**Texas State Quidditch team places 3rd overall at US Quidditch Cup 11**

By Kayla Duff

ROUND ROCK – The Texas State Quidditch team competed last weekend at the U.S. Quidditch Cup in Round Rock, with the varsity team placing 3rd overall against 64 collegiate teams from around the nation.

Quidditch, a real-life game based on the magical sport from J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series, is a growing sport around the world. The U.S. Quidditch Cup is the largest Quidditch tournament in the country, inviting 64 collegiate teams and 22 community teams each year. The tournament was hosted April 14 and 15, with teams that did well on Saturday moving forward to bracket play on Sunday. Texas State’s Quidditch club has a varsity team and a junior varsity team – the Sharknados – both of which travelled to compete in the national tournament.

For the Texas State varsity team, this was their fifth year attending the national tournament. Texas State finished first in their pool on Saturday, and played up to the semi-finals on Sunday, coming out of the tournament as the third collegiate team overall.

“It was a good tournament for us,” said Leif Montgomery, a Texas State senior and the tournament director for the Quidditch club. “The only game we lost was the UT game, and we played some pretty big teams.”

While Texas State’s varsity team is a national tournament veteran, this year was the first bid to nationals for the JV team.

“This was the first time that Sharknados made it to Nationals, and we even made it to Day 2, which was really exciting,” said Sierra Harris, a Texas State junior and beater for Sharknados. “Overall I think we did very well, especially compared to how we were in the beginning of the year.”

The U.S. Quidditch Cup hosted a Harry Potter themed festival in addition to the main tournament, inviting people from all over the nation to participate and watch games. Quidditch is a growing sport in the U.S., and both Texas State teams gave it their all. Sharknados competed so strongly that multiple players were pulled from games for injuries.

“A lot of people still won’t acknowledge Quidditch as a real sport or understand why we care so much,” said Kendall McCumber, a sophomore at Texas State and the assistant team captain for Sharknados. “As much as it sucked to get injured, it won’t keep me from playing.”

The U.S. Quidditch Cup 11 was the last tournament this season for both Texas State teams, and final rankings leave Texas State’s varsity team one of the top ten teams in the nation.

For more information on the U.S. Quidditch Cup 11 and competing teams, visit their website.

http://usquidditchcup.com/