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Texas State Hosts First Quidditch Cup

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The intense competition of 12 Texas schools and a fair spectator turnout Saturday brought the Quidditch Association at Texas State a new level of exposure in the first annual Quidditch Diamond Cup.



Austin Beavers, Staff Photographer

The Diamond Cup stands as the first International Quidditch Association and National Confederation of Broomstick Athletes compliant tournament held south of Austin. It's the first Quidditch cup Texas State has ever hosted.

In addition to Texas State, the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Baylor University, Sam Houston State University, Rice University, Texas Tech University, the University of North Texas and the University of Texas at San Antonio were present to compete.

Texas A&M won the tournament in a final match with Baylor University, leading 70-30, but the day was still a victorious one for Texas State, which took third place overall. The Bobcats achieved their highest tournament ranking to date.

The Diamond Cup means more to Texas State team members than a new ranking. The tournament itself stands as a milestone for Bobcat collegiate Quidditch, taking another step to shake off the dismissal that accompanies the sport.

"We've been trying to get more respect from our peers," said Tournament Director Jordon Parisher, English sophomore, team member and president of the Quidditch Association at Texas State. "This is a highly intense, athletic contest, and people who haven't seen it just don't comprehend how much athletic skill actually goes into this."

A whole Saturday filled with sprinting, tackling, cuts and numerous shoulder injuries broadcasted a simple fact to the skeptics. That fact is this sport is real. The UT Quidditch team forfeiting the semi-final match with Texas State solely due to injuries is as real as it gets in the athletic world.

Parisher described the sport as being composed of two components: a nerdy side where fans of the "Harry Potter" book series get to participate in a real-life adaptation of the fictional game, and an athletic side displaying full-tackle and full-speed intercollegiate activity.

Hosting the Diamond Cup might have been a challenge for the Bobcats if not for the progress already made by the organization in establishing Quidditch as a legitimate sport.

"We couldn't have even dreamed of doing it last year with getting established as a recognized sports club," said Matthew Morris, accounting sophomore and field manager for the tournament.

Morris said the growth of the sport at Texas State has brought in more recruits this school year and, for the first time, the organization set up a representation booth at freshman orientation, helping increase publicity around campus.

"It's a really good social activity for students who usually tend to stay in," Morris said.

The next milestone for the Quidditch Association at Texas State is the Bobcats' debut participation in the International Quidditch Association World Cup.

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Texas State seeker and political science senior Cullen Ricks said the organization's hosting of the recent tournament serves as a major contributing factor to going to the World Cup in the following year.

"(The tournament has) built up a lot of revenue for the organization," Ricks said.

Ricks expressed how the tournament and future participation in the World Cup can affect Texas State's status in the International Quidditch Association in relation to other universities.

"A&M and UT are the best teams in Texas," Ricks said. "We hope we've grown to join that recognition."

Texas State's placing following the Diamond Cup has instilled faith in the organization's members with regard to the future of the Quidditch Association at Texas State.

"(This) spring will be our first time competing in the World Cup," Parisher said. "We're really good, and I think we can win."



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