

# Hodag Disc

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2000



Written and published by the members of  
UW-Madison Ultimate Frisbee Club  
for alumni and friends



## Hodags Welcome Six Newcomers

### Tryouts

The Hodags are excited to have added six fantastic new players to the team this fall. Four of the players are veterans of the UW's B team.

Junior Scott Luskin and Senior Wei Lu were the co-captains and main handlers for the inaugural season of the UW's B team. After guiding the B team to a third place finish at College Sectionals last year, both Scott and Wei figure to exhibit their veteran expertise as important elements of the Hodag backfield this spring.

Seniors Rob Wagner and Bryan Paradise also played with the UW B team last year, their first year playing organized ultimate. So far, Bryan is surprising nobody with his relentless, menacing defense, and he is also one of the fall's most improved throwers. Rob wowed the Madison area this fall by making the club team despite having played only one season of college ultimate. Now he has established himself as one of the team's premier defensive players and is emerging as a speedy offensive weapon.

The two Hodags in their first year of college ultimate are Michael "Bloomer" Bluhm and freshman Tyson Park. Tyson is showing the rapid improvement and natural feeling for the sport that will aid in leading the team in years to come. Bloomer came in this fall already possessing handler-quality throws. When he isn't getting his teeth knocked out at ultimate practice, he is in school seeking his teaching certificate. Bloomer asks that he not be referred to as a "rookie."

**Contributors:** UW Ultimate is an official Recreation Club Sport of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is a non-profit organization. Many thanks to Ken Molnar and everyone at Recreation Sports for their un-ending dedication to UW Ultimate. If you have questions or comments, or would like to add someone to the subscription list, please email Jonathan O'Connell at [jkoconne@students.wisc.edu](mailto:jkoconne@students.wisc.edu) or call 608.257.7322.



Junior Jonathan "Opie" O'Connell, against New York, NY at Club Nationals (Franz).

## Team Announces Spring Schedule

The Hodags have decided what tournaments they will be attending this spring, starting with their first tournament appearance at Mardi Gras, where they will have the chance to face the defending Nationals Champions, North Carolina State.

Why so far, you ask? While teams in the South and West enjoy balmy temperatures year round, the Wisconsin weather is not conducive to outdoor sports usually until April. So the teams in the Central Region (Midwest) often must travel long distances to find endurable weather.

Also, because the UW is annually one of the top ten or twenty programs in the country, there are a limited number of teams that can consistently pose a challenge. For instance, when the Hodags played in Sectionals last spring (the qualifying tournament for Regionals) they beat second-place finisher UW-Stevens Point 15-1 in the finals.



Senior Lee Swingen, throwing this fall. (Franz)

### Come See the Hodags

(Dates and Locations can change)

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| March 4-5   | Baton Rouge, LA      |
| March 18-19 | Atlanta, GA          |
| April 1-2   | Oberlin, OH          |
| April 8-9   | Sectionals (in WI)   |
| April 29-30 | Madison, WI          |
| May 6-7     | Regionals (unknown)  |
| May 27-29   | Nationals? Boise, ID |

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## PLAY ULTIMATE

### Madison Club Team Finishes Ninth in Nation

The Madison club team, including seven members of the Hodags, came in ninth place at the Jockey Ultimate National Championships October 29-31st in San Diego, California. The Madison team qualified for Nationals by finishing second in the Central Region behind the Minneapolis-St. Paul team, Sub Zero.

The club team is made up of players living in and around Madison, many of whom are graduates of the UW. The ages of the players range from 18 to 32, giving the Madison team a good balance of youth and experience. Hodags Matt Bruss, Nate Franz, Eric Moore, Zach Morrison, Jonathan O'Connell, Rob Wagner and Erich Wolff made the team this year, making Madison one of the teams most heavily-supported by college players. Besides the obvious excitement that comes with the chance to play against the best

ultimate teams in the country, playing on the club team in the fall is a good opportunity for college players to improve. Practicing three days a week against the best players in the state forces college players to better their skills and adjust to the faster pace of club ultimate. Madison went into Nationals seeded 13th in a 16-team field. They began by going 0-2

before securing their first ever Nationals win, a 17-16 win against Colorado. Entering Sunday, the team was 2-3 and facing a Florida team that had drubbed them earlier in the season. But Madison played their best when it counted, upsetting both Florida and Washington D.C. en route to a 4-3 overall record and 9th place.



### Thanks for your help!

Many thanks to everyone for their generosity in helping to fund the club. To make a donation of any amount, please make checks out to Matt Pankratz (Hodag Treasurer) and send to:

120 N. Orchard #1  
Madison, WI 53715

Money raised goes towards travel and lodging at tournaments, and uniforms.



Hodag club players at the Jockey Ultimate National Championships, left to right: Sophomore Zach Morrison, Senior Matt Bruss, Junior Nate Franz, Senior Rob Wagner and Junior Jonathan O'Connell.