

Eau Claire, WI
Saturday July 09, 2011
U.S. National Kubb Championship & Fundraiser

All proceeds went to We Help War Victims and Eau Claire County's [Girls on the Run](#) program.

The event had 84 teams and 186 participants representing eight different states. There were players from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, and Nebraska. The event raised over \$4600 for the two organizations. The proceeds will go to We Help War Victims and Girls on the Run - EC County.

The day started at 5:45am with tents, tables, the flags of Sweden and the U.S., and banners being raised. Next were the 42 kubb sets. Clouds lined the sky, with a hint of possible rain in the air. At 7:15 the first teams started arriving at the Eau Claire Soccer Park. Registration began at 7:30. Quickly, pitches started filling up with practicing teams. 8:30 came. Volunteers and sponsors were recognized. Next, buttons were given out to the four players who have played all five years. Brief rules were discussed. Then the Swedish and American national anthems were played. At 9am 42 kubb pitches were played on. The round-robin was filled with seeing old friends and meeting new ones, a little rain (of course), and a few upsets.

The round-robin was completed at 12:30. Soon after, the sun came out from behind the clouds and the warm and humid day, got a whole lot hotter, with the high reaching 88F (31C). From the mid-morning to the late afternoon, the south wind played an important role in the matches, wind speeds between 10-20mph and gust up to just below 30mph. With the sun beating down on the 42 battlefields, several matches in the round of 32 included teams that had their sights set on elite eight status. This round was highlighted by three matches. One included two teams made up of players with experience and high finishes in several tournaments in WI and MN, Team McKie and Tiger Blood. The other match included two teams that have in the past year performed extremely well in their respective local/regional tournaments: Kubbolutionaries from Des Moines, IA and Leinenkubbels from Eau Claire, WI. The third match included NW MN Kubb and Kastpinnar Kings, which lasted around two hours in the blazing sun. The intensity of these three matches were on par with any match in the semi-finals.

The round of 16 saw the 2010 Nationals Champions, The Ringers, lose, the 2010 2nd place team Default need three games to beat Chippewa Fall's own Uber Kubbers, and The Kubbolutionaries beat the 4th place team from 2010. The quarterfinals proved to be a battle, with Knockerheads eventually beating Default 2-1, in what was possibly the best match of the tournament. In the same half of the bracket, there was rematch from the 2010 quarterfinals between Eau Claire's Kubbsicles and Tad Kubbler from Minneapolis. In 2010 Tad Kubbler won. In 2011, the two recent graduates from Memorial High School were able to pull out a victory in the three game match. In the other half of the bracket seasoned tournament veterans Tiger Blood and Kubb'n Missile Crisis made it to the semi-finals.

The semi-finals saw two matches with teams with very different histories. On pitch one, Tiger Blood vs. Kubb'n Missile Crisis. These two teams have played in tournaments in the Midwest for the past five years, many times against each other, even matching up last year in Eau Claire. Pitch two involved two teams that had their first tournament experiences in 2010, both competing well in the tournaments they played in, but still new to the larger tournaments in the Midwest. At around 9pm, both Kubb'n Missile Crisis and Knockerheads were able to make it to the final of the 2011 U.S. National Kubb Championship. With clouds in the sky, the setting sun was not able to provide light to the pitches. At 9:30, with still 40 minutes to play before a Champion was to be crowned, darkness hit the U.S. Championship. Soon, a car was pulled up see if headlights would help the players, and it was determined it did not. The moon and parking lot lights 100 meters away help to some extent, as did cellphones. Then, at 10:10pm Dwayne Ballmer of Knockerheads knocked the king over for the 14th time of the day and Josh Feathers and Dwayne Ballmer became the 2011 U.S. National Kubb Champions. Trophies and medals were handed out to the four teams after their 13 plus hours of tournament play.

Later, just before 11pm, with the park empty and quiet, the rental truck all packed, players, volunteers, news media all gone, and a new national champion enjoying the victory, a son and his father stood, under the moonlight, and talked about the wonderful day, alone. Yes, kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth.

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[Photos](#) from John Connell
[Photos](#) from Steve Feathers
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2011 RESULTS:

1. Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA and Leavenworth, KS)

2. Kubb'n Missile Crisis (Shafer, MN)
3. Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI)
4. Tiger Blood (Duluth/Minneapolis, MN)

Quarterfinals

Tiger Blood
Kastpinnar Kings (Shakopee, MN)

Kubb'n Missile Crisis
The Kubbolutionaries (Des Moines, IA)

Kubbsicles
Tad Kubbler (Minneapolis, MN)

Knockerheads
Default (Eau Claire, WI)

Round of 16

Kastpinnar Kings
The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI)

Tiger Blood
Mad Tossers (Madison, WI)

The Kubbolutionaries
Batons of Justice (Eden Prairie, MN)

