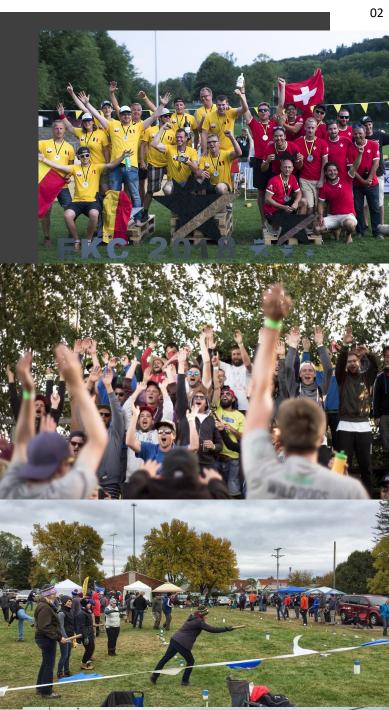
FEBRUARY 2019 VOLUME 9

ubbnation ubbnation

KP Wild Dogs Ne Kubb Sate Team Kubbmeisters Central Arkansas Kubb Interview: Gregg Jochimsen European Kubb Championship Kubb Life Kubb Brothers From Right To Left German Kubb Federation Kurpark Premier Kubb League and more

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Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth. Kubb förenar människor och skapar fred på jorden.

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Cover Photo: Kubb Brothers (Northland, New Zealand) Above: European Kubb Championship, Kubb World Championship, Dallas Oktoberfest, and Netherlands Championship (photos: EKC, KP Wild Dogs, Kubbnation Magazine, NK Kubb)



The best thing for me about doing Kubbnation Magazine is learning about so many new and great things. Over the nine years, these things have grown to more and more places around the world. In this edition, we learn about two clubs in the U.S.; teams, organizations, and tournaments in Europe; a U.S. player's switch from playing right handed to left handed; an exclusive interview with unarguably one of the handful best players in the U.S.; and about kubb in New Zealand.

It is fun to think about someone in the world finding the game. After they start playing, some of these individuals then start promoting the game through learn to play events, clubs, and/or tournaments. Then these new players research the game and hopefully find out about Rone, Gotland and/or other clubs and tournaments around the world and see that the game has been an important part of peoples' lives for years. Over time, some of these people stop playing and introducing the game to others, but their impact in promoting kubb lasts. It is one large, ever expanding tree that reaches our from Gotland.

In 2014, fellow Eau Claire players Aaron Ellringer, Scott Graham, and myself signed up for the Rockford, IL Tournament. One day the team name Tyr's Tre popped into my head. We all play under the Berserker

DET FÖRSTA KASTET

FOOTPRINTS AND THE PROCESS

Kubb flag and the logo of Berserker Kubb is the Tyr rune. Tre is the Swedish word for the number three. It was an absolute perfect fit. After the tournament, Aaron kept doing what he does with his team Ringers, however, Tyr's Tre was born for Scott and me.

Over the next year, Scott and I had a couple different people play with us. In Fall 2015, a new cat in town was playing in League. I knew him a little from a local paint store where we get paint for the U.S. Championship. He had some natural talent, didn't yet know many of the intricacies of the game, but he was hungry. Looking for a playing partner for the 2015/2016 Eau Claire Kubb League winter season, I asked him if he wanted to join up. I felt strongly that I wanted to invest my time with a newer player. I told him what my goal and practice expectations were, and that was to put in time and be one of the top two teams in the City. It was as simple as I wanted to equal Gregg and Scott's team Appetite For Destruction here in Eau Claire. They are the highest standard near and far. I wanted to eventually go .500 against them. I told him that I would not settle for anything less.

The new player was Cory Shay and he was game. Over the next three years, we played in several ECKL seasons and several local tournaments together and sometimes with Scott or another player. My schedule and Scott's schedule do not allow either of us to play in every league season or tournament. However, the process and goal stayed the same...work hard and see where it takes us.

The reason I am telling this story is that I see more and more local and non-local teams sticking together and working their way up the more and more crowded ladder, and I absolutely love it. For me, Cory has become a great friend and the enjoyment of the process and journey exceed any outcome and success that we have had. And the more people I talk with, they are experiencing the same friendships and enjoyment of the journey. Stick with it everyone, and I am looking forward to seeing more and more teams start up their journeys.

LIMGÅS

Swedish, verb 1. to socialize. to spend time together.

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CENTRAL ARKANSAS KUBB GROWING KUBB IN THE NATURAL STATE

By: Kyle Hicks - North Little Rock, Arkansas

This past summer, three of my friends and I made the fifteen hour drive from central Arkansas to Eau Claire, Wisconsin to compete in the 2018 U.S. National Kubb Championship. While there, we made new friends and new memories, but how did four guys from Arkansas wind up playing an obscure lawn game that is relatively unknown anywhere beneath Mason-Dixon line?

It all started when I received a homemade kubb set for my birthday a few years ago from a former Army buddy of mine that lives in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. I played a couple of times in my backyard, but for the most part, the set just sat on a shelf in our garage. Fast forward to the summer of 2017. By this time, I had discovered that this thing called kubb had a pretty unique and competitive aspect to it. I thought it'd be fun to get some friends together to play kubb and drink beer, so I got

It all started when I received a homemade kubb set for my birthday a few years ago from a former Army buddy of mine that lives in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. some people together and that's exactly what we did. I also discovered that I wasn't the only one that had a set. These first few get togethers would eventually lead to the creation of our own club: Central Arkansas Kubb.

That fall, I came across the U.S. National Kubb Championship's Steve Anderson Kubb set program. I figured it'd be a fun game to teach to my ninth grade social studies students, so I applied and asked for three sets. Low and behold, I got them. With those three sets, I could have an entire class of students playing

kubb. Every student would be actively engaged in something, not just standing around waiting for their turn. I could also teach a lot of other people how to play as well, and that is exactly what has happened.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS



Photos: Kyle Hicks

CENTRAL ARKANSAS KUBB

GROWING KUBB IN THE NATURAL STATE

We took the idea from what the St. Paul Kubb Society was doing at Summit Brewing in St. Paul, Minnesota and tweaked it a little to fit our needs.

In the spring of 2018, Central Arkansas Kubb was officially born. The idea was to teach others how to play and hopefully generate enough interest to have a recurring event and possibly put together a team for the 2018 U.S. National Kubb Championship. One of the first events we held was called European Lawn Games. We partnered with a local German beer hall and Bell's Brewing Company to celebrate the release of their summer seasonal beer, Oberon. Though the weather was ridiculously hot and humid, we made it work, and everyone seemed to have a good time.

We continued to play pick up games on a weekly basis and come July, three of my friends and I found ourselves in Eau Claire, ready for the U.S. National Kubb Championship. 'Ready' may be an exaggeration: we lost every game we played, but I feel that we put forth a good effort, and we definitely had fun. We had a blast meeting all of these great players we had read about and seen on YouTube, and we were blown away with how encouraging everyone was. We left Eau Claire more inspired to not only hone our skills, but also to get more people involved in this amazing game.

This fall, Central Arkansas Kubb partnered with one of our local breweries, Diamond Bear Brewing Company, to host the Sunday Funday Kubb Scramble. This weekly, recurring event is the first of its kind here in the Natural State. We took the idea from what the St. Paul Kubb Society was doing at Summit Brewing in St. Paul, Minnesota and tweaked it a little to fit our needs. The event would be free, last for six weeks, and would use a scramble format in which all players would have new teammates each game. The games would have a twenty-five



CENTRAL ARKANSAS KUBB

GROWING KUBB IN THE NATURAL STATE

minute time limit, and we would play four games each week. Players received five points for every game they played and an additional 10 points if they were on a winning team. The points were tallied each week and posted to our website. Prizes were awarded to the player with the most points, players with perfect attendance, the most improved player, and the youngest player. The Youngest Player award went to Holland Fout (age 9). Perfect Attendance awards went to Ramona Hicks and Bryan Signorelli. The Most Improved Player award went to Samuel Olson, who had never played Kubb until he started coming out to the scramble. The winner of the Sunday Funday Kubb Scramble was Bryan Signorelli, who earned a total of 300 points over the six week period.

Not only are we trying to teach other adults how to play, we are trying to create the next generation of Kubb enthusiasts in one of our local high schools. Students at North Little Rock High School, the state's largest high school, meet every Thursday after school to play pick up games against one another. There is a common saying in the kubb community that "Kubb unites people and creates peace on earth" and although that is true, there is a lot of spirited trash talking going on when teenagers start competing against their friends. At the end of the day, everyone leaves having had a lot of fun learning how to play.

I can only speak for myself when I say that I have had a blast learning how to play kubb and getting to know others that are involved in this community. However, I'm willing to bet that you will see more than just four guys representing Central Arkansas Kubb at the 2019 U.S. National Kubb Championship.

Follow us on Instagram & Facebook: Central Arkansas Kubb Check out our website: www.carkubb.com



NE KUBB SATE A Journey To The Top Of Belgium

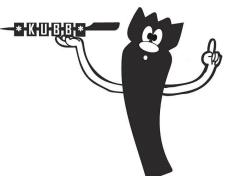
By: Kim Heremans - Westerlo, Belgium



How we found kubb and it all got started?

Ne Kubb Saté is a Belgian kubb team that consists of family and friends. Most players were introduced to kubb during a family weekend in 2012 and played the game occasionally at family gatherings during the following years.

