



Profiles



ELIZABETH CLEMENTI

| By Jordan Gass-Poore | Photos Ashley Haguewood |

When push comes to shove, Texas State Quidditch President Elizabeth Clementi knows it's best to move out of the way.



TexasStateQuidditch



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A PVC pipe "broom" accident resulted in seven stitches when Clementi's eyebrow split open after being tackled during an intercollegiate game, where players don't wear helmets or pads. Her thumbs have also been broken several times from deflecting balls while holding a dodgeball or landing poorly after a tackle.

It's difficult to sweep something like that under the rug.

Quidditch, a full-contact sport inspired by the Harry Potter book series, became active at Texas State in fall 2011.

Clementi, a Texas State graduate student, joined the team that year, after briefly considering women's rugby, only partly because she was a Harry Potter fan.

Fellow Texas State Quidditch member Richard Kemp taught Clementi how to play the sport.

"I was a little intimidated to come into the team," she admitted. "But (Kemp) showed me the ropes and invited me into his circle of friends and we have been friends ever since."

Most of Clementi's family and friends, however, think Quidditch is "lame" because they haven't seen the sport played in-person.

"I think that strangers to Quidditch think that we L.A.R.P. (Live Action Role Playing) around the field and cast spells at each other," said the New York native. "After witnessing the physicality, intensity and intrigue of Quidditch they really get it."

Her boyfriend was one of those people.

He hadn't heard of Harry Potter and thought Quidditch was "weird and nerdy" until he watched one of her tournaments. Now he's captain of the Texas State varsity Quidditch team.

The team, which ranks in the top five in the world, is comprised of chasers, beaters, keepers and seekers.

As a defensive beater for the Texas State Quidditch team, Clementi's job is to play a zone in front of the team's hoops to stop opposing drives by "beating," or knocking out, the opposing players with a dodgeball. This position works in her favor because of her 13-year experience playing softball.

Clementi's Quidditch position may have had something to do with her physicality, but she was "sorted" into Gryffindor, one of the four houses of the fictional Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the Harry Potter book series, because of her "loyalty, nerve and pride."

