

The UniBall Weekly

Monday, January 26, 2009

Issue: 3

UCL Qualifiers

The UCL qualifiers have been in progress for a week now and some great matches have been played. As of this moment, One seems to have all the momentum. They are currently undefeated in the qualifiers and are looking to add onto that record. If you're competing to get into the UCL, don't fret! There's still plenty of time to get your games going. Three MW squads and two Euro squads will join ZG, >Y and DD to compete for UniBall's top squad!

Defense: A Lost Art

Written by: Ironman

Defense, a word everyone knows but only a select few know how to play correctly. If I were to ask everyone on BRChat what the most important UniBall skill to learn is, I believe the majority would say skills such as bouncing, passing, and graving. Although these are all very important skills to a player's overall game, defense is one of the most under looked skill a player can choose to develop. Everyone knows that a player can learn basic defensive skills far quicker in almost any sport or computer game that requires it than learning to properly execute basic offensive skills such as bouncing. Unfortunately most people stop right at the basics with the development of their defensive skills.

A common theory is that if you have a very potent offense you really don't need to have a strong defense. It is true you can win many games this way, but no matter how good of an offense player you are, there will be games when you're struggling, but good defenders never seem to have off nights on the defensive side. The reason for this is defense is a set skill which requires less game-play training and skill practicing to learn then other UniBall skills such as bouncing or juking; it instead requires the right mindset such as desire, memorization, and anticipation while offering little praise. Defense is something you can always fall back on if you're struggling offensively allowing yourself to still be a key player in the game.

I've seen a lot of great offensive players never get out of the average player status or unable to join a top tier squad because of their lack of defensive skills. Also, for players out there trying to reach the next level but never seem to get a chance because of a skill deficiency such as bouncing, defense tends to make up for those deficiencies in a player's game.

Anyone can learn to play solid defense, so my question to you is why are there so few that do?

UCL Qualifying Match Report

UCL qualifiers have been going on for the past week. Teams are battling out for those coveted spots to compete in the league. This week's match report is NTA vs MPT! Both teams have a great shot at getting a spot in the UCL. NTA fielded zoron, Agnostic and Dragon while MPT brought 9, Mav and Nukem. This game was a hard fought game by both squads. But there was a trend to it, at least one

that was noticeable to me. NTA scored first and they looked like they were on their way. But, MPT came back with 5 straight goals, making it a 5-1 game and it looked like MPT was going to take this easily. Don't count NTA out yet though, because they also made a 5 goal run, due to some costly mistakes by MPT, bringing it to 6-5. Both teams were giving it there all and it seemed as if it was going to come down to the wire! MPT had the final say in the match though, finishing it off with their own 5 goal run ending the game. Well played by both sides. To view this game, visit http://www.uniball-guide.info/demos/view.php?file=2009-01-22_185731_NTA%20v%20MPT

McCheese is on a Role!

As everyone knows McCheese has been working on bringing new players to our community. In the past week approx. 10 UniBallers brought UniBall up to the first page on <http://www.mindmeister.com/maps/public>. Needless to say this is a highly viewed webpage. If you have not added yourself to the UniBall community tree make sure you do so. Support UniBall and support McCheese in his conquest to bring UniBall new players!

He as also started another site to help contribute to UniBall <http://playthisthing.com/suggestion-uniball>. This site is basically a game reviewing site. It has multiple online games and now UniBall is a part of this. Go on and type up a little article about how much you like UniBall. The more reviews the better. Currently UniBall has 5 stars. It does need more input. If the game is accepted to the site it will be put under the all games section on the first page. After, this is accomplished the plan is to take over the most read section according to McCheese. Let's help him do this!

McCheese has done an outstanding job outlining the game to help bring new players on this website. If you have any questions please feel free to PM or message McCheese on BR. After helping him on some of this stuff personally, I can say his ideas will help improve the size of the community in this game! Keep up the good work McCheese!



UCL Stirs Up Heated Discussion



Just a week into the UCL qualifiers and already there have been some heated debates about players joining squads that play on the foreign server. Behind this debate is the departure of Pomm (an MW player) from >Y (a UK Squad). As mentioned in the gossip section of the newsletter, Pomm and Destiny joined MW squads to get more games in for UCL (as playing for a foreign server squad would only guarantee 12 games on the MW server). But the debate doesn't stop there! Because of this movement, fellow MW'ers that were going to play for >Y were removed from the roster, as >Y wanted to compete as a strictly Euro squad.

