**GRIM WOOD GRAVE DIGGERS**

The Grim Woods of Sylvania are a tough place to eke out a living and those individuals who do manage to survive there are both hardy and, some would say, a little odd. Surrounded by Vampires, Ghouls and other assorted members of the Undead, most humans in the area pursue a series of rather macabre occupations and chief among those are the grave robbers. Digging up corpses from all over the Empire and selling them to the highest bidder is a very lucrative endeavor. The added side effect of all that manual labour, outside in all weather, is that the young men of Grim Wood have developed into a very athletic breed. Strong of limb and with a high degree of stamina they are perfectly suited to playing Blood Bowl.

The Grim Wood Grave Diggers were formed when their present head coach, Harry Deadknapp, realized that by playing Blood Bowl he could practically guarantee a steady stream of fresh corpses for his clients if there were to be, in his words, “unfortunate accidents” on the pitch. Accidents such as unforeseen neck breakings, inadvertent decapitations and adventitious stabbings.

The team rapidly gained a reputation on the pitch as one that barred no holds and relished the carnage that they wrought. Their record of confirmed kills in one season of the old Sylvania Second Division still stands to this day. 32 deaths which brought an unprecedented amount of gold coin to the team’s coffers. As Deadknapp once said following a particularly productive game, “In Sylvania, you gotta get the bodies first. Then, when you get the bodies, you get the money…”

In terms of winning results, however, the team were less successful, and it soon became a standing joke in the leagues that the only thing the Grave Diggers ever really buried (that stayed buried, anyway) was their chances at winning a title. Such talk angered Deadknapp and after meeting with the team’s owners he secured enough cash to draft new players. The only proviso was that, at the end of the season, there was enough income from the ‘usual business’ to fully replenish the funds. It’s rumored that should the team fail in that endeavor then money would be recouped by the sale of the whole team and, in Sylvania, there’s no money in selling the living…

In a short space of time Deadknapp assembled an impressive lineup of players from around the Blood Bowl leagues and with the help of his coaching staff, Frank Lampem’ard and Slaven Bile-itch, he molded them into a strong unit that swept all the other local teams before them.

The Grave Diggers grasped their opportunity with both hands and almost instantly started to see as much success on the field as they did off it. Admittedly, not every player brought in was a success but they all helped provide the sort of entertainment that kept the crowds coming back for me. Take the case of Alvin ‘Eadbut’ Martin. Alvin was the Auld World’s leading tackler for many seasons. He utilised the brutally simple (or simply brutal) tactic of sprinting at players as fast as he could before launching into them headfirst and letting the spikes of his helmet do the rest. A tactic that worked fine until one game where his opponent neatly sidestepped Martin’s torpedo dive and he instead dove headfirst into a wall at the base of the stands. The resultant impact compressed his spine so badly that he lost several feet in height and is now forced to ply his trade in the Halfling leagues.

The current team of Grave Diggers, though, is possibly the finest collection of players ever put together. Leading the way at the front is the imposing figure of Clyde Beast, the Ogre. What he lacks in intelligence, and skill, and personal hygiene, he makes up for in brute strength. Of the 4 Blitzers on the team, Paulo di Panio is the most infamous having served a season long ban for showing his disappointment at a referee’s decision by kicking the official into the crowd. He may have lost a yard or two of pace during his lay-off but his volatile temperament is still there for all to see. Geoff Hurts, the Catcher, once represented Sylvania in the Auld World Cup where he scored a hat-trick of touchdowns in a 4-2 demolition of Hochland. The rest of the team should never be underestimated and the mix of promising rookies with veterans has proved a potent one.

All the investment and coaching has paid off and the Grave Diggers are working their way through the leagues of the Auld World… one graveyard at a time

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Coach**: Harry Deadknapp | | **Race:** | Human |
|  |  |  |  |
| **No.** | **Name** | **Position** | **Experience** |
| 52 | Paulo di Panio | Blitzer | Star Player |
| 56 | Geoff Spike | Blitzer | Rookie |
| 27 | Alan Devilshire | Blitzer | Veteran |
| 44 | Alvin Mark’em | Blitzer | Veteran |
| 18 | Geoff Hurts | Catcher | Star Player |
| 87 | Joe Cool | Catcher | Rookie |
| 12 | Trevor Booting | Thrower | Veteran |
| 50 | Julian Kicks | Lineman | Veteran |
| 69 | Ian Bash’up | Lineman | Rookie |
| 70 | ‘Bully’ Bonds | Lineman | Experienced |
| 90 | Mark Knobble | Lineman | Experienced |
| 71 | Clyde Beast | Ogre | Veteran |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Fame**: 15 **Team Rerolls**: 3

**The Fans:** *Chant 5; Hooligans 25; Loyalty 9*

**Cheerleaders**: The Morticians

**Team Sponsors**: Orca-Cola

