

WEST COAST LEAGUE

POWER RANKINGS

SEASON 3 ROUND 8

Join me as I wipe a tear at the thought of the season coming to an end. Let's raise a tankard to the slain and laugh at their misfortune. Although, before we get drunk let's have a look at the last round power rankings, after all that is why you are here. Onto the power rankings!

The Pretenders

The detritus of the West Coast League, these are the teams who will wonder the wasteland of lost opportunities as they curse Nuffle for his eternal fickleness as he clearly denied them their 'rightful' place in the play-offs.

14. Dark Web Lurkers ↔

The Lurkers finished as they started, with a three to nil loss. Looking back over the season, this result was the most common experience for the Lurkers – yes, they lost 4 games by such a result. This team deserve their spot at the bottom of the rankings. The one joy we had from this team was their boundless proclivity for laying in the boot – they loved fouling so much that it cost them games at times, as well as that blasted animosity (that's what you get for cobbling together degenerate races into one team).

In their last game of the season the Lurkers were beaten into submission and suffered at the hand of Nuffle. Players were sent off fouling for no benefit and the tiny mind of their troll, Spider, was so overwhelmed with the concept of breathing and hitting that it spent most of the first half pondering its festering boils and to be honest he was only marginally less useless in the second half. My guess is Nuffle wanted to get one last laugh out of the Lurkers before their season of misery ended with the final whistle.

Coach Ratt has already begun his planning for next season and I am sure we will see even more fouling the next time the Lurkers take the field.

13. Da Klan of Kliffhangahz 1↩

Coach Rex was unusually restrained prior to this game. There were no grand announcements, no ostentatious displays nor any delusional ramblings from resident our green cheeto. Perhaps the fact DKOK's whole season hinged on this game made our favourite Urk loudmouth spend more time planning for this game than in front of the

media. Also, it may have had something to do with rumours he was busy contacting other team owners to get his spawn, Rex Jr, a contract to play next season. Whatever the reason, his braggadocio was missed by myself and the rest of the league, I even had to resort to watching old videos of Coach Jinxed crying at press conferences just to keep myself entertained.

With their play-off hopes riding on the outcome of this game, DKOK pressed hard in the first half and matched the Runners touchdown for touchdown and casualty for casualty. Then something strange happened in the half-time break, Rex gave up hope! The Mouth of Maddening Menace, The Ayatollah of da Deathrolla, Mr Positivity himself just quiet on trying to win the game. Daunted by the prospect of having to score at least five touchdowns (a number beyond the mental prowess of most Urks) the green cheeto tossed away the playbook (all two pages of it – the front and back covers that is) and pointed to the field screaming at his players – DKOK Smash!

Thus, DKOK came out in the second half with a new plan, to crack Runner skulls until the ref blows the whistle to halt proceedings or they run out of Runner skulls to crack. As the Urks submitted to their baser instincts, the Runners managed to move the ball down the field for three touchdowns after they realised that most of the DKOK players were not even paying attention to the ball.

Thus, with this final loss DKOK dropped down the rankings to second last. They weren't even feeble enough to claim the wooden spoon, at least the wooden spoon would have been something to put in the trophy cabinet. Could this be the end of Coach Rex as the main entertainment of the league or will the off season reinvigorate the Mouth?

12. Praag Sewers 2☹

The slim hopes of the Sewers of sneaking into a play-off spot were brutally crushed. Once again, the Sewers suffered six casualties in a game, this being the third game in a row that the thagorakki have been thoroughly thrashed. We won't recount the grim details of the game, just know that at the end of the game and season there are only seven active players on the roster. Coach MatCer now faces the grim task of trying to rebuild the team in the off-season. Admittedly, he has plenty of salary cap space to recruit some decent players or perhaps he will move on from the Sewers and try to coach a proper Blood Bowl team, like dwarves!

The Sewers slipped a couple of spots and finish in twelfth spot at the end of the season. When you consider the carnage this team suffered, its probably lucky for them there were two shoddier teams in the league to keep them off the bottom of the rankings.

11. The Gladiators 2☹

The Gladiators waved bye-bye to their chance at participating in the post season with only a draw against the Rams. The Elgi were repeatedly kicked in the shins by the Dawi and that infamous Elgi fragility saw many a Gladiator removed from the pitch. Daertoc returned to his role as the offensive key for The Gladiators, whilst Blodus Asphixius lead the charge when the defence was on the field. The Rams got some measure of revenge against Asphixius as he was carried from the field with a nasty looking leg wound – I swear I could see teeth marks on the Elgi's flesh.

Although the team broke the late-season rollercoaster cycle with this draw, overall The Gladiators had a very inconsistent season. I can imagine team management will be looking

at making some major changes in the off-season to overcome the inconsistent performances, but for me the real question is whether we will see changes in the coaching staff.