In spring 2015 we heard rumors about an international kubb tournament that was being organized in Zonderschot (Heist-opden-Berg), the Dissers Kubb Trophy (voted as best tournament of 2017 in Belgium, maybe something for Chaska Kubb's bucket list?). Since most of us are from Heist-op-den-Berg and we were curious about the competitive nature of kubb, we decided to participate under the name Ne Kubb Saté. We were introduced to the real stuff immediately, playing our first official game against the 2014 Belgian Champions Das Kubb. Obviously we got trashed but during the day we played some great games against other regular kubb teams. Surprisingly we didn't finish



last but managed to end up 32nd (out of 48 teams), not bad for our first time.

We were really thrilled about our first kubb experience, not only because of our performance but also because of the friendly atmosphere throughout the entire tournament. It was one of the main reasons why we almost immediately decided to participate in another ranking tournament later on that season, organized by Ne Kubb Beton in Beerzel. There was one thing though we realized while participating at the Dissers Kubb Trophy, the inkasting of the kubbs was a very important part of the game.

Because of our will to do better at the next tournament some of us decided to buy their own official kubb set. During the summer of 2015 we spend many hours in our backyards, training on inkasting kubbs and throwing at 4 and 8 meters. To our own surprise all those training efforts resulted in a magnificent 10th place (out of 39 teams) at the tournament of Ne Kubb Beton, beating the experienced local team Pirates of the Kubbibian that day in the preliminary group stage. We even ended up in front of Belgian Champions Das Kubb, unbelievable! All doubts were swept off the table and we decided to participate in the Belgian kubb ranking the following year (an annual regularity competition of 10 to 15 tournaments known since 2018 as the Kovera Kubb-League).

From zeroes to heroes

Our main goal in 2016 was to qualify for the Masters, the final tournament at which only the 16 highest placed teams of the annual ranking could participate. It proved to be difficult to stay consistent throughout the season, the level of play was high.

NE KUBB SATE

A Journey To The Top Of Belgium

We sometimes managed to reach the A-bracket, with an 8th place being our best result of the season. But we also had some major downs, with a bad 33rd place at the last tournament of the season (organized by Mirakelkubbers). We didn't gain any points because of it but still managed to end up 16th in the overall seasonal standings, just a point in front of number 17. Goal achieved! At the Masters we weren't outplayed and finished at a decent 10th place.

Being competitive, we wanted to do even better the following year. Again it was our intention to qualify for the Masters but in addition we also wanted to reach the semifinals at a ranking tournament. It was clear for us, we had to put in more training hours.

Although we started well, playing at a higher level than the previous season, we struggled to win sets and matches in which we seemed certain to win. It was the first time we were confronted with our true competitive nature and really were mentally tested as a team. We realized we needed each other's motivation to maintain trust in our capabilities. It definitely worked and how.

At the Chouffekubbers tournament we finished in 4th place and we even played better at the tournament of the Kubboys reaching a 3rd place, our first podium place ever. Thinking things couldn't get any better, a week later we exceeded that performance and won the tournament of Pirates of the Kubbibian by beating the almost invincible youngsters of Kubb Monsieur in the final. What the hell just happened? Second season on the circuit and we won a ranking tournament, no words could describe how happy we were with that victory. With another 4th and 3rd place we claimed 4th place in the overall standings at the end of the season. We almost won the Masters as well but Kubb Monsieur was too strong in the final.

What we of course didn't know was that the best was yet to come. 2018 would be our year. At Flanelle Benen and the Kubboys, the 4th and 8th tournament of the season we managed to win our second and third ranking title. Given our great results until then we were still on track for the win of the Kovera Kubb-League. Our closest competitor, Pasar Actief Kubbteam, proved to be very consistent with solid performances week after week. With only two tournaments to play they were leading in the standings, nine points in front of our team. The pressure was building, because we knew it was a unique chance of winning such a prestigious title. And to be honest, at that moment some of us already had given up hope because Pasar Actief had only finished outside of the top five once until then. The only thing we could do those last



NE KUBB SATE

A Journey To The Top Of Belgium

tournaments was to relax and try to enjoy the game as much as possible. It turned out to be the best strategy because we were unstoppable and won both tournaments. We also managed to catch up with Pasar Actief and leaving them behind in the standings by four points. Yes we did it, we won the Kovera Kubb League!

We have to say, hats off for Pasar Actief Kubbteam. They had a great run the entire season with also winning a ranking tournament, finishing on the podium another 4 times, playing 8 semifinals in total and taking the bronze medal at the Belgian championship. So they also would have deserved to win the league title. In addition we can say they are a super friendly team who show a lot of respect for any other kubb team, a true example of sportsmanship. Our exceptional season wasn't over though. As cherry on the cake we finished our amazing campaign in style by winning the Masters title! It was a nervewracking and tense season with a result beyond our expectations, a season we will treasure forever.

• With his great sense of humor and one-liners he also brings a positive vibe to the team.

Always throws with rotation

Julien

- THE biggest joker of the team and maybe of the entire circuit (everybody knows him): People don't always understand what he's talking about but he always make us and others laugh, he always enjoys playing the game.
- Right-handed: He's quite a sniper, as he is good in throwing down single field kubbs, but is also a very decent baseline player. Furthermore he's our guy to knock down the king.
- Super tosser: It's difficult to beat him with the toss (the throw that decides who may start the game). A valuable quality that already has proven to be a big bonus in the later stages of tournaments (when playing 'Best of 3' matches).
- Always throws with rotation

Getting to know the team:

Kim

- Captain of the team: He decides most of the time in which order the batons are thrown considering the abilities of the other team members.
- Right-handed allrounder: He is mainly responsible for the inkasting of the kubbs and taking down the baseline, but can also step in as a blaster for the 4 meters.
- Depending on the distance and weather conditions he throws with or without rotation on the field kubbs.
- Always uses rotation on baseline throws

Alex

- Our main lefty: It's such a big plus to have a left-handed player in the team, as it creates the option of having a natural throwing angle from almost every part of the baseline.
- Switches between 4 & 8 meters: He can throw 4 meters combinations that don't always seem possible, but is also a very big threat for every opponent by bombing their baseline.
- Brings a certain calmness within the team
- Always throws with rotation

Rudy

- Right-handed, mainly throws at 4 meters: Because of throwing the first baton, he has a very big responsibility as the main blaster of the team. When he's on fire at the 4 meters he can also be an extra weapon at the 8 meters.
- He often throws doubles (field and base kubb within same throw)



NE KUBB SATE A Journey To The Top Of Belgium

Maurits:

• Another lefty

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• He's less competitive then the rest of the bunch. That's why he mainly plays at friendly tournaments but he was part of the team when we won our first ranking tournament.

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- He doesn't train that often but has the potential to be a decent player, mainly throws at 8 meters.
- He rarely misses the king so when playing on the team he's our king 'killer'.
- Always throws with rotation



Jo

- He's the guy that introduced us with the game, so you can say he's the main reason Ne Kubb Saté exists.
- Right-handed: Many of us think he's the most naturally gifted player of the team with a very nice and clean throw. He actually doesn't need much training to reach a decent level.
- He hasn't played in many tournaments but proved to be a valuable asset when he was dropped in the team as third player in a ranking tournament in 2018 (per ranking tournament you need 3 registered players to achieve ranking points). Because of his participation we managed to end up 9th and gain important points in our race to win the Kovera League title.
- Always throws with rotation

Kristof

- Another family member that was introduced to the game in 2018
- Right-handed: He also was used as a substitute and necessary third player at a ranking tournament in 2018. It was only the third time he played the game and he gave us all he got. Again we finished in 9th place, so amazing performance of him!
- We can't say what his best throw is, has to play more to determine that.

NE KUBB SATE A Journey To The Top Of Belgium

In general our team is pretty strong on quickly clearing the baseline. We're also a close group of family and friends that knows each other very well and always tries to have fun. Maybe that's our main strength because it's therefore easier for us to know when a team member needs extra motivation.

Our future

It's common that the team that wins the Masters also organizes the event the next year. So at the end of September 2019 it's our turn. It will also be our first time hosting a tournament and believe it or not, but it will be at the same location where it all started for us in 2015, in Zonderschot (remember Dissers Kubb Trophy). We're already excited about it.

We haven't got any plans to go abroad next year, but it's not unthinkable it will happen in a couple of years. Some of us have already been abroad, playing at the World Championship in 2017 with the team 'The Magnificent 6'. We had an unlucky draw on Friday where we had to play against our fellow countrymen Kubb Monsieur in the group stage. We lost and they went on to win the bronze medal. This year our team split up and played at the Europameisterschaft in Berlin. One of us played on the team 'ECT' and reached the final which was lost against the unbeatable Kubb'Ings. 3 other team members played as 'Ne Kubb Saté light' and finished 12th. 2 unbelievable experiences that we won't forget soon.

Our main competitive goal for the next few years is trying to win the Belgian Championship and it would also be nice of

course if we could match the past season. But without a doubt our biggest goal is to continue enjoying the game. Without the love for the game it's impossible to achieve great results. And at the end, being together as family and friends, enjoying a nice cold beer, isn't that what makes kubb so great?

Special thanks to

- My teammates for their huge commitment over the past few years.
- Eric Corsus (Kovera Kubb Team) and his wife Liliane for being hosts for us and other teams in their backyard on many Tuesday evenings throughout the season. A big part of who we are as a team

and what we are capable of was created over there.

