

Sports

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QUIDDITCH

Engineer Quidditch taken to the next level

Jeff Knowsanthrall
Senior Reporter

THIS SPORTS SEASON WILL be a special one for the RPI Remembralls as they are finally getting the equipment and fielding needed to be considered a full fledged Quidditch team. "It's more than we could ever ask for, we're very excited for what the future holds," head captain Luigi Nasty '14 stated during a press conference. "Of course, it will be a little tricky getting used to flying broomsticks now, but I think we'll get the hang of it quick enough."

While East Campus Athletic Village is being converted to a Quidditch pitch, the players are familiarizing themselves with the new equipment. "I'll be honest, it's been a rough couple of years playing without the fancy wizard stuff these other schools have, so ground based Quidditch has been more than a bit tough," Nasty admits. "But with the new advances in science, we can finally play on their level." The new technology offered to the team is part of the Institute's new

program, "Magic and Machines," led by Professor Rudinia Smith-Kettlegrum. "Clarke's Third Law is that any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic," she explains. "So

why not take the 'looks like magic' part and add actual magic? I mean, we're engineers, we're just one step away from wizards."

The new equipment has helped the team enter the new century of

Quidditch; no longer will they have to use small yellow birds known as snidgets as a replacement for the snitch. Snidgets, as we all know, are costly in terms of upkeep, as

repel charms to keep the bird in play during the game don't come cheap, and are otherwise obviously philistine and inhumane. With the new state-of-the-art snitch, it will be a more intense game than ever, especially with new bludgers that can seriously harm players. "We take safety very seriously," Nasty proclaims. "But we take winning even more seriously. If you can't take a few cast iron balls to the face, then you don't have the cast iron balls to be there in the first place."

The future's looking bright for the Remembralls; with a new facility and equipment, there's little anyone can complain about. In an email to the Institute, Smith-Kettlegrum writes, "We've worked tirelessly to create these wonderful machines, made possible by a generous grant from International Business Magic. With this, and their donation of one of the Deathly Hallows, you can expect bigger and better things ahead for RPI." When asked for a response to this message, Nasty replied, "I mean, that's all great, but really all we wanted were new jerseys."



Big Mac Stevens/The Polytechnic

EAST CAMPUS STADIUM GETS converted from a football stadium to a Quidditch pitch. The stadium will be home to the RPI Remembralls starting next fall.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Top prospect to play for Rensselaer

Bo Steakman
Senior Reporter

THIS PAST FRIDAY, TOP EUROPEAN BASKETBALL prospect Ivan Troicki signed his letter of intent to play for college basketball powerhouse Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Troicki is a 7'3", 275 pound power forward from Loznica, Serbia.

Last summer, Troicki led the Serbian national team to the European Youth Basketball Association Championship. In a tough, back and forth battle with top-ranked Spain in the quarterfinals, Troicki led Serbia to a 79-78 overtime victory, scoring 48 points, grabbing 22 rebounds, and dishing out 15 assists. In addition, he tallied 11 blocks and eight steals. That game marked his fifth quadruple-double of the international season.

After dominating Russia in the semifinals, 87-48, Serbia faced a gritty Italian team in the finals. Troicki started out cold, missing his first six shots, and Italy jumped out to a 39-24 halftime lead. As was his custom all season, Troicki took control of the game in the second half. In a prolific eight minute stretch, he shot 11-11 from the field and amassed 29 consecutive points to propel Serbia to the title.

College recruiters say Troicki is the best prospect out of high school they have seen since Kwame Brown. "He has no serious flaws in his game. He can handle the ball, body up in the middle and grab rebounds, shoot the perimeter jump shot, and defend both guards and forwards," Steve Wilson of ESPN's *Future Greats* said in an interview last month. "If it weren't for the rule forcing high school players to play one season in college or abroad, this guy would be the first pick in the draft this June. He's going to be the next Jordan...only better."

While Troicki is listed as a power forward, he plays all five positions on



Joey Buckets/The Polytechnic

INCOMING FRESHMAN IVAN TROICKI LOOKS on as junior forward Billy Whittier takes the ball in for a layup. The addition of Troicki bolsters an already imposing frontcourt for the Engineers.

a regular basis. Professional scouts in the region say he has the touch of Steve Nash, the power of Shaquille O'Neal, and the hard-nosed intensity of Scottie Pippen. He doesn't shy away late in close games, either. In addition to his outstanding performance against Spain in the EYBA quarterfinals, Troicki hit five game-winning shots and scored 25 or more second half points 17 times. During the international season, Troicki averaged 42 points, 19 rebounds, 18 assists, and 8 blocks over the span of 28 games.

On being asked about choosing RPI over U. of Kentucky, UCLA, and U. of Kansas, Troicki responded by saying the beautiful weather and winning tradition were too much of a draw to ignore. "I think this environment will be the best for me to improve my skills and get ready to play at the professional level." In addition, to playing basketball, Troicki intends to major in architecture and write news for the school newspaper. Troicki made no comment on what he would do in his spare time to keep busy.

Men's basketball head coach Eric Floyd says Troicki will be a valuable addition to an already talented starting lineup. "We have Whittier, who is 6'9" and was second in the conference in blocks and fourth in rebounds, and Vernon, who is 6'8" and was fifth in the conference in blocks and eighth in rebounds. Now we have Troicki, who is the best player his age I've ever seen. Teams are going to have a difficult time matching up with us this year, even Kentucky and Duke. We should be a tough out come next March."