10. Kenzintun Valkireez 3 ↗

The forcs saved their best for last, finishing the season with a strong performance. This celebration of competence must be tempered by the quality of the opposition, i.e the Dark Web Losers. The forcs took advantage of Nuffle's mockery of the Lurkers and won the bash game as well as on the scoreboard. The offence was led by Dagded and Agnat in this game, with Jagruz having a quiet game after her recent strong performances. On the defensive side of the ball the glory was shared around with every player contributing to the team keeping a clean sheet. After the horror start to the season, the forcs have finished the season with 5 games without loss, I guess Coach Frosthhammer finally embraced the traditional orc playbook and had his players playing to their strengths.

It must be noted that after eight games, the Valkireez suffered the least casualties of any team in the league, perhaps the other teams didn't like the idea of hitting such feminine lovelies - that female privilege at play once again.

The forcs have finished much higher than expected as I thought this team would suffer under the tutelage of Coach Frosthhammer – a notoriously dreadful coach of Urk teams. Now they can claim to be better than their masculine brethren from the more experienced DKOK. There you go folks, sometimes youth and beauty do overcome experience and cunning.

9. Pigskin Runners 2 ↗

Almost just isn't good enough. The Runners valiantly tried to get the big score they needed against DKOK but they just ran out of players to get that fifth touchdown to secure that play-off spot. I have to give it to the Runners, for all the hate Nuffle has showered down upon this team they still managed to come within a beardling's first hair of securing a trip to the post season. As always Coach Clipsal was pissing and moaning about his special relationship with Nuffle at the post-game press conference, but the media pack showed no mercy as they constantly questioned his future with the club.

As for the game itself, Sticky fingers scored twice before he was chop blocked, which results in the poor unfortunate being carried from the field. Reports from the medical team suggest Sticky has suffered a high-grade knee injury which will impact his mobility and possibly his playing future. Skinbags 2 and 10 were also dragged from the field with crippling injuries and it will be interesting to see if they are retained by the team during the off season.

I am sure its some consolation being the best of the worst, but I am sure the team and fans would prefer to be playing in post season. It makes me wonder how much joy Coach Clipsal would have felt if he had been able to keep Coach Watto out of the finals with a big win, sadly he will have to try again next season.

The Contenders

Now we have the teams that matter, the teams that will be taking up plenty of time on Cabalvision during the play-offs.

8. Sex Panther 1 ↩

The Panther pussied out of their last game. I guess this is the forty percent of the time that Sex Panther doesn't work one hundred percent of the time. Nuffle will surely punish them in their first game of the play-offs. Some may say Coach Watto was being 'strategic' in trying to spare his players for their appearance in the play-offs, although I put it down to simple cowardice. He was deathly afraid of the Rots dire reputation for brutalizing teams. After recent beatings at the hands of less formidable teams Coach Watto truly feared for the lives and health of his players if they were allowed to take the field against the Rots and thus tried to convince the fans and everyone else that there was a scheduling conflict -pure poppycock!

The Panther just squeaked into the play-offs and thus they take the last place in the Contenders section of the rankings. They are unlikely to make it past the quarter-finals with the ire of Nuffle fixed upon them. The ladies of Panther are screwed they just don't know it yet.

7. Erebor Rams 1 ↗

I am very pleased to see my Dawi brethren have made it through to the finals, although they should have won their last game of the season considering the hurt they put on the Elgi of The Gladiators. The main deliverers of Nuffle's justice were Thorin II and Dain II, who accounted for 4 of the Elgi between them. A couple of the lads were embarrassed by the fact they were forced from the field by the Elgi, with one patched up by the team medical staff in time for the play-offs. Sadly, Bofur his injury proved more troublesome than initially reported and he will be forced to miss the first round of the play-offs.

Coach Maxwellhauser was consistent with his rollercoaster riding this season and I am glad that at least one Coach could actually stick to his role within the league, unlike other flakes we could name – looking at you Coach Whinge (aka Coach Jinxed). For once his mediocrity paid off as other teams in his division were that much worse that he was able to roll into the play-offs by just not losing.

6. Grudgebearers ↔

The Bearers slide down into the finals with their third consecutive loss. As mentioned before, if the Bearers want to be considered serious contenders for the title they need to beat the higher ranked teams. Sadly, for the third game in a row, these Dawi have failed against a higher ranked team. In this round they were unsuccessful against the Dragons, the Elgi shaming the Bearers' defence by running in three touchdowns without too much resistance. Conversely the Dragons' defence held the Bearers offence to a single score, with Oldboy being the Dawi who dived into the end zone for that touchdown.

The only real highlight for the Bearers was the beating they handed out to a few of the Elgi, even Troll Slayer Olaf had a return to form with another kill added to his tally. The ginger psycho finished the season with seven kills, he was such an efficient death machine this season that more than 75% of the casualties he caused were deaths.

5. The Flying Frenchmen ↔

So how large was the bribe Coach Hymn? What did you have to sacrifice to your filthy frog gods to convince the Tainted to spare your feeble frogs the chastisement they so richly deserve? Nuffle and I are wholeheartedly disgusted with the actions of the Frenchies, to skip out on the final game of the season after bravely battling on despite the heavy defeats and revolving door of players was an insult to Blood Bowl and the Cabalvision viewing

public. Nuffle has whispered in my ear that the Frenchies will not progress beyond the quarter-finals for such is his displeasure. Do not be surprised if RedruM get a little supernatural boost from his divineness to make sure Coach Hymn gets the message that his actions were noted and should not be repeated.

