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PRINTED IN THE USA


AS THE CLOCK TICKS DOWN ON THE FIRST HALF OF THE GAME, NAGGAROTH NIGHTMARES' STAR THROWER ELCAVE LEGBREAKER PUTS UP A HAIL MARY PASS!
WITH SO MUCH ON THE LINE IN THIS GAME, THE NIGHTMARES AND THE HACKERS HAVE REFUSED TO GIVE UP A SINGLE SCORE! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SUCH A DEFENSIVE BATTLE?
NOT SINCE MY WIFE GOT BETWEEN ME AND MY DINNER LAST NIGHT!
THAT EXPLAINS YOUR BLACK EYE, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STITCHES?
THAT HAPPENED THEN TOO! WE HAD A FEW GOBLINS FOR DINNER LAST NIGHT--AND THEY FOUGHT BACK!


INTERCEPTION!!!
HACKERS' HERO DUNK HOFFNUNG PICKS OFF THE PASS, ROBBING HEARTRIPPER OF HIS CHANCE TO SCORE!
HOFFNUNG BETTER HIGHTAIL IT OUT OF THERE! HE'S GOT AN ASSASSIN ON HIS TAIL!
OH, HE'S GOING FOR HIS BLADE! THINK THE REF WILL CALL HIM FOR THAT?


YOU KNOW WHAT SACRED COMMISSIONER ROZE-EL LIKED TO SAY: NO BLOOD, NO FOUL!
I ALWAYS SAY: NO BLOOD, NO POINT!
THAT'S ALL YOU VAMPIRES EVER THINK ABOUT!
THAT'S WHY I LOVE MY JOB! WHERE ELSE CAN YOU SEE THIS KIND OF CARNAGE?
YOUR LAST FAMILY REUNION!


HACKER ROOKIE KALTER MÖRDER LAYS A MURDEROUS BLOCK INTO HORKON'S BACK!
THAT GIVES HOFFNUNG A CHANCE TO GET RID OF THE BALL!
THAT KIND OF CHEAP SHOT IS WHY I LOVE THIS GAME SO MUCH!
FWEEEEEEE!
IT SEEMS THE REF DOES NOT AGREE!
WHAT!?!
HOFFNUNG'S REALLY LAYING INTO THE REF!
ILLEGAL USE OF A BLADE!
ARE YOU BLIND, REF? YOU DIDN'T SEE HEARTRIPPER'S SWORD?
SIZE DOESN'T MATTER! IT'S WHETHER OR NOT YOU USE IT!
BET SHE DOESN'T SAY THAT EVERY DAY!
REF


THE MAN SAVED MY LIFE!
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, THEN DON'T PLAY!
URK!


LEAVE DUNKEL ALONE.
GAH!
HEY!
URK!
WHOA! LOOKS LIKE THE HACKERS HAVE SOME DISSENSION IN THEIR RANKS!
M'GRASH! PUT HIM DOWN! HE'S ON OUR SIDE!
DISSENSION? WHERE'D YOU LEARN A BIG WORD LIKE THAT?
I'VE BEEN WORKING ON UPGRADING MY VOCABULARY!
HOW DO YOU MANAGE THAT?
SHUNK
OUCH!
I EAT ONLY THE SMARTEST GOBLINS!
FASCINATING AS THAT IS, WE'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS AFTER A COMMERCIAL BREAK! THAT'S HALFTIME!
THE HACKERS AND THE NIGHTMARES LEAVE THE FIELD WITH THE SCORE TIED 0 TO 0! WITH THE WINNER OF THIS GAME GOING ON TO THE BLOOD BOWL SEMI-FINALS, THEIR COACHES ARE SURE TO HAVE SOME INSPIRING WORDS FOR THEM!
OUCHIE OUCHIE OUCHIE!


THAT'S THE THANKS I GET FOR SAVING OUR STAR THROWER?
SQUIG-FOR-BRAINS HERE TRIES TO KILL ME!
YOU NO HURT DUNKEL!