- 'Ginger Jack' (Jan Boogemans, Dissers Kubb Team & The Magnificent 6), 'Mettes' (Koen Mertens, Dissers Kubb Team & ECT), Wally (Kim Wallaert, Pirates of the Kubbibian & ECT) and Mr. Cool (Stefan Ooms, De Ronny's & The Magnificent 6) for being great friends, sparring partners and wonderful team mates.
- Our Belgian Kubb Federation (past and present members) for all the efforts they produce so we can keep on enjoying the game.
- And of course all the other teams that make kubb in Belgium and abroad such a great game to play.

Footnote

All our results and more information about our team can be found on the website of the Belgian Kubb Federation (kubbfederatie.be) or on our Facebook page (Facebook.com/Ne -Kubb-Saté-1569643856398171/). Do feel free to like our page.

NE KUBB SATÉ

* K U B B



KUBB BROTHERS

THE STORY OF KUBB IN NEW ZEALAND



Being a young collection of small pacific islands lost in the middle of nowhere, it's a surprise even people found their way to New Zealand, let alone kubb. But as fate would have it, both did.

For three Kiwi brothers (owners of Kubb Brothers kubb sets), it all started in 2012, at a music festival, in Europe. It

was here, over a warm beer in a plastic cup, George Coltart – Kubb Brother Number One, discovered the little-known, largelyloved Swedish lawn game. He then returned to Hawke's Bay, New Zealand and showed the game to his younger brother Freddie – Kubb Brother Number Two.

Being the keen croquet and pétanque player that he was,



KUBB BROTHERS

THE STORY OF KUBB IN NEW ZEALAND





Freddie was right into it. So, with the help of their older brother Sam – Kubb Brother Number Three, and dad – Kubb "Brother" Number Four, the boys crafted their first set in the family workshop.

Multiple prototypes and a few more beers later, they arrived at a design they decided not only played nice, but looked nice too.

Using sustainable hardwood, finishing oil and a family heritage

of quality design and building, the result is a level of craftsmanship and attention to detail that ensures a premium experience with every use. Thus started the mainstream introduction of kubb to Kiwis.

Many games but only a few years later, things are certainly heating up in New Zealand. Little did anyone know that New Zealand was (quite coincidentally) designed for kubb. Lots of open space (most Kiwis have a backyard), a nation obsessed by sports, long summers with mild winters and most importantly, hundreds of beautiful beaches hugging all around the coastline.

Keen Kiwis starting slaying kings at pace,

doubling the amount of players every year since introduction. So much so that most beaches around New Zealand during summer will have at least one heated kubb battle going down on the hard sand.

With any new sport captivating a country, comes mans relentless pursuit to be the best at it. Enter the NZ National Kubb Open. The first year was a roaring success, turning up over 80 players (and another 50 spectators) to a regional part of New

> Zealand. The second year, 100 players. Now the plan is to move it to New Zealand's biggest city Auckland. This will supersize the event drastically.

> Watch this space. You can follow along New Zealand's exciting kubb scene on Instagram @kubbbrothers and Facebook -Kubb Brothers.





Name: Gregg Jochimsen "Jocho" City of Birth: Eau Claire, WI City Live: Eau Claire, WI

When did you first hear about kubb?

There is a local publication called Volume One that shares stories and information about the Eau Claire area arts and entertainment scene. I look forward to the monthly articles, and am often reminded about some exciting events happening in the Chippewa Valley. In 2010, my curiosity was piqued when I stumbled upon one article discussing the game of kubb. It sounded like a game that I could enjoy while playing with friends and family. In the same issue, there was even information about a local tournament that was going to be held to raise money for

Habitat for Humanity. After cobbling a kubb set together, I shared the game with some of my softball buddies. One of my teammates and I decided to play in the tournament. It seemed like the perfect thing to do before going to Oktoberfest that was to be held that same evening in Chippewa Falls. Being very green to the game we somehow finished tied for third on the day, and had even beaten the reigning U.S. National Champions during round robin play. We wore our medals proudly that night, and were not afraid to share with everyone we met that we had beaten the National Champs, as well as sharing what we knew about kubb. I was hooked!

What is your first memory of kubb?

Certainly the story I just shared. However, I can expand on that

INTERVIEW: GREGG JOCHIMSEN Exclusive Interview With One Of U.S.'s Top Players

Gregg has fully established himself among the absolute elite in the U.S., unarguably in the top few players. He learned the game in 2010 and most recently has been a member of the U.S. National Champion team the past three years. Since Fall 2015, every Eau Claire Kubb League season (spring, fall, and winter) he and Scott Forster have finished first or second in the regular season and the playing before and after our softball playoffs, with a lot more firsts than seconds. He has introduced kubb to hundreds of people in the Eau Claire area, which includes hundreds of students at Chippewa Falls Middle School, where he works. Gregg also hosted several Chippewa Valley Kubb League events in Eau Claire. We reached out to Gregg, fresh off his second Loppet victory, to learn more. We would like to encourage you to take part in his #KubbinAroundTheWorld project, which you will read about on Page 18.

by saying my first memories of kubb are probably some of my favorite times playing as well. As soon as I had a basic understanding of the rules and game play, introduced kubb to my softball L teammates. It quickly became an integral part of our Tuesday and Thursday nights. Many of those evenings were spent games. We'd set two or three pitches up near our softball field, put bottle caps in a canister, and draw the caps to see who your partner(s) would be for the matches.

Exclusive Interview With One Of U.S.'s Top Players

Often the lights in the park would be shut off after midnight to let us know it was time to pack up and head home (or to Ray's Place). This was also a time when kubb was played on a more regular basis in my own backyard with family and friends. I do miss those days, the games we played, and the kubb fellowship. No pressure, no arguments, no grudges, just kubb at its best!

What made you interested in competing in kubb tournaments with regularity?

After awhile, the competitive bug hit a few of us as our play was steadily improving, and the US National Championship seemed like the logical next step considering it was right in our backyard. With a solid showing in our first year, and a third place finish the next, we knew we belonged. I don't remember if I put much thought into playing in any other tournaments, but Dallas was an easy choice as well as starting the Chippewa Valley Kubb League and hosting our own tournaments. Early on, I really enjoyed meeting new players, listening to their stories, and competing. The mixer format of our CVKL Kubbfest and Spring Fling tournaments was a blast (pun intended)! Playing alongside friends, newcomers, and players I didn't think I'd have a chance to share a baseline with, while enjoying some amazing camaraderie brought out the best of times in tournament play for me.

You are thought of as one of, if not the best, blasters in the nation. For you, what are the keys to getting better at the blast throw?

That's a nice thing to say, but there are dozens of amazing players who are exceptional blasters, and I'd be humbled if others actually thought that about me. Blasting comes down to a few basic principles including comfort and consistency. Over time, I've developed what works best for me: I've found a comfortable balanced stance, an aim and release point, and a baton rotation that have given me results that I'm happy with. Just like any other throw in the game, players need to be comfortable. Once a comfort level is found, stick with it, and develop a routine that will provide consistency. Of course, an important step in the process is investing time. Practice doesn't hurt, and the more time focused on blasting (or any aspect of the game) will only make for stronger game play. I rarely play any full games of kubb while practicing anymore. I've developed my own mini games that focus on the different parts of a kubb game, and this has allowed me to use my practice time more efficiently and has helped fine tune my play.

What is the story behind Top Jimmy?

During the school year of 2010, when I started playing, I began to share what I knew about kubb with my students and colleagues. Our woods/technology teacher decided to help out and make some sets for my classes. He held a contest, and challenged the classes to make kubb sets with the coolest kings. Each class had a different color connected to paint the kubbs and kings with. The class that had red created a candy cane spiral king, the green class made an interesting castle, and the blue class ended up with a unique Pinocchio like king. That year, this king became a popular guy with my classes; he was always a great conversation starter propped up in the classroom or on the pitch. As the school year ended, I promised my students that I wouldn't leave him behind for the summer, and that he would accompany me wherever I went, and that I would share his travels. Taking his name from a favorite Van Halen song, Top Jimmy began his touring that summer. Everywhere I played kubb, Top Jimmy was there; his exploits matching the song lyrics. Top Jimmy traveled and played kubb in multiple states and some amazing locations and venues. He could always be spotted at Chippewa Valley Kubb League events, and was soon adopted as the official mascot. Over time, TJ began to show wear and tear, and his blue paint and facial features were fading. I approached an exceptional artist friend of mine, Janell Isaacson-Whitehouse, with the idea of giving Top Jimmy a fresh start. She agreed, and gave him an amazing make-over and created, in my opinion, the



Exclusive Interview With One Of U.S.'s Top Players



It seems you have found a perfect playing partner in Scott Forster. List three words that describe Scott:

Clutch – We've all seen what he's done in some pretty important moments. Dependable – I can always count on him to be there, and make key throws. Dedicated – He's committed to our team, and puts the work in others might

not be willing to do for success.

Exclusive Interview With One Of U.S.'s Top Players

coolest looking king on the planet. Top Jimmy cooks, Top Jimmy swings, he's got the look, Top Jimmy he's the king!

I am not sure if many people know this, but you have introduced kubb to literally 100s of students at Chippewa Falls Middle School. Talk about how you have done that.

