



Rocketing Into New Territory

Joe Burrow is anointed savior of Cincinnati



Coach Mike Hughes (top center) and several other players gather around senior Brenden Hughes and his computer monitor during the first esports match in school history on Feb. 20 in lab 218.

Boone's new esports team begins debut season with six Rocket League squads

Matthew Brazier

Boone students can now represent the school's Rocket League esports team which began its very first season in February.

Rocket League is a video game that shares a resemblance to soccer as two teams compete to see who can score the most goals in a 5 minute time period.

The main difference from real soccer though is that instead of people, it's gamers controlling turbo boosted cars.

While the game only offers singles (1v1), duos (2v2), standard (3v3) as competitive game modes, the team has 20 players. The team is separated into six teams of three with two subs.

Coach Mike Hughes gave a run down of how having six teams works out.

"All six teams play around the same time which is 4 p.m. every Thursday, but they may compete against different schools or programs," Hughes said. "We are a team, but they all compete for the best record because only the top team from our school goes to state."

Hughes also spoke about why it may be special that Boone has an esports team.

"While Ryle does have a club, we are the only school in the district to offer students the opportunity to join an esports team," Hughes said. "Our school is basically the region for our six individual teams."

Even though there are 20 players on the team, each practice still benefits everyone with how they train. During each practice, teams will constantly run scrimmages and other practice modes to help improve their teamwork and create strategies.

Hughes also mentioned how the team helps some of the newer players who may not have as much experience as the others.

"For some of the newer players, they practice through the training mode so they can better learn how to play the game and become a more experienced player," Hughes said.

When it comes to the actual matches, they are played in a best of five format, so the first to win three games, wins the match.

The team played their very first match on Feb. 20th with each team of three playing against a different school.

With it being the first esports event Boone has held, there were obviously going to be some things that worked like they should, while others that needed some fine tuning.

During their first official game, the team experienced an issue where they were at first unable to connect with the other team. Eventually they were able to get the matches underway.

When asked about the possibility of different games taking place with the esports team, he said it has to do with an approval from the school board.

"Rocket League is the only game that has been approved so far ratings wise," Hughes said. "It will take time, but we are looking to add more options to play in later years."

Regular season matches are played every Thursday at 4 p.m. and are open to anybody who wants to come watch, and take place in room 218.



REBEL RAMBLINGS

Robert Butler

Joe Burreaux. Jeaux Burrow. Jeaux Burreaux. Joe Bayou. Joechio. Joe Cool. The Heisman. The Savior of Cincinnati. With the first overall pick in the 2020 NFL Draft, the Cincinnati Bengals select Joe Burrow!

Coming in at 6 feet, 4 inches, 216 pounds, the record breaking quarterback from Louisiana State University, is the man who's going to save the Cincinnati Bengals and Cincinnati sports as a whole!

Don't you love it how everybody is saying Cincinnati isn't going to draft Joe Burrow? That has to be the most ridiculous speculation I've ever heard.

"He's going to ask for a trade!" they say.

"He doesn't want to play for the Bengals!" they say.

"He has nine inch hands!" they say.

I don't care about what anyone has to say, Joe Burrow is coming to Cincinnati and that is final!

After transferring from Ohio State before his redshirt junior season, and blossoming into one of the best quarterbacks in the college game during his final season of eligibility at LSU, Burrow is on his way to the NFL.

Ever since he led LSU to a national championship back in early January, there's been endless speculation about who he wants to play for.

All I hear is a lot of commotion and I don't know why. Do you really think that he is going to sit out? Do you really think he doesn't want the challenge?

The man was made for the NFL (specifically the Bengals and their 2-14 record). He fought through adversity trying to carve his name into the record books and he came away a Heisman winner and a champion.

He racked up 841 first place votes for the Heisman, which was a record 90.7% of all of the first place votes available. In the process he became the first LSU player to bring the award back to Louisiana in 60 years.

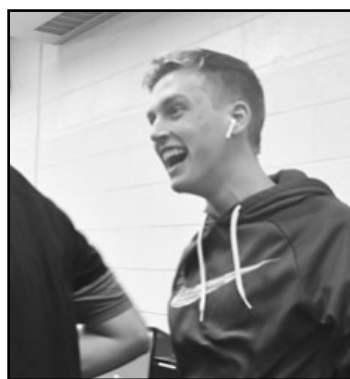
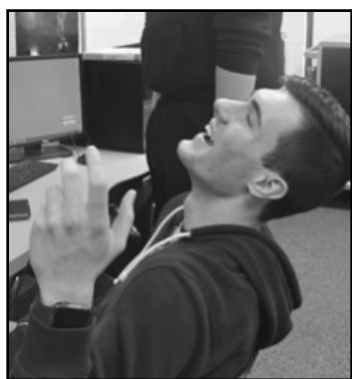
After winning the Heisman, Burrow threw for 463 yards, and five touchdowns in the national championship game, leading his team to a 42-25 victory over a very stout Clemson defense. Clemson was only allowing 172.3 passing yards a game on the season and they were allowing less than 11 points per game during the regular season.

He threw for a school record 5,671 yards and a NCAA record 60 passing touchdowns in one season. Joe Burrow also set school records in passing percentage, completions, and 300 yard passing games in a season with 13.

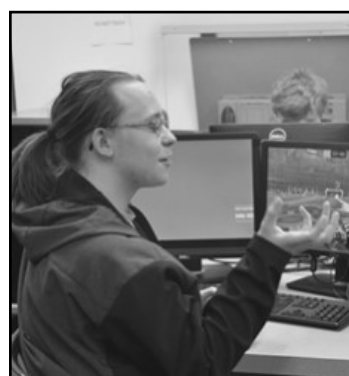
Burrow is the quarterback that the Bengals need right now. After benching starting quarterback Andy Dalton during the regular season, it was clear that the Bengals intentions were to find another signal caller to fill his role, and it looks like they've found one in Burrow.

He'll be an immediate impact player for the Bengals and he'll bring much needed hope to a fanbase that's been yearning for a team worth watching. He is literally the Savior of Cincinnati.

Well, maybe. I guess we'll just have to wait until the draft rolls around on April 23 to see if the Bengals are ready to win some games, but until then you better believe Burrow is the real deal.



The esports team held its first match on Feb. 20 at Boone. Pictured above from left to right, junior Kendall Soules talking to sophomore Tyler Clements, senior Jackson Gordon, senior Brenden Hughes, and senior Steven Rubino.



The esports team held its first match on Feb. 20 at Boone. Pictured above from left to right, senior Kaitlyn Jerauld, sophomore Michael Givner, coach Mike Hughes, and sophomore Cory Hoffer.