As for the power rankings, the Frenchies performed much better than expected, even with their late season poor form. They held steady this week at number five and I don't feel too dirty leaving them in this spot as overall they are better than the Bearers, Rams and Panther when not being cursed by Nuffle.

4. RedruM ↔

A most violent performance from the Umgi. The RedruM players took to beating the thagorakki from Praag frequently and sadistically. It was a controlled form of violence as they didn't kill any of the Sewers players but left their bleeding furry carcasses for the stretcher bearers to collect so the medical staff could try to patch them up. With this display of Nuffle-blessed brutality RedruM were able to convert their dominance in numbers into touchdowns. Frank Ferguson had another good game, but the star of the day was Percy Rankin, who laid waste to the Praagites, like a halfling let loose in a bakery. The only sour note in the celebratory music was the death of Steve (Cry Baby) Brig, who almost made it to the end of the season. Nuffle giveth and he taketh away!

Redrum have been pretty consistent during the later stages of the season and converted that steadiness into second place in their division and fourth in the rankings. This team should make it through to the semi-finals and if they can survive the usual post-season brutality then may be a dark horse prospect for the main title.

3. Tennessee Tainted 2↗

A dedicated Nurgle follower like Coach Brunificus had the audacity to claim that he was too ill to play the last game of the season. Really? A devotee of Nurgle complaining about being sick? Lies! Deception! This reeks of corruption of the monetary kind, not the putrefying kind. I was looking forward to the Tainted offering up frog's legs for the post-game celebrations, but it was not to be. Some Tainted fanboys are bound to leap to the defence of their favourite team, claiming the strategic imperatives of preparing for the post season were more critical than a game of no consequence. What a load of rot! Pun intended. It is my sincerest hope that Nuffle whacks the Tainted with the Rod of Misfortune for the play-offs as punishment for their obvious corruption, such hubris to so flagrantly engage in such shenanigans. We all know the best corruption is the unobserved corruption.

For their abhorrent behaviour the Tainted were shoved down the power rankings. They were a great team but now they are just one of the many immoral, degenerate teams that plague the beautiful game of Blood Bowl.

2. Emerald Dragons 1↗

The Dragons will go into the finals with a strong roster after coming out of their last game relatively unscathed. With their fifth win of the season, the Dragons have been one of the teams to watch this season and the bookies will be offering short odds on this team to take the title when the final whistle is blown at the Grand Final.

In the last game of the regular season the Elgi of note were Raelleith and Leitharn, both providing the fans with plenty of highlights to watch as they lead the offence in touchdowns and yards through the air. The other side of the ball was what is commonly

referred to as a team effort, i.e. it was a workman-like performance. The defence can thank the offence for doing the heavy lifting in this game, although I am sure it won't be easy once we get into the post season.

The Dragons finish the season at number two on the power rankings and I am sure that must rankle Coach Jinxed as he strived so hard to finish at number one. The difference between the Dragons and the Rots was the casualty difference as they were tied on league points and touchdown difference. If only the Dragons were a bunch of strong, resilient Dawi instead of wine-swilling, lizard-fondling Ulthuan rent-boys, they may have taken the top spot with a much better casualty difference.

1. The Pussrots 1 ↗

The Rots were denied a bit of game practice against the Panther but at least got some well-earned rest in preparation for the play-offs. The Pussrots didn't even have to worry about their spot in the division as they had already secured top spot after round seven. With the end of the season we see a 'healthy' roster with a solid core of Pestigors, backed up by a talented group of Bloaters, we won't bother mentioning the Rotters (those hideous things sour a dawi's beer if they get within a hundred feet of it). After only losing a single game all season, it will be a surprise should the Rots not make it to the Grand Final. The fans love the violent teams and the Rots are definitely inclined to a bit of brutality and thus their appearance in the Grand Final will guarantee big ticket sales for the game.

The dedication of the Rots to the bash playbook is the only reason they sit atop the rankings, as this was what separated them from the Dragons. Pappy Nurgle must be very proud of his little snotlings-in-waiting and the Rot fans will be sure to taunt the opposing fans with the glory of their team's final power ranking standing.

Dare you argue with the rankings? Do you think the old drunk has lost his mind? The power rankings will be reviewed after the completion of each round. Feel free to share your thoughts about the rankings on the stinky dwarf Facebook page.

So, the regular season is over and for some its time to have a bit of a holiday and then commence with the serious business of the off-season, whilst the competent look forward to battling for the glory of the West Coast League trophy. Stay tuned to the WAFFL sites and enjoy the gift of Nuffle that is Blood Bowl!

Nuffle bless you all!

the stinky dwarf

NUFFLE VILLET

**THERE IS ONLY ONE NUFFLE AND
ROZE-EL IS HIS PROPHET**

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