My greatest joy associated with kubb is the ability to share the game with others. Fortunately, as an educator, I get to do this on a fairly regular basis. Whether it is during the school day, teacher advisory time, student choice time, clubs, or after school programming, I have attempted to share what I know with not only students, but also other educators in my district and beyond. Thanks to the generosity of US National Kubb, and others, I have been able to get kubb sets into numerous classrooms at my school where other teachers can share the game as well. Kubb provides great opportunities for skill building and team work, and the excitement that many students show while playing and learning is gratifying. I've also attempted to link my classroom to the world. As a geography teacher, I've requested and received postcards from some amazing kubb people from around the United States and other countries where kubb is played. My #KubbinAroundTheWorld bulletin board provides students links and lessons to places they most likely won't have an opportunity to travel to in their lives. Keep those cards coming kubb friends! CFMS, 750 Tropicana Blvd, Chippewa Falls WI, 54729

It seems you have found a perfect playing partner in Scott Forster. List three words that describe Scott:

One of the biggest reasons for my success in kubb has been sharing a baseline with some incredible players. I'm certain I wouldn't have been able to reach any podiums without the development of good chemistry with these individuals. Luckily, Scott and I have developed as great teammates over the last few years. He is a perfect partner for my style of play and temperament. Not only has Scott become a great teammate, but he has become a great friend as well. Describing him in three words? Not sure that can be done, but I will try: Clutch we've all seen what he's done in some pretty important Dependable - I can always count on him to be moments. there, and make key throws. Dedicated - he's committed to our team, and puts the work in others might not be willing to do for success. There are many other words and perhaps a few I use that might not be suitable for print!

This past July, you joined the three-time U.S. Champion club, and you are the first three-peat U.S. Champion. Has that sunk in yet and what does that mean to you?

I'm not sure if it will ever register. Again, much of the credit has to go to the amazing players I've teamed up with. I'm proud of my efforts and accomplishments, and it's something I can show my students as well as my own children. Goal setting, hard work, and effort can result in success. I do appreciate those that recognize the hard work I've put in, and the accomplishments.

Do you think about kubb every day?

I'm sure there was a time when this was almost true. With all things in life, we need to find a healthy balance. As much as I



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love the competition and the camaraderie that kubb provides, I have two families that need my attention. I've been lucky to have three children who are active in many sports and activities, as well as a very supportive wife. What's happening in their lives comes first and truly is the center of my world. I also have 125 other children that I'm focused on providing a safe and meaningful learning environment for on a daily basis. I love teaching, and the difference I believe I make in my student's lives, but it is also a career that is very time consuming and exhausting!

You were born and raised in Eau Claire. Eau Claire is officially the Kubb Capital of North America, there are numerous tournaments here, one of the largest leagues in the world, many really good teams, kubb can be found around town, etc. What kind of pride is there that kubb is so big here?

Many people have invested a lot of time in the support and growth of kubb in the Chippewa Valley. It should come as no surprise that we are the kubb capital. We are a unique region that prides itself in arts, entertainment, and innovation. With so many passionate ambassadors and enthusiasts, Eau Claire is the perfect place for the epicenter of kubb. There is pride in the fact that I've taken a role in the promotion and growth of making Eau Claire the kubb capital. I don't mind being recognized as a kubb player by community members because it

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the name of

ational Kubb Championship registers 128 teams » Top team

often leads to good discussion and an opportunity to spread more awareness of the game.

If someone from out of town asked you to describe what kubb is like in Eau Claire, how would you describe it?

It has become a way of life

for many, and an important part of who we are as a community. Kubb is one piece of the puzzle that makes this place special. It's satisfying going to graduation parties where kubb is being played, driving down a street to see people you don't know playing, reading about it in the newspaper, or hearing others talk about it. Kubb has been woven into the tapestry of Eau Claire's identity. The passion and love of the game is evident, and it is fun to be part of that.

How often do you usually practice? Does it change at all during the year?

I wouldn't mind throwing a little bit more, but I don't want to miss any events my family is involved in. With busy schedules, I'm still able to get out and fine tune at least a couple of times during the week. I stick to a routine that takes about 30-45 minutes. As a tournament approaches, I may devote more time for preparation.

Outside of kubb, what are your hobbies?

A

Enjoying the events my family members are involved in doesn't leave much time for other things, but I do participate in activities that many Midwesterners partake in like hunting, fishing, and other outdoor adventures. For many years, before having children and when they were very young, I participated in the American Birkebeiner cross country ski race and did many

> roller blade and running races. I look forward to getting involved with these again if life slows down a bit. I played sports in high school, and I'm



r first

Summer reading



Exclusive Interview With One Of U.S.'s Top Players

not afraid to strap on the hockey skates, pick up a bat or racket, or find something to compete in. I'm also enjoying my first season of curling. I do follow lots of sports and enjoy the Wisconsin Badger teams, the Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Bucks and Brewers, and the Minnesota Wild.

For you, is kubb more mental or physical? What are the percentages?

It's a much higher percentage mental than it is physical, perhaps 80/20. There are many variables when it comes to knocking kubbs down, but you would think after thousands of repetitive throws everyone's hit percentage would be amazing. Players are becoming more skilled and accurate while teams are finishing games with much faster results than in the past. However, there are still many moments that the mental game gets in the way of success. If there was a way to let the body go and do what it has done with good results, and not have all of the self-talk, we might rarely miss. I don't mind the pressure of games or matches, and like to think that I'm mentally tough, but this is still an area for growth.

What is your favorite thing about kubb?

I have been fortunate to play with some incredible players, and

several that I consider good friends. If it weren't for the chance to hang out with them, I'm not sure how much competitive kubb I would be playing. In the last few years, kubb has changed quite a bit, and there are many things I wouldn't miss, but hanging out with good friends is what keeps me coming back. However, my favorite thing about kubb is the opportunity to talk about the game, share what I know, and see the joy and excitement others have while playing after I have taught it to them.

What are some of the biggest/most significant changes in the game since you started playing kubb?

Good, or bad, kubb has become a very competitive and serious game. Today, there are many more talented players and teams than there were just a few years ago. In Eau Claire alone, there are a dozen different teams playing in league that all have a legitimate chance for victory each week. There are many players who are very good at all the various aspects of the game including the drill, blasting, and 8 meters. At no fault to this competitive level of play, some of that care-free fun I experienced starting out has been lost.

Some new rules have been incorporated to ensure that game



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play is fair. The 2-4-6 open would be the most obvious change, but there are many others including how turns are taken, matches played, and how tournaments are set up. As players and teams continue to improve, I'm sure there will be other tweaks to the game in an attempt to make things fair and enjoyable. I am okay with tournaments creating their own formats, rule variations, and match play. There doesn't have to be one way or one rule set to follow at every event; that should be left up to the tournament director. That being said, I am a traditionalist and would rather play with stakes, no painted lines, and without the 100% and neighbor rules.

We all have our opinions and preferences on what is good for kubb and positive discussion and debate can be healthy for the growth of the game.

Do you have a most memorable match?

I couldn't pick one. Various matches are memorable for various reasons. The Wide World of Sports mantra of "the thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat" holds true. Certainly the thrill of winning National Championships is huge, but elements of those victories make them memorable: winning my first in 2016 with our team having a perfect six for six round to advance to the championship match, winning in 2017 and getting Scott a championship with some amazing play by our team throughout the weekend, and last year's win after overcoming a great deal of adversity. Many memorable matches involve great teamwork like the championships including league and league tournament victories with Scott, fun times in Dallas and Pre-Nat's and Leinie's and the Kubb Krawl, funny moustaches with Grant Scott in Decorah, winning the Loppet with Joe Pendleton, or playing on sand at Loopy's where it didn't seem our team, that included Scott and Mark Blazel, missed a shot all day. Sometimes the memories are from the conditions, like battling the heat in Kasson, cold at the Loppet, wind at the Pre-Nat's, or a monsoon at the U.S. Midwest in Shakopee. Of course there are many times I can remember the agony of missed shots and opportunities, and knowing I could have done more as well.

For someone just learning kubb, what tips would you give them?

Patience. Kubb can be fun right away, but it's not an activity that can be mastered immediately. Take slow steps, and modify the game, don't give up! I start with the basics and how to get comfortable throwing the batons and kubbs. Usually this is done on a smaller pitch, 4 meters by 6 meters. I play target practice games with newbies starting at a meter, then two, and on until they are drilling near the 4 meter line and throwing 8 meter batons. Learn the rules, but be willing to adjust game play. The more time spent playing and practicing, the more fun it will be. Don't be afraid to ask questions, all kubb players are willing to share what they know and help. Find some friends, grab you favorite beverages, and spend some time on the pitch; it's all good, when you are chucking wood!



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A New Event Taking Europe By Storm

By: Christoph Fischer – Baden, Switzerland

Photos: European Kubb Association

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For quite a few years there was the idea floating around about uniting Europe as a Kubb community. People from Germany Belgium, and Switzerland were talking about an event, in which contestants from all over Europe could play against each other and where the best players would be crowned. So in summer 2017 members from these

three national Kubb associations got together and decided to found the European Kubb Association, in short the EKA.

The goals of the EKA are nations working together to promote kubb and live along the lines of "Kubb unites people". A main motivation is to organize the European Kubb Championships, the EKC.

Three representatives from each of the three countries started to plan and dream about how the EKC can be realized. In many Skype meetings and discussions the concept for the EKC took

The EKC should be an event at which every kubb player from Europe would want to be part of.

shape. Everything from the big picture down to detailed rules played at the EKC was discussed together, overthrown once or twice, until finally a consensus could be reached. The EKC should be an event at which every kubb player from Europe would want to be part of. Two days packed with Kubb and tournaments in three categories, 1vs1, 3vs3 and 6vs6. While the EKC naturally should attract the top players and teams from all over Europe, great care was taken to also offer a category for less ambitious teams - the EKC Freshman's Cup. In each category the players and teams will earn points for the overall ranking in the Nations Cup, effectively allowing different countries competing with each other. An extra addition is that, only the best single players from each nation would qualify for the 6vs6 teams of their nation.

