fame and am very proud to induct these members.

- Jamie, our most experienced OQLer still playing today has been a shoo in for over 5 years now and is one of the greatest players to ever play this game and no doubt the best seeker ever.
- Paras was a staple in the OQL for a number of years as a player, captain, and staff member and helped take OQL to a new level in its prime.
- William is the greatest chaser in the history of the game and no other possesses the OQL knowledge that he has.
- Jennifer may not have the accolades and accomplishments as many other HOFers, but there is no one more committed and her work on the site and all things technology related have been paramount to the success of the OQL.
- Sujeewan took his love of the game and became a top player and recruitment specialist for a number of seasons and was responsible for teaching countless OQLers the game we all love.
- Cody brought his quirky personality and desire to be the best into an amazing OQL career where he captained numerous winning teams while bringing the fun with him.

Congratulations once again. Full information of all six inductees will be available soon in an updated Hall of Fame document on our website under About Us.

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The book is written from the viewpoints of many characters and sometimes it is hard to keep track of who is who. The book also does not go that far in-depth into each character so it is hard to feel emotionally attached, but in a way I feel that is necessary for this kind of book because there isn't really a hero or protagonist. Most, if not all, of the characters have a devious side and there is no theme of happiness found anywhere. She also seems to have trouble writing from the point of view of the adult characters. I found the best chapters to regularly be the ones from the point of the view of the teenage characters; particularly the teenage boys, which makes total sense.

Despite these negatives, the plot and the overall story have the J.K.R. feel. Not everything appears as you would think and there are many things that are unexpected throughout. Overall, I think it's worth a read in your free time as it will keep you amused, but it does not come close to the powerful story of Harry.

Memories and Thoughts on OQL

By Jayson

My rookie season as an OQLer was not very easy. I chose the toughest position to play which was being a Keeper. I had been asked to drill keeper commands and to practice against chasers and chaserbots (Thanks to Sujee, Cody, and especially to Jen) again and again to master this position. I even considered quitting many times because of the overwhelming drama of OQL I had experienced before my real season even started. It took a lot of practice for me to become good at keeping. My rookie season was up and down and felt the pressure for my team to win, but the thought of winning pumped me up to play OQL, and I couldn't wait to play my next games every time my teams lost. I would practice again and again like there was no tomorrow until I got stuck keeping all my life. I am just kidding, but who wouldn't be excited by the thought of winning a game? Everyone wants to be a winner, but I had come to a realization that there is more to it than just a winning game and feeling too disappointed for every game that is lost. It's just a game after all.

Looking back, it was all worth it for me because I had fun playing OQL and my memories of playing OQL have given me something to laugh about and appreciate. I am glad I didn't quit OQL before I even played it for real. It was fun talking to people and reading and laughing at their silly conversations. We even did things other than OQL such as wolf, scrabble, monopoly, and omgpop or watching movies together. I thought IRC was full of super nerds. Every night, I would practice and played a lot of OQL with other nerdy OQLers and played in the 24-hour pickups. It was a lot of fun losing a lot of sleep just to hang out with these nerds all night long. It was also fun messing with my captains every time there was an upcoming game. I would PM and tell them I wouldn't make the next game to scare them. LOL!!!

After many seasons had passed, the OQL world was slowly dying, and then it died. I talked to some people about it and some of them were saddened by its demise. Most of the OQLers left. Recently, we heard from the Head of OQL a possible return of the OQL world by asking its players to reminisce and play pickups. Furthermore, Rishi launched a never seen before live video of himself talking like an Executive for his attempt to resuscitate OQL. It was exciting, and I thought it was an inspiring message. In this video, he had delivered his ideas and plans for OQL as if he was interviewing himself.

The OQL world has become alive again. I think that OQL is now improved because of the creative ideas to run it again to make it more fun for us and for the next generations of OQLers. I think OQL ought to be fun and cool, and I hope I sound authentic when I say these things. I think the Player Sign-up from the OQL website is pretty cool where it says "I wanna be the very best. Like no one ever was." from the Pokemon theme song. We want to retain OQL players as much as possible by making them feel like Champions for them to discover their hidden powers inside like a Pokemon Master or Jedi Master regardless of whether they win OQL games or awards for being the best of the best.

Thank you for reading this and good night to all. I am off to do other important things.

Omnioculars on the Pitch

By Rishi

Luna vs. Hermione; who ya got?

We recently played a game for one of our OQL game nights and were picking our favorite characters in Harry Potter. In the semifinals, the battle between Luna and Hermione came up. This dynamic always fascinated me in the books. On one hand, you have Hermione, always by the book, loves organization and structure, and smarter than everyone. On the other hand, you have Luna, aloof, does her own thing, but at the same time is very clever. Their interactions and dialogue always made me laugh because they were so different and couldn't help frustrating each other (even though I believe Luna won most of them). Obviously, Hermione was absolutely vital to the success of Harry from the beginning and was very rarely unlikable. But there was just something about Luna that drew you in and made you fall in love with her, which is why I was surprised more people liked Hermione. As a quick poll, when you guys read this, just send me a quick private message and tell me who your favorite character is and why. Thank you!

OQL: All About You

This OQL season is all about you; the player (or OQLer as we like to call it). We want to know what you would like to see in OQL, what you would like to add to OQL, what you would like to take away from OQL. We encourage ideas and innovation and want everyone to be involved as much as possible. So, if you ever have an idea, please feel free to message me at any time on IRC or at Rishi@onlinequidditch.com and I will be happy to discuss it with you. Happy OQLing!

Merlin's Beard!

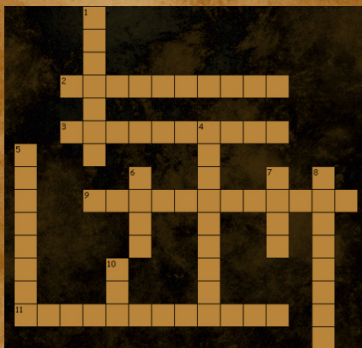
By Jamie

Top Twelve Reasons Why Rishi Is Chuck Norris

1. Rishi can pass a quaffle to himself.
2. Rishi can hit a bludger at a keeper after a chaser's approached a goal.
3. Rishi can win an official game without reaching 500 (or 300).
4. Rishi can OQL without Broomrider.
5. Rishi can approach one goal and score without delaying.
6. Rishi can be both the chaser and keeper in a foul.
7. Rishi can deflect n bludgers.
8. Rishi can catch the snitch after two commands.
9. Rishi can OQL with one hand.
10. Rishi can manual ref faster than the Refbot.
11. Rishi can captain and co-captain all the teams at once.
12. Rishi automatically evades every snitch danger.

Crossword - "Games"

By Jennifer



Down

1. Harry used Slack Off! Harry's HP was restored!
4. A flying Ford Anglia would avoid shells with ease.
5. This is difficult when the opponents self-resurrect and your seer makes stuff up.
6. It was Snape. In the Astronomy tower. With a spoiler to the face.
7. REVENGE! Collect 7 soul fragments from the other players.
8. Voldemort is only 14 points. Loser.
10. «««« LIGHTNING STORM »»»»

Across

2. Never have I ever had a vomit flavored jelly bean.
3. Less Potter than you'd hoped for...
9. DODGE!
11. Bahamut would have made for a more interesting Triwizard Tournament...maybe...

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Want a printable version?
onlinequidditch.com/SuperPuzzle.html

The first one to solve the puzzle and e-mail the solution to theoql@gmail.com will get to add a new entry to our badwords list (within reason)!
You can also join the rest of the mods on #quidditchpitch to help loom over OQL.