

BROOMBALL!!

It's Winter Quarter. That means that, very shortly, Broomball season will be coming up. For some of you, this might not mean anything. If so, you should report to one of our House re-education camps immediately.

Broomball is second only to Scav as a National Sport of Hitchcock. (Or Snell, for that matter). Broomball is more than just a game played outdoors on the icerink while wearing regular shoes. It is also a way for Hitchcock to prove its superiority to other houses; a way to show that our culture, our economic system, and our gods are better than everybody else's. A way to show that in the chimpanzee herd that is the University of Chicago, we are the alpha male, and we not only get to mate with female chimpanzees first, but we also get to stick our home-made eating tool into the anthill first.

It is the duty of every single resident of this House to not just play Broomball or sit on the sidelines and support those who do play, but also to prepare for Broomball. Over the next few weeks, do not take a single step, do not eat a single meal, do not do a single iota of work, before first asking yourself, *how will this make me a better broomball player? How will this help Hitchcock House to win?* Because that's all that matters.

To help you out, you will find that today's minutes will deviate entirely from the normal format. You will not find any jokes about nuclear weapons or World War One. Instead, you will be given a guide on how to play the game.

On the second page, you will find a guide on how to survive in the cruel, atavistic world of intramural broomball. On the third page, you will find a set of formations and tactics for scoring in broomball. Study these carefully, and be familiar with them before attending any drills or practices, let alone games.

Thanks, and may Team Snitchcock triumph. (Or else be tortured in the Snell Weight Room for shaming us).

Guide to “Playing Dirty”

Technically, any of these techniques are a violation of IM Broomball rules (as well as the unwritten code of gentlemanly sport) and may result in a penalty. In reality, games are played at night, when violations are hard to see, and refereed by bored graduate students who are often indifferent to the fate of anyone on the field. Therefore, it is essential that a Broomball player be able to use certain “improper” ways to gain an advantage.

1. Getting Into Their Head

A significant advantage can be gained by “psyching out” the opposing team, such as by insulting their mother or their national leader. For instance, when playing Team Germany, you might want to run up to one of their players and say “Your Kaiser is full of Scheisse”, which will cause him to lose his cool and attempt to hurt you, at which point you can get the ball past him and score. Another example might be teasing Italian players about their naval defeat at the Battle of Lissa, by saying something to the effect of “Hey, you might not be much on land, but at least you can beat the Austro-Hungarian Navy...oh wait!”¹

2. Broomstick as Weapon

You will notice that your “broom” has two ends; one ends in a plastic blade, while the other ends in much the way any other stick ends. This non-broom end can, depending on the type of uniform worn by the opposing team, be thrust through the protective bars of your opponents’ helmet and into the eyes to cause blindness. More skilled players can use it to break their opponents nose and then thrust the nasal bones into the skull, causing death. In a pinch, the plastic blade can be broken to create a jagged edge, useful for cutting through flesh.

3. The Neutron Bomb

The Neutron Bomb (or “newt”) is a specially modified tactical nuclear weapon, designed to produce an abnormally small nuclear blast while releasing an abnormally large amount of highly lethal radiation. The logic of a newt is that it kills people while leaving buildings and vehicles standing. Though it was developed for use in the plains of Central Europe, it’s just as useful on the icebergs of the Midway.

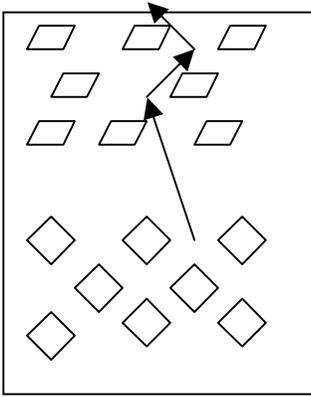
In broomball, a neutron bomb should be detonated about 10 kilometers above your opponent’s side of the field; at this altitude, the bomb’s nuclear blast will not reach the surface at all, while its deadly radiation still will. This will cause the entirety of the opposing team to die, while leaving behind their brooms (as well as the ball), making it particularly easy to score and/or replace broomsticks that were turned into weapons as described above.