Kubb'n Missile Crisis
Dark Side of the Kubb (Eau Claire, WI)

Tad Kubbler
Kubb'd (Des Moines, IA)

Kubbsicles
Learn'm Sticks (Chaska, MN)

Default
Uber Kubbers (Chippewa Falls, WI)

Knockerheads
The King's Noose (Eau Claire, WI)

Consolation Bracket:

1. Learn'd and Burned (Columbus, IN)
2. Molteberry Magic (Chicago, IL)
3. The Farfars (Cherry Valley/New Milford, IL)
4. Kubbros (Neenah, WI)

2nd Consolation Bracket:

1. The Skipping Stones (Rockford/New Milford, IL)
2. Kubb Kitties (Eau Claire, WI)
3. Da Beers (Des Moines, IA)
4. Lucky Spike (Eau Claire, IL)

Round Robin

Group A:

1. The Ringer 3-0
2. Pitch Slap 2-1
3. Learned and Burned 1-2
4. The Skipping Stones 0-3

Group B:

1. NW Minnesota Kubb 3-0
2. Karls In Charge 2-1
3. Kubbastank 1-2
4. Kubb Cadets 0-3

Group C:

1. Kubb de Grace 3-0
2. Platteville Kubbsters 2-1
3. Kubbesota 1-2
4. Sanity Not Included 0-3

Group D:

1. Red Cedar River Yacht Club 3-0
2. Swedish Bikini Team 2-1
3. Kubbrick's Rubes 1-2
4. This Is What Kubb-ocracy Looks Like 0-3

Group E:

1. Tiger Blood 3-0
2. Kentucky Kubbcats 2-1
3. KubbCubed 1-2
4. Kubbonic Plague 0-3

Group F:

1. Batons of Justice 3-0
2. Kubb'd 2-1
3. Kubb Your Enthusiasm 1-2
4. Kubbie Koobie Doo 0-3

Group G:

1. Leinenkubbels 3-0
2. Kubb-ra Kai 1 2-1
3. Kubb Squared 1-2
4. Lakerol Originals 0-3

Group H:

1. The Kubbolutionaries 3-0
2. Kingdom Kubbers 2-1
3. Uber Kubbers 1-2
4. The Mad Tossers 0-3

Group I:

1. Kubb'n Missile Crisis 3-0
2. Blazin Kubb 2-1
3. Nice Kubbs 1-2
4. Throw Storm 0-3

Group J:

1. Lingon Lobbers 3-0
2. Baby Got Backspin 2-1
3. The Kubbler Elves 1-2
4. Gleaming the Kubb 0-3

Group K:

1. Dark Side of the Kubb 3-0
2. Team Lutefisk 2-1
3. Kubbitz 1-2
4. Blue Metal Dragons 0-3

Group L:

1. Tad Kubbler 3-0
2. Rhymes With Tube 2-1
3. Zhateau Zorbaz 1-2
4. Lucky Spike 0-3

Group M:

1. Kubbists 3-0
2. Night of the Living Kubb 2-1
3. Pickled Herring 1-2
4. Kubbstakes 0-3

Group N:

1. Fox Valley Force 3-0
2. Kubb's Your Daddy 2-1
3. Da Beers 1-2
4. Hurley Thump 0-3

Group O:

1. Learn'm Sticks 3-0
2. Savage Stick Flickers 2-1
3. Woodchuckers 1-2
4. Lucky Lefse 0-3

Group P:

1. Kubbsicles 3-0
2. Blockheads 1-2 (4)
3. Horray For Kubbies 1-2 (3)
4. Queens of Kubb 1-2 (3)

Group Q:

1. Default 3-0
2. Kastpinner Kings 2-1
3. Molteberry Magic 1-2
4. Low Key 0-3

Group R:

1. The Farfars 3-0
2. Tomah Fury 2-1
3. Kubba Chaka 1-2
4. Sons of Pitches 0-3

Group S:

1. Knockerheads 3-0
2. iKubb 2-1
3. Kubb-ra Kai II 1-2
4. Team Gideonsen 0-3

Group T:

1. Kubb-a-doo-ba-doo 2-1
2. Kubbros 2-1
3. Amateur Hour 1-2
4. Ma Salama 1-2

Group U:

1. The King's Noose 3-0
2. Team McKie 2-1
3. 2Kubb2Loose 1-2
4. Kubb Kitties 0-3

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Ethan Stapp - trophies

Aaron Berry - t-shirt

John Connell - photos



Champions:

Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA and Leavenworth, KS)
Josh Feathers and Dwayne Ballmer



2nd:
Kubb'n Missile Crisis (Shafer, MN)
Joe Pendleton and Nate Olson



3rd:
Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI)
Max Sebesta and Mark



4th:
Tiger Blood (Duluth / Minneapolis, MN)
Keith Yanes and Jeremie Legand



The battlefields.