A motivated Swiss organization committee was formed and the planning for the very first European Kubb Championships - taking place in 2018 in Switzerland - went on their way. It did not take long and kubb players all over Europe started to talk about the event and how big it could be. Players from countries which don't regularly visit international kubb tournaments became interested and in the end eight different nations were represented at the event. Players from Spain, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria and the Czech Republic came to be part in the first EKC, probably making it the toughest competition and the biggest kubb party in 2018. For the participants it was a great opportunity to meet new friends from all over Europe and do what we all love the most, play kubb.

A New Event Taking Europe By Storm

The Freshman's Cup was won by the Swiss team "Karate Kubb" followed by another Swiss and a Belgium team. In the 3vs3-category of the EKC the fields were filled with ambitious teams from all over Europe. In the end the German team "Kubb'Ings"

But after the party, there is always work to do. In December 2018 the EKA was officially founded and the members of the board were appointed. Seven members from the three founding countries are part of it. the players and teams in the EKC earned points for their nation in the end and overall nation winner was crowned. Only the best placing teams and players could earn points. And it was no big surprise that in the end Belgium could take home the desirable trophy. They won by a landslide

won. In second place were "Kubb Monsieur" from Belgium and in the third and fourth place the teams "Blue / Orange" and "Blue / Orange 2.0", world champions of 2017. The 1vs1 category was packed with the creme de la creme of kubb players from all the nations. To land a good result in this category was in crucial, since only the best single players from each nation would make it to the all-stars team of six players. So with almost 140 players it was the biggest single player tournament in world kubb history. In the end Joakim Ekelöf (SWE) prevailed. Kenny Corsus (BE) came in second, followed by the two Swiss players Marco Bleiker and Jacky Suter. The 6vs6tournament was dominated by the Belgium teams in first and second place and the Swiss in third and fourth place. Since all before Switzerland and Germany. So in the EKC '19 they should watch out for all the other nations who will travel to Belgium to take the trophy home to their country. The weekend which was packed with interesting games and new friendships ended with a big party, which lasted until the early morning hours.

But after the party, there is always work to do. In December 2018 the EKA was officially founded and the members of the board were appointed. Seven members from the three founding countries are part of it. Leading on is the president Christoph Fischer (CH), followed by vice-president Andreas Heiden (DE). In the other positions are Lukas Huser (CH) as treasurer, Rebecca Carlyle (CH) as secretary and Stef Steyaert



A New Event Taking Europe By Storm

BOARD MEMBERS & REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EKA



Christoph Fischer PRESIDENT President of the Swiss Kubb Association



Lukas Huser TREASURER

Founding and board member of the Swiss Kubb Association



Els Debrucker BOARD MEMBER Board member of the Belgian Kubb Association



Andreas Heiden VICE-PRESIDENT Member of the German Kubb Association



Jens Meier BOARD MEMBER President of the German Kubb Association



Aster De Meersman REPRESENTATIVE BELGIUM Former president of of the Belgian Kubb Association



Rebecca Carlyle SECRETARY GENERAL

Member of the Swiss Kubb Association



Stef Steyaert BOARD MEMBER Vice-President of the Belgian Kubb Association



Klaus Riedel REPRESENTATIVE GERMANY Board member of the German Kubb Association

A New Event Taking Europe By Storm

(B), Els Debrucker (B) and Jens Meier (DE) as members of the board. They will be hosting the first general assembly at which other nations can join the EKA and their delegates can take part in the discussions and decisions taken by the EKA. Any national kubb association representing the kubb community in a European country can apply for membership to the EKA. Already, a few nations have showed interest to join the EKA. Each member association may elect or nominate up to three delegates which represent the national association at the general assembly of the EKA. The general assembly will discuss and decide on changes to the general concept of the EKC, the official rules played at the EKC and of course will also appoint the hosting country for upcoming EKC tournaments.

Fundamental to the concept of the EKC is that the location will change every year and that the different Kubb nations take turn in hosting the EKC. So in 2019 the EKC will take place at the first weekend of July in Antwerp, Belgium. After the big success in 2018 in Switzerland, we are sure that the EKC 2019 in Belgium will be even more exciting and it would be awesome if even more nations will be represented at the event.

For more detailed information about the EKA or the upcoming

Any national kubb association representing the kubb community in a European country can apply for membership to the EKA.

EKC visit kubbeurope.com. On the website you find all the results and impressions of the EKC '18 and the European Kubb Association.







CHAMPION





Madison Kubb Thanks You For Seven Great Tournaments!

Madison Kubb would like to thank everyone in the Kubb community for their support over the last seven years. Sadly we must end our run of 7 consecutive Kubb tournaments. However we will continue our mission to help spread education and enjoyment of Kubb throughout Southern Wisconsin.



On the northern shore of Lake Monona, Madison Kubb launched the Inaugural Madison Midsommar Kubb tournament in June 2012. There were 19 teams from all over the Midwest making it a success in dry, hot conditions. Over the next six tournaments, Madison Kubb had an average of 32 teams per tournament and raised over \$4000 for the Goodman Community Center, including sponsoring youth programs and food pantry.



In 2015 & 2016 Madison Kubb hosted the U.S. Midwest Kubb Championship. Madison was the second stop on the Cheddar Curtain Tour in 2017 & 2018. Madison has been perhaps best known for challenging conditions with gusty winds off the lake, driving rain, tall municipal grass, and hot and/or cold temperatures. And the Kubb Community has consistently come together at Olbrich Park to play a game that unites people and creates peace on earth.

Thank you again for your support of Madison Kubb!



Madison Midsommar Kubb Tournament Saturday, June 9, 2012



Madison Midsommar Kubb Tournament Saturday, June 1, 2013









MADISON KUBB TOURNAMENT JUNE 3, 2017



KP WILD DOGS

First ever Swiss World Champions

Wild dogs are very successful predators. They are highly social pack hunters, with no clear hierarchy amongst each other. The typical pack size in Kruger National Park and the Masai Mara is four or five, whilst packs in Gotland normally contain six adults. African wild dogs are hunters who can track their prey for three to five kilometers. The dogs rip into the animal alive and unlike other carnivores, a killing bite is often not applied.

But when we first started our team, the KP Wild Dogs, we were rather puppies than grown up dogs. But we learned quickly and have had a steady progress in the last three years. With the quarter finals in the first year, winning the second place last year and the big triumph at this year's World Championships we finally took the World Championship trophy to Switzerland for the first time.

KP stands for Kurpark, which is a park in Baden and is often referred to as the "epicenter of Swiss Kubb". Here, the team members, along with many other kubb players, meet and play kubb every day in summer. Baden is also the place, where the most successful Swiss kubb teams originate from, with 7 out of the 7 last Swiss Kubb Champions coming from Baden and surroundings. In 2016, when the Wild Dogs went to Sweden for their first World Cup, of course the anticipation for the title was big. Our team consisted of our Captain Marc 'Mighty' Binder, Roger 'Vasek' Amman, Manuel 'Pepe' Perrass, Patrick 'Winnie' Rufer, Christoph 'Buschi' Fischer and Christian 'Gönk' Meier. We arranged a training camp one week before the tournament in Gotland and were totally focused on the World Cup. The week before the tournament would become the most central point of our tournament preparations in the following years. In this week, we would train different tactics, practicing our skills and play sparring-matches against other 6vs6-teams. Besides that of course, the time we have together having fun, drinking a few beers and meeting our kubb friends from all over the world, are the most important things about going to Sweden every year. Unfortunately we could not live up to our own expectations in

Photos: KP Wild Dogs

By: Christoph Fischer - Baden, Switzerland

KP stands for Kurpark, which is a park in Baden and is often referred to as the "epicenter of Swiss Kubb". Here, the team members, along with many other kubb players, meet and play kubb every day in summer. So this year we were more united as a team.

We knew which player was suited for which shot and we never had a moment in which all players were not performing well.

the first year. The elimination from the competition in the quarter finals was probably a reality check for us. We realized that 6 strong single players doesn't immediately result in a strong 6vs6 team.

One year later we returned with a new player in our team. Roger Züst – the most decorated Kubb player in Swiss history. Gönk resigned unsolicited from the team, so that we could have more success in the future and chose Züst as his replacement. With Züst as our new aggressive leader we focused more on tactics and the right order for the throws internally. Everything went very well until we met the locals from Blue/Orange in the Finals. It was a very good match, up until we came across some serious problems in our 4 meter gameplay. The result was two totally unnecessary "Wrong Rabbits" (i.e. letting the opponent step into the field) in the first set and a very good and quick second set by Blue / Orange. Another lesson learned. We needed more backup on each position, especially in the blaster position, since we are actually all classic 8m snipers.

So this year we were more united as a team. We knew which player was suited for which shot and we never had a moment in which all players were not performing well. We do have to say, we were also a bit lucky with the other matches in the knock-out -stage, for example that every-year-favourites Team Gotland got knocked out of the tournament before we could meet them in the guarter finals. We played against Auh-laug-Eth instead and it was even closer than expected. We were on the brink of withdrawal, with only one 8m kubb standing and four shots left from the Swedish team, but sometimes you just need that bit of luck to win a big tournament. The following game against the Czech team Vršovka & Friends in the semi-final was quite uneventful, compared to the epic match-up in the second semifinal between our good friends from Chaska Kubb and the Swiss team Horstbrød. When our Swiss friends secured their heroic three-base-kubb-finish, all hell broke loose and we knew before the final, that it is going to be the very first World Championship title for Switzerland.

