

THE SPRING TOURNEY, GRAND TOURNAMENT XLV

A hard, impatient knock sounded at the door.

Olaf set his pen down and groaned. "I swear I'm not going to get anything done today, with all these interruptions!"

The knocking resumed, this time even less patient, if that were possible.

"I'm coming, I'M COMING!" Olaf shouted as the knocking continued. He wrenched open the door and found.. nothing. Shaking his head and grumbling, "Kids these days!", he nearly slammed the door again when he caught a glimpse of the scroll at his feet. And the tiny creature with an expectant look upon its face that was holding it.

"A message from Her, Milord," squeaked the tiny beast, standing on tip-toes to hand him the parchment.

Olaf bent to grasp the scroll and slipped it open, thinking an urgent response might be needed. 'You know how She is,' he thought. 'Better do it now.'

There wasn't much there, just a cryptic scrawl: "10 p +1 b s - S."

"Huh??!" Olaf exclaimed loudly, scowling at the faerie, or elf, or whatever it was. "What the heck does this mean?"

The creature sprung back in fright. "I don't know. She yelled something about a tournament, wrote this, and told me to take it to you right away. I just do as I'm told."

"Hmmm.. I wonder if it's the prize for the tournament? It is about that time. 10 pence + 1... nah, that doesn't make sense. 10 potions, yes, that makes sense. Ten potions of BS? Couldn't be, the warriors and managers seem to have plenty of that themselves." He chuckled, amused at his thought process, not realizing the creature had disappeared.

"Growth, shrink, favorites, nope. Ambi, damage, aha, skills. BS... Base skills. That must be it."

He slammed the door and went to tell the others, hoping fervently he had decrypted it correctly. Or Else.

Across the land of Alastari the word is going out. The Duelmasters Grand Tournament XLV is coming soon! This tournament will be held on Saturday, April 19th, and will be a Mail-in tournament only.

The Duelmasters Grand Tournament is a premier competition. Only the strong will survive; only the best will win! And for this tournament only, winning means an opportunity that ranks as every guild master's greatest dream: They will be awarded ten potions, each of which will increase a warrior's base rating in one skill area by one! (You may not increase a warrior's base rating beyond the maximum that could have been rolled up for him.) You must use all prizes within six months of the tourney when they were won.

Word has leaked from the Tax Commission that special subsidies will be provided for the benefit of the disadvantaged, lower class, and generally all-around bad warriors. Rumor has it that any warrior who loses both of his first round fights (and is thus untimely eliminated from the tournament) will be placed in a special "exhibition" tournament. Apparently the "exhibition" is to take place in conjunction with the "Bureaucrats Against Disadvantaged Dueling" annual cake and bake sale. What is the world coming to?

In this Grand Tournament, honors will be awarded to warriors in eleven categories of competition--five tournaments for Advanced Duelmasters (ADM) and six tournaments for regular Duelmasters (DM). Warriors will fight according to their ADM tournament classification and/or total number of fights as follows:

TOURNAMENT CLASSES

The Primus Tournament	-- All Primus inducted warriors (as of the March 2008 ADM Freeze)
The Contenders Tournament	-- All Primus contenders (as of the March 2008 ADM Freeze)
The Eligibles Tournament	-- All Primus qualified warriors (as of the March 2008 ADM Freeze)
The ADM Tournament	-- All other ADM warriors (as of the March 2008 ADM Freeze)
The Freshmen Tournament	-- All new ADM warriors and ADM Freshmen (as of the March 2008 ADM Freeze)
The Challengers Tournament	-- DM warriors with 31+ fights as of the Tournament
The Champions Tournament	-- DM warriors with 21+ fights as of the Tournament
The Adepts Tournament	-- DM warriors with 11-20 fights as of the Tournament
The Initiates Tournament	-- DM warriors with 5-10 fights as of the Tournament
The Apprentices Tournament	-- DM warriors with 1-4 fights as of the Tournament
The Rookies Tournament	-- DM warriors with 0 fights as of the Tournament (April 19, 2008)