The Engineers will travel to Durham, NC on November 8 to face Duke University in what will surely be a highly anticipated pre-season exhibition game. The game will mark Troicki's first as a member of the Institute.

PAPER FOOTBALL

RPI to add paper football and chair racing

Slow-Moe Willis
Senior Reporter

THIS FALL, THE RENSSELAER Athletic Department will introduce two new sports to its athletic ledger: competitive office chair racing and paper football.

Competitive office chair racing originated in the legal offices of Schmidt, Schmidt, and Schmidt in downtown Manhattan as a way to relieve tension during long winter evenings of trial preparation. After word got out, other firms, seeing Schmidt, Schmidt, and Schmidt's overwhelming success, soon adopted the practice. Today, more than thirty colleges in the northeast have teams that compete in regional meets.

RPI will join the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference, which includes teams such as Rutgers University, Villanova University, the University of Connecticut, and top-ranked Syracuse University. Similar to track meets, chair racing meets have several different distance and relay events. The meets are held in either indoor tracks or converted classrooms for the short distance and obstacle course events. Furthermore, like auto racing, teams are allowed to alter the mechanical designs of their chairs to give themselves an advantage. Each team must meet several specifications (wheel diameter, chair height, and etc.) in order to qualify for competition.



Captain Jack Sparrow/The Polytechnic

KICKER STARTS the drive during a paper football game between Richmond and Coastal Carolina. Next year, RPI will have its inaugural paper football and chair racing seasons.

The sport is co-ed and, similar to world team tennis, has both men's, women's, and mixed events. Each team consists of a maximum of eight members, who each specialize in different events. Out of the 25 events that occur during each meet, no member is allowed to participate in more than five.

RPI has reached out to several experts in the sport in hopes of filling its newest head coaching vacancy. Among these people is Angela Schmidt, formerly of Schmidt, Schmidt, and Schmidt, who

was one of the inaugural participants in competitive chair racing. Schmidt is credited with the bump and run and sitting duck offensive strategies, which are still both widely used today.

The Engineers will compete at 12 conference meets during the winter months. The athletes will also have the opportunity to qualify for the individual state, conference, regional, and national championships, which will occur in successive weeks at the end of the season.

In addition to competitive office chair racing, RPI will also introduce

a Division I paper football team to campus next fall. Like tennis and volleyball, matches are broken into a best of five sets format; however, the point scoring within each set more closely resembles basketball than either of these two sports. The farther the football is kicked from, the more points a made kick is. At the end of each set, the team with more points wins; the first team to three sets wins.

As in football, a coin is flipped at the start of each match to determine who gets possession first. Each set

is timed, which means that the team who gets possession first has an advantage, due to the frequent disparity in the number of possessions each team gets. The offense must drive the football down the field and get in position for a field goal in order to score. To advance the ball, the offense must kick the ball to a target that is selected before each play. The defense is allowed to designate one player to block the shot with their hand; however, this player cannot move their hand once the ball is kicked. Therefore, they have to determine what position of their hand will best throw off the angle of the kick before the play begins. When they believe they are close enough to score, the offense tells the opposition. Field goals cannot be defended by the defense.

The points for field goals of different lengths are as follows: one point for a kick less than five feet, two points for a kick between five and ten feet, four for a kick between ten and twenty feet, and seven for a kick longer than twenty feet. In the game's ten-year history, only one kick longer than twenty feet has ever been made.

Paper football will take place in the spring so it doesn't interfere with the regular football schedule. RPI will host games in the East Campus Arena this season, but has plans to build a paper football training facility within the next few years.

BASEBALL

Jeter to become new assistant coach

Maria Rodriguez
Senior Reporter

CURRENTLY STANDING AT .500, THE RPI MEN'S BASEBALL team looks to shoot for a more successful season with the assistance of new coach, Derek Jeter. He retired in September from the New York Yankees and is now looking forward to advancing the RPI Baseball team to more wins. After recently purchasing a residential home in suburban upstate New York, news spread throughout the area.

Upon hearing of his residency change to Albany County, Coach Karl Steffen reached out to Derek Jeter's agent and discussed the advantages of the assistant coach position for the RPI Engineers. Union College Varsity Baseball Coach Paul Mound made an offer that was personally denied by Jeter himself, according to sources. One advantage setting the college offers apart is that RPI is offering a hefty sum of two million dollars for the rest of season, the cost of over 40 students' tuition!

"In my opinion, I've had the greatest job in the world," noted Jeter at the end of his last season in 2014. He is looking forward to continuing his passion for baseball, yet with a different "job." With his social life in the search for the perfect woman, he plans to attend select practices and games, with the goal of training the varsity baseball team to a Division III NCAA title, the same way Jeter has earned five World Series titles.

The Poly Staff has reached out to RPI students to hear what baseball fans have to say about this happening. Maria Kozdroy '18 believes, "This is awesome news and hopefully more students will come out to games to see the boys play under the legend."

On April 14, 2015 at 4 pm, the Engineers take on the Williams College Purple Cows. There is no guarantee as to Derek Jeter's presence at this game, but come out to Robinson Field, Troy, NY to support the baseball team!



Jack Black/The Polytechnic

THE INFIELTERS AND COACH OF THE RPI BASEBALL TEAM MEET at the mound to discuss strategy. The Engineers will add recently retired Yankee great Derek Jeter to their coaching staff.

RUSH MAY 2015