KP WILD DOGS

First ever Swiss World Champions

KP WILD DOGS

First ever Swiss World Champions



A very intense game and two very close sets later, we secured the title with another 2:0 win (we only lost one set the whole day against Auh-laug-Eth) and finally, our hard work and training over the last years was rewarded with the World Championship title. The result in the final could have easily been the other way around. Of course we celebrated like champions and the last Wilddogs didn't go to sleep until the next day, when our plane took off from Gotland to Stockholm. made it in 2018. But of course we're hungry for more. The KP Wilddogs will be back 2019. Beware!

Njaaahaaaauuuuhuuuuuuuuu hauuuhauuuuuuu (Dog howling intensifies)

KP Wilddogs:

Marc Binder, Roger Züst, Roger Ammann, Manuel Perrass, Patrick Rufer, Christoph Fischer

Finally, we showed the world that the Swiss kubb scene belongs to the very best in the world, with two Swiss teams coming in first and second World place at the Championship. Even though it this we made year, Horstbrød and many more Swiss kubb players would be capable of doing the same. There are so many good kubb teams out there and I guess, we are just very happy to have



KURPARK PREMIER KUBB LEAGUE

1 v. 1 IN THE HEART OF SWISS KUBB

The Kurpark Premier League is, as the name states it, a kubb league which takes place at the Kurpark in Baden. All players gather here nearly every day during the summer to play kubb and to meet friends. The Kurpark is often referred to as the epicentre of Swiss Kubb, with the best Kubb teams from Switzerland, as well as the current World Champions KP (Kurpark) Wild Dogs, coming from Baden and its surroundings. That's why you can call the Kurpark Premier League (KPPL in short) the most prestigious Kubb League in Switzerland.



The KPPL was established in 2016, when "league father" Marco Bleiker launched the Kubb league mostly to promote Swiss Kubb and to improve the competitiveness of Swiss Kubb players. It was a time when Swiss Kubb teams regularly got second or third places in the biggest European kubb tournaments, such as the World Cup in Sweden, the Pfälzer Kubb Open in Schindhard or the former European Kubb Championships in Berlin. By then it was clear, that the Swiss kubb scene was one of the best in the world, but that others nations such as Belgium, Germany and of course Sweden were still one step ahead of us. Since playing 1vs1 is the best way to improve your skills as a player, Bleiker saw the Kubb League as the best way to get people playing more often and to improve their skills in a short period of time.

In 2018 it became clear, that not all players are ambitious enough to play that long and that many matches, especially during the summer season. Also, in Switzerland the number of

By: Christoph Fischer - Baden, Switzerland

tournaments rises each year - in 2019 there will be nearly no Saturday without a tournament. That's the reason why Christoph Fischer and Oliver Spiess launched a new modified league system: They shortened the duration of the matches (Best of 6 instead of Best of 12), made clear that only the really committed players should participate and launched the "KPPL Super Sunday". Exactly 30 players were registered and seeded into three leagues with 10 participants each: league 1, 2a and 2b. The players ranked the other players by themselves, so everyone had the chance to take part in decision-making.

Between April and September, every player had to play one match against each opponent of his league, so we had a ranking for the Final Sunday on the 30th of September: the best four players of the league 1 played the semifinals and finals for the overall win, while the second and third ranked players of the second leagues battled against the weakest players of the first league. the last two participants of league 1 were relegated directly, so the first ranked players of league 2a and 2b were promoted without promotion ties. Instead they played against each other to win the first place of the overall league 2.

While Cyrill Füglister (aka. Nonjimm) has beaten Silvan Zünd (aka. Fletcher) in this final, Christoph Fischer (Buschi, KP Wilddogs) saved the overall win of league 1 against Patrik Wyss (Sparringspartner, Hørstbröd). Marc Binder (Beni the Gun, KP Wilddogs) completed the podium after winning the small final against Oliver Spiess (O-Beat, Utterly Wiped Out). You can find the whole ranking (without promotion ties) of all leagues here: http://kppl.ch.vu.seth.hostorama.ch. All players of league 1 were able to defend their place except Manuel Perrass (Pepe, KP Wilddogs), who lost his promotion tie against Marco Bleiker (Tatanka, Team Panda). The KPPL will be back in 2019 - with a few modifications on the system to make the league even more attractive!



Wisconsin Kubb

Home of: Dallas, WI Oktoberfest Tournament, Kubbnation Magazine, U.S. Team Cup, - plus -Inkasting tips and techniques, and more. wisconsinkubb.com

German Kubb Federation

Promoting and Building Kubb in Germany

By: Grit Thor, Berlin, Germany

"Should we really do that?" This question was probably a big issue in June 2014, when about 30 kubbers from all over Germany came together in Lengede in order to found the Deutscher Kubb-Bund (German Kubb Federation). "Yes, let's go for it!" After several hours of intensive exchange between the attendees, the by-laws, rules of procedure and contribution regulations were passed as necessary basis. а At that time, the main federal goals were to make kubb as a game even better known, to promote the whole spectrum of team players, and to support the increasing number of tournament organizers.

Barely five years later, not only has the board has changed a bit, but also the goals have become bigger and more special. Not only our far more than 400 members are in focus, but also young players, who even has his own German Youth Championship. We support the German Championships and organize in the European Kubb Association of the largest associations in Europe, the European Kubb Championships.

Each year in January, the board meets for an in-house meeting to discuss what tasks are due each year. We play kubb, eat, and dream of seeing Kubb at the Olympic Games someday. We can always dream, can't we? This year, we are launching a German Kubb League, which will activate as many members as possible in Germany for regular games. To become a member, you have to make an application and we accept it. Our goal is that mainly clubs register as a member, but also individuals can become a member. You can learn more on our Facebook page Deutscher Kubb-Bund e.V. and our website dkubbb.de.



JOHN OMAN'S SWITCH FROM RIGHT TO LEFT-HANDED

By: John Oman - Chaska, Minnesota

Kubb has been a roller coaster ride of highs and lows since my first tournament in 2012. Our club founder Jason Larson invited me to join the club at the Loppet winter tournament that year. I was paired up with Ford Rolfsrud that day. He drilled and blasted, I shot 8 meters and kings. We were a tough combination of right-handed players. I remember feeling nerves that day but they were the good kind. I was new and wanted to do well. In our first tournament match ever, we took down Josh and Steve Feathers of Des Moines, Iowa. Afterwards, Jason said to me, "Do you know that you just beat a national champ?" I said, "Really?!" I was hooked. I wanted more of this game.

2013: Kubbnation Cover

3 After practicing for about a year and deciding that I wanted to play in several tournaments, I joined Jason and we played under his team name "King Pin". Jason is left handed and I was right handed. We had a very successful season, winning the summer Loppet and placing on the podium in several others. We put ourselves on the radar of top kubb teams with our right/left combo throughout that year. Most importantly, I was having a lot of fun in this game. I was motivated to improve.

otos: John Oman and Kubb On

Our most memorable tournament came at Nationals when Jason and I teamed with Phil Goetstouwers. We were the top 3 players on our club's ladder ranking system. At the national team draw, we were placed in the "Group of Death" with the 2012 bronze medalist team Leinenkubbels Light which contained Gregg Jochimsen and Scott Forster of Eau Claire, WI. I remember not sleeping very well during the two weeks leading up because I was so amped up to play them. I had so much confidence in my own game that I wholeheartedly believed that the three of us could win that group and get into the championship bracket. That match was a nail biter and could have gone either way. Kingpin won it in 3 games due to our team effort. We took over the #3 seed in the bracket and were feeling very good about our chances.

We went on to control our next 3 matches and put ourselves in

JOHN OMAN'S SWITCH FROM RIGHT TO LEFT-HANDED

the semifinals versus Team Knockerheads of Des Moines, Iowa. At this point in the season, they had won every match and every tournament that they had played in that season. We saw camera crews around them that weekend and wondered what was going on. We found out later that they were in a documentary film about the road to the title. We came out guns blazing in game #1 with them. We closed it out on turn two using only 11 baton throws to finish it. In game #2, the beast had awoken and they kept pace with us. A lot of close misses and some luck went our way and eventually we had all 10 in play. I recall feeling those good nerves again as I lined up my two blasting shots. I reminded myself "reach for the kubb" before I stepped into the box to throw. I did just that, knocking down 6 kubbs and then 4 more in my two throws. Phil and Jason were left with 4 batons for the king. Phil took it down on his first shot and we were in the national finals and on the cover of Kubbnation magazine! It was nothing but love from the Knockerheads after that, hugs and congratulations all around. That match was emotionally draining as these guys were the likely favorite to win it all. It felt like we had won the whole tournament but we had to get up again for the Kubbsicles who were the defending champs and the other subject of the documentary being made. Unfortunately, we were out of gas for that last match and we finished as the national runner-ups that year. It left me hungry to continue to improve. 2013 was a year I will always remember for our tournament success but more importantly the fun I had with Jason, Phil, and our club.

2014: Wanting to Quit

At the winter Loppet that year, my brother Mark Oman joined me for the first time. We had a great tournament as we defeated the Knockerheads in the quarterfinals but lost in the finals to Chad Bevers and Joe Pendleton of the Kubb Snipers. That was the beginning for Mark's new love for the game but the beginning of a decline for me. What I thought were those "good nerves" that day turned out to be something else. I noticed my right arm would flinch during my throwing motion. A muscle in my upper arm would fire when I did not want it to and it caused me to miss a few times in the Knockerhead match. I chalked it up to nerves and left it at that. Later that spring, I was in a club challenge match with Phil. The arm flinch was even worse that day and I recall not being able to hit numerous easy 4 meter shots. I went home feeling defeated and not sure what to do. It felt like something was wrong with me.