All warriors who have graduated to ADM before the tournament (due dates on or before Thursday, April 17th), as well as warriors who were classified as Freshmen as of the March 2008 freeze, will fight in the Freshman Tournament. All ADM warriors who are not Freshman or Primus qualified (Eligible) or inducted (Contenders or Primus) will fight in the ADM tourney. A warrior's number of fights is calculated by adding his regular arena bouts and roughly half of his previous tournament fights. Please note that all games due on Thursday will process before the tournament, while games due on Friday and Saturday will run after. A warrior's number of fights is calculated by adding his regular arena bouts and roughly half of his previous tournament fights. A warrior's fight total is determined by his record and statistics as of the day of the tournament; the freeze date for ADM warriors was March 20th at 1:03am.

There will be ten rounds of combat. Pairings in the tournaments are random. In all tournament classes except Primus and Contenders, your warrior must win one of his first two fights to avoid being eliminated from the tournament. After that, his third loss will drop him from the tournament. In the Primus and Contenders Tournaments, warriors will not be eliminated until after Round 5; at that point and thereafter, warriors with three losses will be eliminated. Each tournament will continue until only one warrior has been uneliminated. On the average, each warrior will fight six fights, with a minimum of three fights for each warrior (barring death). Learning, experience, and the likelihood of dying are all at half of their normal rates. (Only so much can be learned in such a short time, fighting with blunted weapons.) The record and popularity of your warriors in the tournament does not count towards their record in regular arena play.

Those warriors who win eight or more fights in the regular tourney and are alive at the end of Round 10 will be declared Tournament Victors. Tournament Victors may write "Tournament Victor" next to one of their challenges each turn in regular arena play to receive increased priority on their challenge. The winners of all Fools tournaments will also be declared Tournament Victors. The warrior with the best overall record at the end of each regular Grand Tournament will be declared Tournament Champion and will fight for free in regular arena play. Tournament Victor and Champion status are great honors which last until the next Grand Tournament or until six months have passed.

You may enter as many of your gladiators in the tourney as you wish. The cost is \$7.00 per warrior, which includes postage. Your account will be billed when we run the tournament. If your account does not have sufficient funds, we may not process your warriors. Strategy sheets for all warriors you want to participate in the tourney must arrive at RSI by Wednesday, April 16th. We will not accept phoned-in strategy sheets for the tournament, though you may fax them.

Below is a strategy sheet request slip for the April Mail-in Tourney and, following this sheet, a copy of a strategy sheet. To speed up the processing of your warriors, you may copy this strategy sheet, fill them in and send them back. If you'd rather have us mail you strategy sheets, fill out the request slip and note how many you need. There is also a tournament strategy sheet on the web site. Your warriors will be officially entered into the tourney when we receive your completed mail-in strategy sheets. The strategy sheet allows you to specify your gladiator's training for each fight up to the tenth round. You may also designate one alternate strategy against up to five different fighting styles.

Is your warrior the best in his class? How does your Adept measure up to the Adepts in other arenas? Do you have the strategy it takes to survive ten duels against foes from across the land of Alastari? Don't just ponder these questions! Register today for the Duellmasters Grand Tournament.

WHO:	You! And every other dedicated manager
WHAT:	Ten rounds of intense Duellmasters fights
WHEN:	April 19, 2008 (Strategy sheets due April 16th)
WHERE:	At the RSI secret underground production facility
WHY:	If you've fought in a Grand Tourney before, you know why!

Mail-In Grand Tourney XLV Strategy Sheet Request Form
Request for Strategy Sheets due Wednesday, April 9th!

Your Name: _____ Account #: _____ Send me _____ Mail-in strategy sheets!

We will not accept phoned-in strategy sheets for the tournament, although you may fax them in. The registration fee for each warrior is \$7.00. Your account will be billed when we run the tournament. If your account does not have sufficient funds, we may not process your warriors.