

# SPORTS

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## UNC Asheville's quidditch team grows

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"Why do I play quidditch?" said Nathan Lasala, junior biology student from Raleigh. "It's weird, it's fun and it's great exercise!"

UNC Asheville's club quidditch team is the real-life version of the game played in the Harry Potter books and movies, also known as Muggle quidditch.

"We play with brooms between our legs and with balls from sports like volleyball to represent the real quidditch equipment," said Lasala, team captain and coach.

Muggle quidditch is played with five balls. First is a quaffle, or a volleyball, then there are three bludgers, or dodgeballs, and one snitch, which is a tennis ball inside a knee-high sock.

U.S. quidditch rules state the snitch is worth 30 points and its capture ends the game. If the score is tied after the snitch catch, the game proceeds into



Photo by Cassidy Fowler

Nathan Lasala and Joseph Clay demonstrate quidditch overtime.

The game is played at UNCA with six players on the field at a time: three chasers, one keeper, one beater and one seeker. U.S. quidditch rules state seven players are used: three chasers, two beaters, one seeker and one keeper.

Lasala said only seven players regularly attend. With him as the coach, it is best to keep it at six players for now.

"Because the team is relatively fresh, we're all still learning

and growing as players," said Lasala. "Last year we didn't have many practices and not many steady participants."

Joseph Clay, a senior quidditch player from Monroe, said he is excited about how the team grew this year.

"Last year I only went to two practices," Clay chuckled, "but that was about half. This year, we have regular practices held on Tuesday or Wednesday."

Delaney McShane, an 18-year-old freshman from

Charlotte, said he has not played very long, but this is the first official quidditch team he has ever been a part of.

"It's fun playing on the quidditch team," McShane said. "I've been on other sports teams in the past and it's kinda like being on those, but personally it's a lot more fun."

McShane said he is excited to grow with the team, as he has seen each player become more athletic over time because of drill exercises and the upbeat pace of the practices.

McShane also said the team incorporates some well-known practice games, such as SNITCH, adapted from the game HORSE from basketball, in their routine to advance in skill and follow the lead of other quidditch teams across the world.

"Quidditch is a well-known sport," said Coach Lasala. "Over 100 teams exist around the world and hopefully one day we'll be able to compete against other universities."

## Bulldogs celebrate first win with victory at home

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The UNC Asheville men's soccer team defeated UNC Greensboro during the the Bulldogs first home game of the season Sunday, Sept. 11.

Goalie Chris Katt said the team's victory was due to the players successful execution of its strategy.

"We've been working super hard at our process this season," said Katt, a senior political science student. "Today all of the things fell through. We fought a really hard battle against UNCG and came out on top. It feels awesome to win at home."

The Bulldogs record was 0-5 going into this match. Head Coach Mathes Mennell said the team's first win was hard-fought and well-deserved.

"We've played really well, but we've played a very challenging schedule. That being said, in sports, your record is your record," said Mennell. "I think the part I'm most excited about is that our group has continued to stick with our process so it's nice to see them be rewarded. They certainly deserved it before today, but it is what it is."

UNCG ended a scoreless first half after a successful penalty kick in the 65th minute, bringing the score to 1-0. Shortly after the Spartans penalty kick,

Bulldog midfielder Brendan O'Dowd tied the score with a 25-yard goal.

"It was a great feeling to get the team back in the game," said O'Dowd, a sophomore biology student.

Katt said he felt the team had his back after negating UNCG's penalty kick with the tying goal.

"Penalties are always rough," said Katt. "We gave up the penalty and let it in but the guys came through. There was hard work done by everyone, especially the guys up top."

Forward Zach Joens scored a penalty kick in the 80th minute to put the Bulldogs ahead, 2-1, securing a victory over the Spartans.

"When I was taking the penalty I was just thinking hit it on frame, hit it hard, hit it low," Joens said.

Joens said putting the team ahead for its first win was awesome, but the goal was special for personal reasons as well.

"It felt amazing to score," said Joens. "I've had a lot of injury problems so it was a big relief for me."

Despite the victory, improvement remains the focus of Coach Mennell and the Bulldogs.

"We have to take the positive lessons, continue to work on the things we have to get better at and keep moving forward," Mennell said.

## SEPT. 20-26 CALENDAR

### Tuesday

5:30 p.m.

Empowerment Yoga  
Sherrill Center 468

6:45 p.m.

Hoop Fitness  
Sherrill Center 306

7 p.m.

Volleyball v. WCU  
Justice Center

### Wednesday

5:30 p.m.

Body Lovin' Yoga  
Sherrill Center 468

7 p.m.

Men's Soccer v. Georgia State  
Greenwood Field

### Saturday

3 p.m.

Men's Soccer v. Longwood  
Greenwood Field

## SPORTS stats

### Men's Soccer

Date	Opponent	Final
Sept. 18	UNC Asheville @ East Tennessee State	0 1

### Women's Soccer

Date	Opponent	Final
Sept. 16	North Dakota State @ UNC Asheville	5 1

Date	Opponent	Final
Sept. 18	Alabama A&M @ UNC Asheville	1 4

### Volleyball

Date	Opponent	Final
Sept. 16	UNC Asheville @ University of Central Florida	0 3

Date	Opponent	Final
Sept. 17	UNC Asheville @ Central Michigan University	0 3

Date	Opponent	Final
Sept. 17	UNC Asheville @ University of Central Arkansas	1 3

### Cross Country

Date	Event
Sept. 10	UNC Asheville Invitational
Men: 4th	
Women: 3rd	