I would continue on in 2014 playing worse and worse. If I could hand off my baton throws to someone else on the team I would. It was frustrating that I was not able to control my own arm the way I had the year before. The flinch can be seen in this photo as my arm should be straight. I really wanted to quit because it was embarrassing to play so poorly. Somehow, we placed 3rd at nationals that year. I credit my teammates for that entirely.



JOHN OMAN'S SWITCH FROM RIGHT TO LEFT-HANDED

Mark would go on to win our club's 1v1 tournament that fall and I barely defeated my own 7 year old kids in that same tournament. He was on cloud nine and I wanted to quit.

2015: Seeking Answers

I would practice more and more throughout the winter, spring, and summer that year. I was trying to adjust my throw in order to get around the flinching. I attempted a palm-down grip for a while but that irritated my outer forearm muscle. I went so far as to order an elbow brace that golfers use to teach new players to keep their lead elbow straight. I put that on and played at nationals that year and we almost qualified for Day 2. My arm would flinch even harder with that brace on. I had deep bruising in my forearm and bicep due to the brace. I knew this was not a long term option. My temporary club nickname became "Robo" as seen here.

Our club was in discussion late in the year about going to the world championship in Sweden during the 2016 season. I wanted to experience Worlds and have a week in Sweden with my friends but it would not be any fun if I played the way I had been. I was not going to travel to Sweden to let my friends down. For my club's sake, I had to find a solution to this problem.

I started by seeing medical professionals in the winter of 2015-16. My family practice doctor had no idea what to do so she referred me to physical therapy. After 2 months of baffling my physical therapist, I tried several months of chiropractic care with no luck. They suggested a neurologist because back in the summer of 2008, I had a mountain bike crash head-on into a tree. The vertebrae in my neck compressed and left me with a pinched nerve around the C5 area which is the nerve the leads down the right arm. With that in mind, the neurologist inserted needles into my nerves throughout my right arm and sent electrical pulses through them to see if signals were getting through properly. The results came back normal and still had no answers. Some thoughts came to mind as I began pondering my own solution:

1) I broke my right elbow when I was 14 years old because I used to be a baseball pitcher. I pitched hard enough that my arm broke during a throw on a growth plate in the summer of 1992. My arm was in a splint for the rest of the summer so I played a lot of badminton in my yard with my left arm. I got pretty good at it and could beat my friends.

2) Mark occasionally drills with his opposite hand (left) if he needs a certain cut to happen. He can do that very well.

3) One of my favorite virtuoso guitar players, Billy McLaughlin from the Twin Cities, suffers from Focal Dystonia which does not allow your nervous system to function well. He had to switch from right to left-handed guitar playing. I have seen him play live before and after that happened. I thought he was just as good as a lefty. I had a chance to tell him this story about my right handed struggles and he said to me, "That sounds just like Dystonia."

These three situations prompted me to fully commit to becoming a lefty.

2016: New Life

With no real answers, it was time to go to work. In the winter, I would come home from my job and drill kubbs left-handed on to a carpet square in the basement of my house for at least 30 minutes each day. I had relatively quick success with drilling. It took me about 2 weeks to get somewhat comfortable with the motion. I played in the Loppet shortly after this. Evan Fitzgerald from Rockford, Illinois walked past me as I practiced and I asked him for a few drilling tips. He shared how he only pulls the kubb into a spiral using his middle finger and not all three fingers like I had thought. That simplified the drill for me at that moment. I went on to drill pretty well but batons would not come so quickly. Thank you Evan! For awhile that season, I drilled left-handed but threw batons (poorly) right-handed.

I started the left hand baton process by trying to create a mirror image of myself as a righty. I used to throw with a rock-step motion to generate power as a blaster. I tried and tried some more to get that same technique to work. It was not meant to happen as the mechanics of throwing are not the same on the other side. I then watched and studied numerous match videos I had recorded in the previous two years with our opponents. I tried to imitate anyone I could think of such as Grant Scott, Chris Hodges, Phil Goetstouwers, Jason Larson, Chad Bevers, Cole Vyrens, Mark Blazel, Dave and Aaron Ellringer, Eric Anderson and so on. I exhausted all of those possibilities. If this was going to work, it had to be my own style.

Eventually, I was able to simplify my throw with my left foot forward and a tossing lightly. My hit percentages went up but I was not blowing up any piles. Then I tried to hit kubbs on the top end to make up for that. It helped. I would go on and adjust my throwing grip dozens of times. I would come back from a tournament in which I had thrown fairly well and scrap all of the grips I had just used. I was not satisfied yet. The good news was that I was enjoying the process of starting all over in my sport. I enjoyed kubb like it was the first time again. I was getting my hobby and my passion back. Eventually, I settled on a grip and off to Sweden we went.

At the world championship that year, Chaska was 16-0 in games when we lost in the quarterfinals to the eventual runner-ups. We were millimeters away from taking the last baseline kubb and possibly the king. This was a little painful at first but like in

JOHN OMAN'S SWITCH FROM RIGHT TO LEFT-HANDED

2013, it left me wanting to come back for more. By the end of 2016, I scrapped all my grips again and continued the quest of never-ending improvement.

2017: Fun Again

Having made friends with a lot of Europeans at the world championship, Mark and I were asked if we would team up for the US National Championship with Robert Harnack and Bjorn Gorlitz of the world champion team Kubb'Ings/Fortschritt99 from Germany. That was the opportunity of a lifetime. Robert asked me this question only 7 months after I had fully committed to being a lefty. I wondered if he even knew about the change. Again, I did not want to let these guys down so I went back to work highly motivated to get better. We made it to the podium in 4th place. What a great experience that was teaming up and having fun with the world's best.

2018: A Love For The Game

Early in April, I traveled to Michigan to play in Phil Dickinson's 1v1 tournament and stay the weekend. I had a wonderful time getting to know other players better while playing some friendlies. I started off this tournament playing average quality kubb. I used my reverse rotation throw at all distances and it was not getting the job done as well as I would have liked but I was surviving. After two rounds, I switched to forward rotation at 8 meters and kept throwing reverse rotation at all other distances. Something was clicking with me at that moment. Batons were flying straighter and more consistently than ever so I stuck with it. I went on to get the #4 seed in the bracket and would eventually win the tournament. After it was over, I experienced a flood of emotions like never before. I had to walk away from the pitches and be alone for awhile. I cried and cried. I could not stop. I did not know that this was in me. All of the high and low memories were running through my mind: getting to the US National finals in 2013, the struggles and wanting to quit in 2014 and 2015, switching to the left side in 2016, teaming with the Germans in 2017, and getting back to playing my best at a 1v1 tournament in 2018. It all came pouring out until I had nothing left.

I also experienced a great sense of gratitude for those that helped me to get back there. I would like to name them for you. My wife needs to be mentioned first. Laura had to live through my frustrating years and she supported me no matter how good or bad of a player I would be. All of my Chaska Kubb brothers: Jason Larson, Ford Rolfsrud, Matt Braa, Matt Erdman, Phil Goetstouwers, Mark Oman, Jeremiah Frasher, Kevin May, Tyler Patterson, and my infamous "Neighbor" Paul Knutson. Even though I was dead weight on any team in 2014-15, I did not sense one ounce of frustration from anyone in the club. They carried on like nothing was wrong even though it had to be difficult for them. I am incredibly grateful for that. I wanted to do all of this for myself but really I was doing it because I just wanted to hang out with my friends. If Chaska Kubb had not been such a great club, this story probably would not have happened. I would not have had a reason to work through this like I did. My love for kubb was back and I love being a lefty.

Chaska Kubb got the itch to go back to the World Championship one more time. Matt Erdman was not able to go in 2016 so we reformed our team with him and Phil Dickinson of Michigan. We committed to playing as a 6-person team the entire season leading up to the trip to Sweden. By this point, I had settled in to throwing either the third or fourth baton in our team's rotation. Matt Erdman and I were known as Scavengers in that position since we would be expected to pick up any shots we were asked to. This could be throwing over down kubbs to clear a 4-meter pile, 6-7 meter penalty kubbs, 8 meter baseline shots or the king itself. In addition to these responsibilities, the world championship allowed a throw that we came to know as the "Snow Plow". A baton could rotate horizontally on its vertical axis up to 90 degrees. This is very illegal in the US Kubb rules but not in Sweden. I decided to work on that too as Ford was already good at it as a righty. I wanted to be the absolute best I could be for my team with no regrets when I came home. That throw came in very handy as a lefty as it allowed me to pick up difficult 4 meter combination shots and confidently take down kings to finish off our opponents. We finished 4th as a team. We were 21-0 when suffered our first loss in the semifinals. We were 1 kubb away in game #3 from making it to the finals. Just being that close was something special. The crowd chanting endlessly for us made up for not reaching our goal of being world champions. We did everything in our control to be the best when we got beat. My team finished with no regrets. We can live with that.

The story does not end here though. We have a lot we want to accomplish as a club yet. There is a certain trophy in Eau Claire that still needs a Chaska team name (or three) on it. We still want to grow our sport and share the passion we have for bringing people together. Growing kubb is a life goal. There's no quitting in Kubb.



TEAM KUBBMEISTERS Building The Kubb Barn

Kubbladan (Kubb Barn) started on a rainy and cold Sunday. On September 17th, 2017 five guys gathered to start clearing everything in a barn in Källunge, which is 20 minutes from Visby.