Since all this has happened, other turmoil has arisen in squads already qualified for UCL. ZG has also removed their recent members to the MW line and are competing with an almost fully Euro squad (with the exception of Thurgood).

Because of all these inter-server arguments, the idea was suggested that for next UCL, squads should stick to players from one server and just compete that way. This would keep things fair so that a squad doesn't have a certain advantage over another squad just because they have multi-server players. But is that really what it has come down to? Separating players from different servers? How does this help competition? How can this also hurt competition? And what about the squads that enjoy playing with multi-server players; should they be forced to remove foreign players just because of a league? Or should one server squads have an even playing ground with others?

The UniBall Weekly wants to know your opinions on this. What do you think about splitting up players and confining squads to one server? Do you agree this is the best for UB squads or are you against such a movement. Send your opinions and comments to uniballhelp@gmail.com along with your UB username. Your comments will be posted in next week's newsletter as a follow up to this topic. If you want to submit your comment anonymously, please state that in your submission, otherwise your UB name will be posted alongside your comment. Let your opinions be heard!



Admin News

Surreal is still busy working on UBC. As he has passed to the community he is looking at a couple different professional developers. If you are still looking to donate for UBC please feel free to send your donates to paypal@visagehosting.com - With your donation you will get a new snazzy BR icon, behind the scenes access to the development of the new UBC, as well as recognition of your donation on the site itself.



MnM – Upcoming Events

February - 3v3 Hockey (icons for winning squad)
1st Week of March - 4v4 Football to 5 points
2nd Week of March - 4v4 Oof! to 25 points (will change to 3v3 if not popular enough)
Rest of March - 5v5 Battle Dome (CTF) to 2 points
April - 3v3 Hockey (icons TBD)
May – 4v4 Mini Soccer

If there are any other maps you want to see given a shot, post them here.

No 2v2 maps, only 3v3 or higher.

Hey! Did you hear about...? Wow! Really?

UCL is still stirring up the gossip section of our newsletter. Just when you thought things have calmed down, they get fired up all over again! Read on for this week's interesting developments

Dynamic Duo Part

The dynamic duo of Pomm and Destiny brought intensity and great competition to any squad they joined together. As reported in last week's newsletter, they had recently joined >Y. But as of Wednesday, these two have parted ways. Pomm has joined One and Destiny has joined DD. What does that mean for them? Well, they bring talent, experience and determination to win every game. Look for some heated rivalries between these two in UCL!

>Y Go European

Well, the departure of Pomm and Destiny has lead >Y to remove their MW counterparts and go back to their original plan; an all Euro lineup. Now, don't count them out just yet. They still have a very solid line for the MW server and will still be a threat on there as well as on the UK server. As of right now, >Y is the only squad in the UCL with only players from one server. They reached the playoffs last season and are definitely looking to return again!

Pub Reunites

This week has been nothing short of perhaps one of the most controversial weeks for UniBall in a very long time. With UCL being the center of the storm, squads and players have been on the fritz and this is no different. Premier UniBallers (pub) has reformed with some of the same faces and even a new one. The members (WaWa, Dan, InsaneAss and superman340) that were in Zero Gravity (ZG) have reverted back to pub due to irreconcilable differences. Other unknown reasons may also have

contributed to this. Tigger, who had been a long time member of Dancing Ducks (DD), has also rejoined his former squad, pub. As for the other former members of pub (Corvette, Dios, Destiny, Pomm and Outkast), well, it doesn't seem at this point in time that they will be rejoining their former squad mates. Pub as of this moment is being voted on to see if they can participate in the UCL, but their chances aren't looking so hopeful.



The One We Know as Ragnar

Although I begged and begged Ragnar to let the community know a little bit about himself, he chose to remain private. His wife, Kiara was nice enough to give me some odds and ends. So here it goes!

Ragnar has been around UniBall since the beginning. He, Kiara and C:\ are actually friends in real life and even though they do not see each other a lot, they still visit each other on occasion. As of right now he is a background coder for the game and works mostly with BR Chat. He and Kiara are also nice enough to host the Midwest server. He chooses to remain invisible because when he is visible, the community does not leave him alone and he is bombarded with questions. Ragnar does hang around in UBHelp. If you have questions for him and you are lucky enough to catch him this is a good place to start.

