

## Des Moines Kubb: What We Thought Would Be The Norm Is Actually Something Special

Posted by eric anderson on Friday, June 20, 2014

In 2010, a handful of teams from Des Moines, IA made the trip to Eau Claire, WI. They drove five hours northeast to a city that most of them had never been before. They did this to play in the 2010 U.S. National Kubb Championship at Boyd Park. Well, it is four years later, and a whole lot of them are going to be getting five-year buttons. You see, there are six teams signed up for the 2014 U.S. Championship that have at least two players from Des Moines.

We remember thinking back in 2010 and 2011 that this would be the future of kubb in the U.S. We thought as more clubs formed around the Midwest, that multiple teams from clubs and/or cities would travel four or five hours to play in a kubb tournament, afterall, that is what the Des Moines Kubb Club did and was doing. We would often talk about what city might be next. We would wonder if there would be eight or nine teams making the trip from a Milwaukee, a Madison, or the Twin Cities. Heck, the Chicago area has six million people, surely in a couple years there would be a few clubs in that area, and a parade of cars and vans would be making the trip, afterall, that is what a new club from Des Moines was doing. New clubs were going to pop up everywhere and they would travel. As 2011 turned into 2012 and 2013, we realized that what Des Moines Kubb was doing was not going to be the norm. No, not at all. We realized that this trend may never come fruition. No, we realized what Des Moines Kubb did and is doing is special.

Distance is a barrier for a lot of things, and with more and more tournaments forming in the Midwest, there are multiple options for players looking for one or two tournaments a year to play in. The more tournaments the merrier we say. That is a great way to promote local kubb interest and growth. Plus, as more people play kubb in a community, the odds go up that more traveling kubbers are created, even ones that are willing to drive four or more hours to a small city on the southern edge of Wisconsin's Northwoods.

Perhaps someday Des Moines brings only three or four teams to Eau Claire, or maybe even one or two teams. Only time will tell. We have stopped trying to predict the future of kubb, as we have found that it is pretty unpredictable anyway. The only thing we really know right now is that it is growing by leaps and bounds in Eau Claire and beyond. With that, we are trying to enjoy more of the present...the now. So at this present moment, the right now, a big thank you to the Des Moines Kubb Club for all your continued visits to Eau Claire, Wisconsin to play in the U.S. National Kubb Championship. We hope you know that we greatly appreciate it and big respect to what you have done and are doing. We will see all of you in three weeks, and we are excited to hand out five-year buttons to a whole lot of you this year.

Some photos from over the years.



DMK at Boyd Park in 2010.



Kubb'd



Pitch Slap





Chicks With Sticks



R2Kubb2



Team Knockerheads Won the 2011 U.S. Championship and Josh Feathers (left) won the 2012 and 2013 Bästa Inkastare Award



Team Knockerheads



Becca Hodges (left) will be a U.S. Championship Referee in 2014 and is known for photography of the Championship.