¹ If they respond to this by citing the Italian naval victory over Austria-Hungary at the Battle of the Otranto Barrage, point out that Admiral Miklos Horthy was still able to sink 14 Italian fishing boats there while losing only one cruiser.

Broomball Tactics

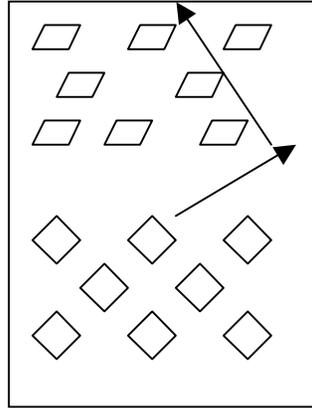
Guide:  Snitchcock Player  Opposing Player  Numidian Ally

I. Standard Attack



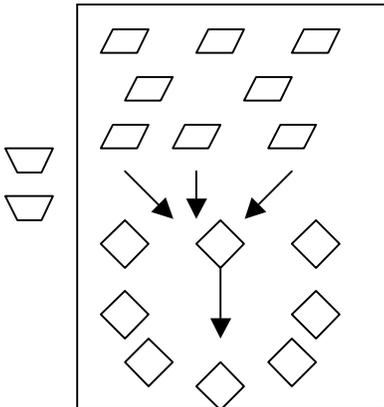
(1) Forward takes control of ball, advances it up the center to enemy goal while skillfully avoiding opposing forwards, midfielders, and defensemen.

II. Flank Attack

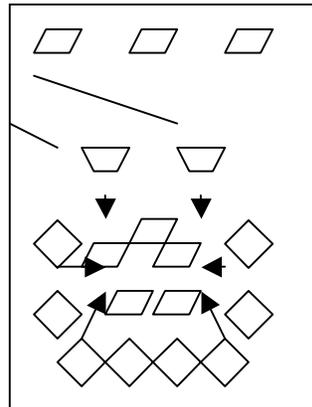


(1) Forward takes control of ball, advances it up one side to enemy goal while skillfully avoiding opposing forwards, midfielders, and defensemen.

II. Double Envelopment

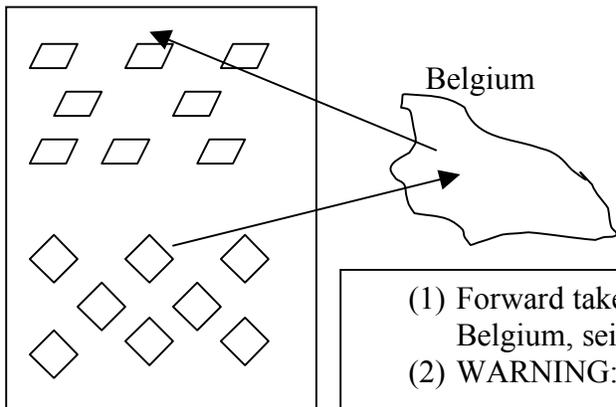


(1) Forward takes control of ball, retreats into own territory as other players form crescent shape. Numidian cavalry held in reserve on bench.



(2) Opposing players lured into crescent; Numidian cavalry come off bench and assault enemy rear, leading to encirclement and annihilation. After slaughter, forwards score against undefended goal.

III. Violation of Belgian Neutrality



(1) Forward takes control of ball, advances it off the field of play into Belgium, seizes Liege, and then advances ball to enemy goal.
 (2) WARNING: May cause Britain to declare war!

Schedule. Of Events.

SUNDAY:

Afternoon: Trip To Field Museum. Talk to Jordan if you're interested.
10:00 PM: Bad Movie Night. "Prayer of the Rollerboys". Considered the best bad movie in our entire selection. Come!

TUESDAY:

10:00 PM: Retro Cartoon Night. "Animaniacs". Come relive Bruce's childhood.

THURSDAY:

10:00 PM: Next House Meeting

BY THIS WEEK:

Contact IM Sports Reps about your interest in Winter Sports (such as Broomball, but also basketball and indoor soccer).

NEXT WEEK:

Hitchcock Hitched
Polar Bear Run (ph33r)

2nd WEEK OF FEBRUARY:

Poetry Slam vs Rickert (we should try to win this)