I know this isn't a lot of information but I did learn something. For those of you who remember C:\, and want to know a little bit about the mastermind that created this game with NickW, I'm sure he could give some more insight; that is, if you can catch him.



About WetWookie

I first started playing UB in early 2000. My first name was supeatkin and I rocked the miniball. I later changed my name to cl because I thought it was hilarious how often people blamed click lag for their mistakes. Anytime after that that somebody said cl I would immediately stop playing and ask them what they wanted. The game would then dissolve into chaos as they tried to explain that they were having click lag and did not actually want to ask me a question. After the great UniBall server drought somebody else snatched up my name and became cL or something like that. With my name gone I moved on to WetWookie which was the name I used in college to tease my star wars loving roommate. I'm not that big a star wars fan and yes I know that I spelled Wookiee wrong so stop telling me. My name is now a nerd trap. If you tell me my name is spelled wrong you have been caught. Congratulations.... nerd...

I now spend my time as an administrator and working on WWBot. I rarely play UB anymore. I get more enjoyment from seeing people use my bot than I do from playing the game. I spend most of my gaming time playing other games like Warcraft or single player RPGs like Fallout and Mass Effect though I've come back to UB a bit more now that CTF is taking off in MnM.

Some interesting facts about WetWookie:

- 1) I lived for about a year in Saudi Arabia when I was a year old. My mother worked there as a grade school teacher in a US military settlement there because it was better money than working in the Stats. When school was out we would travel all around to places like Egypt and India and Japan.
- 2) I used to speak Japanese better than English as my baby sitter spoke very little English.
- 3) I've been inside King Tut's Tomb

I don't remember any of it as I was too young which is a shame but I do have some interesting pictures, items and letters from those experiences.

About EC

SUP SUP, this is EC, but my real name is Travis. I am 17 and live in Johnstown, PA along with like 10 other UniBallers, who mainly suck (Destiny and Pomm). I got started with UniBall when I was absurdly young, I think I was in like 4th grade when a girl in my class said her brothers played this game all the time and I should try it...lasted about 1 week. I was looking for something to play on the computer other than that addictinggames.com site and remembered UniBall. Then again when I was 14, couldn't remember the name of it at all so I just continued on with life until one day up at my neighbor's house (Badmario, Jiggs, and Bizarre). I saw them playing this friggin game, and I suddenly realized they were playing the same game. So I went home and started playing under the name TCramer13, later realizing that wasn't a very typical UniBall name. And having always liked the car Mitsubishi Eclipse, I went with E-Clipse (Eclipse was some guy in Japan. lol?) which led to the shortening version "ec".

I started to get better when I joined FU, then I went away for a little bit and some douche bag named Destiny took my spot, so came back and met a guy name Outkast, complete a**hole might I add, when I first started to talking to him, but he said I could be good if I listened to him. We started playing and he started helping me out and one day we made a squad named S-U, which I had never heard of at the time but I guess at one point they were pretty good. Played with S-U for a year or two, and then joined back up with FU for the first UCL. Right after, I joined pub for about 6 months until we broke up. Now I am currently in One, once again a squad Outkast and I made.

Outside of UniBall, I am a senior in high school right now but I'm going to be attending Penn State University for criminology next year. Chyeaaa! I play baseball and wrestle for my high school. Living in Johnstown, puts me about an hour and 30 minutes away from Pittsburgh so I am a pretty big fan of the Steelers and Penguins, but it's hard to be a pirates fan, something like 10 straight losing seasons. I'm a pretty competitive person, which is also the reason I am a d***head sometimes. I don't like to lose in anything, and if I do well it doesn't go over well. That about wraps up my biography...GO STEELERS.

If you want to submit your bio, email uniballhelp@gmail.com.



Happy Birthday UniBallers!



Happy Birthday to UniBallers celebrating their birthday this month:

Adman	January 16 th	23 years old
killer	January 18 th	20 years old
hA	January 25 th	21 years old
pha	January 23 rd	22 years old
Agnostic	January 30 th	25 years old

If you would like your birthday posted in the newsletter, e-mail uniballhelp@gmail.com with your name, birthday and how old you're going to be!