YOU NO HURT FRIENDS!
SHHING!
UH-OH
MR. M'GRASH! THAT'S ENOUGH!
MR. MÖRDER IS A HACKER. HACKERS KILL MEMBERS OF THE OTHER TEAM, NOT EACH OTHER.
I WILL FIRE YOU IF YOU KILL HIM OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THIS TEAM. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
LIKE BENCH DURING BRAWL.


LET'Z GETCHA OUTTA 'ERE.
LET GO OF ME.
WOTZZA MATTA WITCHA? JUS' KILL 'IM, AND LET'S GO!
I'M SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN IN-GAME ACCIDENT.
THAT'S HARDER THAN YOU WOULD KNOW.
ALLZ I KNOW IZ WE TOOK MUNNY TA KILL 'OFFNUNG, AND 'E AIN'T DEAD.
DON'T WORRY.
I'M A PROFESSIONAL.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT-- SOON.


DEEP IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS VITAL GAME, WE STILL HAVE NO SCORE!
WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?
AT LEAST WE'VE SEEN PLENTY OF BLOOD!
DO YOU WANT A NIGHTLIGHT SO YOU CAN SLEEP?
IT'S HEXEGE LIEBTER, THE NIGHTMARES' WIZARD. HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.
RIGHT! ENOUGH THAT THE NIGHTMARES HAVE SENT THEIR WITCH ELVES UP TO GIVE LEIBTER SOME ENCOURAGEMENT!
WHY DON'T WE EVER SEEM TO USE MAGIC?
PEGLEG'S TOO CHEAP. HIRING A WIZARD COSTS MONEY.
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE HELPING HIM BREW UP?
IT'S MORE THAN THAT. PEGLEG HATES ANYTHING HE CAN'T DEPEND ON.
SOMETHING SHOCKING, I'M SURE!
AND YOU CAN'T COUNT ON WIZARDS.
I'M GLAD M'GRASH IS ON IT.
THWAP!


THE HACKERS ARE MAKING A BIG PUSH TO TAKE OUT THE LEIBTER BEFORE HE CAN DO TOO MUCH DAMAGE! BUT THE WITCH ELVES ARE BATTLING THAT WITH THEIR SPECIAL BRAND OF ENCOURAGEMENT!
DRINK, WIZARD, AND CAUSE SOME TROUBLE, BURST THE HACKERS' PLAYOFF BUBBLE!
A BIG PUSH? EXCEPT FOR K'THRAGGSH, THEY'RE ALL STANDING AT THE OTHER END OF THE FIELD!
GRAARRHHH!!!
HE'S BIG, AND HE'S PUSHING! BIG PUSH!
EEK!
YUCK!
WHOA.
YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH SUCCESS!
NO MORE WIZARD! NO MORE--!
UR?


WAIT! DID YOU KNOW THE WITCH ELVES ALSO SERVE AS THEIR TEAM'S COOKING STAFF?
SNIFF SNIFF
THEY'VE WON MORE COOKING AWARDS THAN BIG GAMES!
AHHH!
LOOKS LIKE THEY DIDN'T BOTHER TO CLEAN OUT THEIR CAULDRON BEFORE THE GAME!
GLUG GLUG GLUG
BURRRP!
ISN'T THAT CUTE? HE REMINDS ME OF MY KIDS!
KARAK!
OUCH! THAT'S GOING TO LEAVE A MARK!
THAT'S JUST LIEBTER'S WAY OF REMINDING M'GRASH TO BE POLITE AROUND HIS LADIES!


THIS REALLY GIVES THE HACKERS A CHANCE TO FINALLY BREAK THIS DEADLOCK!
I GOT IT! GO LONG!
SURE! IF HOFFNUNG CAN DODGE LIGHTNING BOLTS ALL THE WAY DOWN THE FIELD!
THE COLLEGES OF MAGIC ONLY PERMIT A WIZARD TO CAST ONE SPELL PER GAME!
AFTER THE WAY M'GRASH ATTACKED LIEBTER AND HIS LADIES, I THINK I KNOW ONE WIZARD WILLING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION!
TRUE, BUT HOW MANY LIGHTNING BOLTS DO YOU REALLY NEED?


JUST ONE THAT HITS!
KRAK-ZAP!