The material, most of which was for housing pigs, was moved to the smaller barn next to and sorted in piles. With the help of a tractor, this work took approximately eight hours. After that it became suspension of fittings and drawing of electricity so the barn could get good light. After this, it was discovered that the floor was too bad and would needs to be replaced. It was a lot of work to replace that part. The floor was replaced while the electricity was being fixed. After that, pallets and plywood sheets were collected from Visby. This would be a type of rail along it one edge and the short sides. The sides were painted black.

Photos: Team Kubbmeisters

Now came the surface. With a bit of luck, we were able to get old artificial grass that was used for an old soccer field. This was also the best option for both surface and atmosphere. Getting the carpet in place was hard work and required a total of eight people helping at the same time to succeed. After that, pitch lines, seating, and shelves were minor

> issues that would have to be fixed before being able to organize a first tournament.

December 28, On 2017 Kubbladan was ready for games and a contact with KubbGotland was made to get help with fixing tournaments. After a successful collaboration and several tournaments in the spring of 2017 it was decided to build an additional pitch. We now have two kubb pitches in the barn. Thanks to everyone who helped to get life in Kubbladan...Tom Dahlström, Johannes Nygren, Gustav Buskas, Johan and Lundin.



TEAM KUBBMEISTERS BUILDING THE KUBB BARN

KUBB LIFE Living The Kubb Life In The Milwaukee Area



The Beginning

Like most Kubb players that we've met or come across, you learned to play from a friend or a family member. This yard game with small wooden blocks and dowels was intriguing. It was challenging. It was frustrating. It most definitely was fun. And.....it was addicting. In the fall of 2014, one of our cofounders, Derek Berger, was invited to play in a kubb tournament in the Milwaukee area. He was asked to sub at the last minute for a player that was unable to participate. With a second place finish in the tournament and a great showing, he was hooked. Derek approached the three of us about how great a game kubb is and how we were going to enter the same tournament the next year with our own team. Fast forward to the spring of 2015 and the weather finally broke. At a family function, the four of us got outside and started playing. We loved it. We couldn't stop. We played what seemed like 800 games throughout the spring and summer. We brought a set wherever we went. We made our own sets. We practiced with friends. We practiced with family. We played and taught kubb to whoever we were around. It became, like for many of you, a huge part of our life. It was an instant addiction, and it's now played at nearly every family function.

KUBB LIFE is Born

We met so many people through the many tournaments, gatherings and events that it became hard to count. We've seen and heard from so many kubb clubs across the country that we were inspired to be part of something bigger. We wanted to start a kubb organization of our own in the Southeastern part of Wisconsin to teach and grow the game of kubb. We wanted to have our own events, our own leagues, and our own association. We discussed all of the many options and the many names. Kubb became such a huge part of our life and with that, our club was formed.

Our Growth

In what started with a group of four of us turned into so much more. In the fall of 2015 we entered our first tournament hosted by John Kellerman and the Norman's All Stars (featured in Kubbnation Magazine 2017). The following summer, we entered our first major tournament at the U.S. National Kubb Championship in Eau Claire. By now we've played enough kubb and met enough people that we were ready to hang with the best, and ready to bring kubb to a whole new populous of people in Southeastern Wisconsin. In the fall of 2016 we formed our first Kubb League that consisted of 8 teams and 22 people. Shortly thereafter, our website kubblife.com was published. This has given us a great platform to disseminate our kubb happenings, communicate with other kubb players, track league information and present some of the great things in kubb that are happening in our area.

In the spring of 2017 our league started to gain some traction. We jumped up to 10 teams and 30 players. Then in fall, we made an even bigger jump to 22 teams and 60 players. Over the

In the fall of 2016 we formed our first Kubb League that consisted of 8 teams and 22 people.



next couple of seasons in the fall and spring of 2018, we've been holding strong with our team numbers and introducing kubb to new teams and new players. Social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have been such a huge source of content, as well as a great opportunity to reach out and promote the game of kubb. Newspaper articles from major news sources such as the Journal Sentinel here in the Milwaukee area have triggered several new, interested players. But as we all know, nothing beats word of mouth. Nothing beats playing a game of kubb at a tailgate, at a beach, at a beer garden or at a party and we hear that oh so familiar phrase: "What is this game.... And how do you play?" Some of us carry a kubb set in our car everywhere we go in case there's an occasion for a friendly match, or even a chance to teach the game to someone new.

Kubb Family

We've been blessed with meeting so many incredible people during our kubb journey. We enjoy the comradery and friendliness from everyone we've come across. Oh, and the game of kubb is pretty cool too! That, is what keeps us going. We enjoy spending time with all of you out on the pitch. The many weekend tournaments and weekday league games. The people are what make this sport so special. Beginning with our introduction to kubb from John and the Norman's All-Stars, to meeting so many wonderful people in the many organizations like Eric and the U.S. National Kubb Championship organization, Evan and the Kubb United group all the way to our league with Steve, Chris, Cody and Kettle Moraine Kubb. We thank each and every one of you and many players and teams that have taken part in our Kubb Life community.

What's Next

We continue to grow! Grow the sport, grow the community and ultimately grow Kubb Life in Southeastern Wisconsin and beyond. The opportunity to introduce kubb to friends and family is exciting to us. We strive to share the game with as many people as possible. We purposefully state on our website: "It is our mission to spread the joy of kubb to a diverse population while creating positive life experiences and friendships that will enhance our communities." We like to dedicate ourselves to playing, practicing and promoting the great game of kubb. It's an incredible game that can be both leisurely fun and very competitive. Tossing batons can be easily compared with other simple backyard games, but the strategic play is what really sets this game apart from others and attracts us to the game. It's an equal balance of physical skills and strategy.

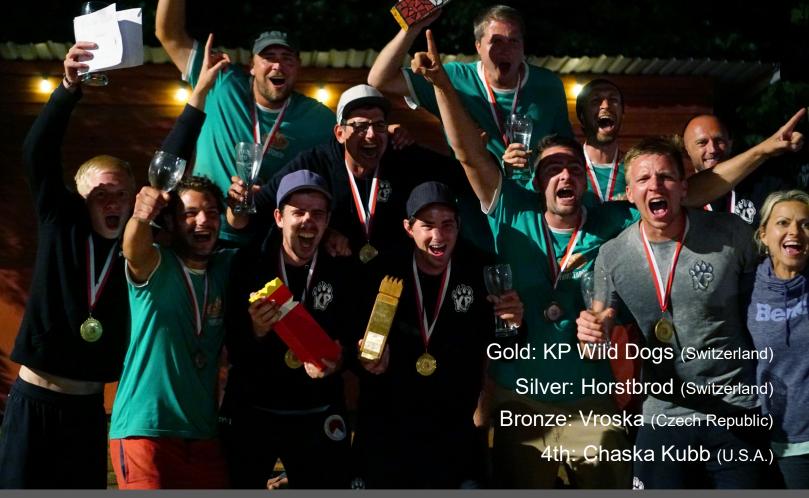
We continue to add league seasons over the course of the year. We will be looking at adding new tournaments in the near future open to all kubb players. We continue to use our social media platforms to bring great kubb content to all of you, including exciting league activity from a featured team or matchup. For those of you that are in the greater Milwaukee area and want to take part in a kubb league, please visit us at www.kubblife.com for more information. We look forward to meeting each and every one of you. On behalf of the Kubb Life team: Jeff, Derek, Alan, Kyle, and Steve we can't wait to share the pitch with all of you.

Keep living the Kubb Life!



2018 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

KP WILD DOGS WIN GOLD



LIMGÅS

Swedish, verb 1. to socialize. to spend time together.

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U.S. NATIONAL KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

2, 4, 6 MAFIA WINS GOLD



Gold: 2, 4, 6 Mafia (Eau Claire, WI and Des Moines, IA) Silver: KubbUnited.com (Des Moines, IA, Fitchburg, WI) Bronze: El Rorringers 99 (Eau Claire, WI and Leipzig, Germany) 4th: Kubboom Jr. (Eau Claire, WI) Bästa Inkastare: Josh Feathers (Des Moines, IA)



<u>Semifinals</u> 2, 4, 6 Mafia 2-0 El Forringers 99

KubbUnited.com 2-1 Kubboom Jr. <u>Final</u> 2, 4, 6 Mafia 2-0 KubbUnited.com

<u>3rd Place</u> El Forringers 1-0 Kubboom Jr. Silver Bracket Results Gold: Poplar Culture (Eau Claire, Germantown WI) Silver: El Ringers Family Reunion (Eau Claire, Minneapolis) Bronze: Kubbquists (Eau Claire, WI) 4th: R Kubb D2 (Eau Claire, Elk Mound, Wheaton, WI)

Bronze Bracket Results Gold: Trial and Error (Eau Claire, WI) Silver: Kubb LA (S. Pasadena, CA) Bronze: Mazz Pro and Co. (Antioch, IL, New Liberty, IA) 4th: Baller Boyz (Eau Claire, WI)

<u>Kid Kubb (U.S. Junior Championship)</u> Champion - Kubboom Jr. 2nd - Strickers 3rd - Kubb Jedi 4th - The Heat



2018 Top 5 Results: Chaska Red (444) Ruckus (349) El Ringers (320) Kubbstaches (308) Beauty School Dropouts (289)

Kubbanite: L to R: Phil Goetstouwers, Tyler Patterson, Matt Braa

U.S. TEAM CUP CHASKA RED WINS 2018 TITLE. GOETSTOUWERS REPEATS



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11th Edition