WOW! YOU CAN SMELL THE CHARRED FLESH FROM ALL THE WAY UP HERE!
MÖRDER?
THAT SCENT ALWAYS MAKES ME HUNGRY!
ARE YOU STILL BREATHING?
GRAHH!!
IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU SEE ONE PLAYER TAKE A LIGHTNING BOLT FOR ANOTHER LIKE THAT!
IT WOULD WARM MY HEART--IF IT WAS STILL BEATING!
KILL YOU!


WHOOPS! LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE IN THE HACKER RANKS!
WAIT! MÖRDER! IT'S ME!
MAYBE MÖRDER'S HOPING TO TAKE HOFFNUNG'S SPOT IN THE STARTING LINEUP!
THUNK!
GRARRH!
IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME A PLAYER'S KILLED HIS WAY TO THE TOP!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
DO YOU REALLY THINKS THIS ROOKIE HAS WHAT IT TAKES?


GONNA GUT YOU!
IT DEPENDS ON HOW MANY OF THOSE KNIVES HE HAS ON HIM!
HOFFNUNG'S ACTUALLY TRYING TO NOT HURT HIM!
STOP! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS!
WELL, HE IS THE HACKERS' CO-OWNER!
DUNK!
MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO PROTECT HIS INVESTMENT!
DON'T HAVE TO! WANT TO!
SHOOMK!
SELF-PRESERVATION: 1! INVESTMENTS: 0!


UR?


THUD


IS HE DEAD?
I DON'T KNOW.
GET THE BALL! WE STILL GOT A GAME ON HERE!


DUNKEL!
LOOKS LIKE THE HACKERS ARE TRYING TO FORCE THE NIGHTMARES TO FORFEIT BY KILLING THEM ALL OFF!


AND I'D HAVE BET ON THEM IF THEY WEREN'T KILLING THEIR OWN TOO!
IT'S STUCK!


LOOKS LIKE THE HACKERS HAVE A WARDROBE MALFUNCTION AT MIDFIELD!
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE GET HIM INTO THE END ZONE.
LET'S GO!
I'VE SEEN PLAYERS HOG THE BALL, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
WE'RE NEVER GOING TO MAKE IT!
WE JUST NEED TO REACH--!
M'GRASH!
LOOKS TO ME LIKE HE PLAYS WELL WITH OTHERS!
K'THRAGSH BATTLES HIS WAY THROUGH TO HELP!
DUNKEL! DUNKEL NOT DEAD!
WE NEED TO GET HIM INTO THE END ZONE!
NOW!
HE'D BETTER HURRY! TIME'S ABOUT TO RUN OUT!


END ZONE!
NOW!
AH! MÖRDER'S ABOUT TO RIDE THE OGRE EXPRESS!
SO, CAN MÖRDER STILL SCORE IF HE'S DEAD?
WHY NOT? THAT NEVER STOPS ANY OF THE UNDEAD TEAMS!
GOOD POINT! HACKERS SCORE!
HACKERS WIN! THE HACKERS ARE HEADED TO THE BLOOD BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL GAME VERSUS THE CHAOS ALL-STARS!
THE CROWD GOES WILD!
OOHHH


HEYA, DOC! HOW IZ 'E?
DESPITE HIS BEST EFFORTS-- AND THAT OF HIS TEAMMATES-- HE'LL LIVE.
BARELY.
ZAT SO? ALL'Z GOOD DEN, I S'POZE.
AFTA DA GAME HE HAD, I FINK WANNA KILL 'IM MESELF.


HACKERS WIN! I LOVE YOU ALL!
WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THAT GOLD? THAT'S MORE THAN YOU MAKE IN A YEAR.
I GOT IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY. I WON IT!
I BET ON YOUR TEAM WITH GUNTHER THE GOBBO--AND WE WON!
DAD! I MAKE ENOUGH MONEY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
COURSE I DO! IF YOU WIN OUR BET AND GET MY BLESSING FOR YOUR WEDDING, I'LL NEED IT.
WHAT FOR?
GAKK!
YOUR DOWRY, OF COURSE.
TO BE CONTINUED....