From the Dartmouth Ultimate Archives...

In April 1978, with a first year budget of $150, Dartmouth Ultimate became a club team. However, founder Mitch Arion’s efforts to establish the club were frequently undermined by the Director of Athletics, Seaver Peters. In a rebuke, Mr. Arion wrote,

“... You also said that I should not get my “hopes up too high” in terms of making Ultimate Frisbee a formal form of athletic competition. I cannot understand why anyone in such an athletic oriented school as Dartmouth would make such a comment. I have worked very hard since September...to make Frisbee an official club...and possibly to receive free Frisbees from the Wham-O Corporation through their donation program. We certainly have every intention of becoming a formal sport and attempting to win every game we can in Dartmouth’s name.”

Let’s show you what we’re up to...

Captain’s Update – Princess Layout

Last year, Ultiworld’s D-1 Regionals Preview included a section titled ‘Darkhorse Potential for Dartmouth Princess Layout’, which has since become an ongoing source of inspiration and humor for our team. Princess Layout was certainly the dark horse, and we ended last season strong, placing 3rd in the New England Region despite being seeded 4th going into the tournament. We have the leadership of our wonderful 2014 captains and the class of 2014 to thank for a highly successful season and our strongest Regionals finish in years. This year we have similarly high hopes, with lots of returning talent featuring four recent junior world’s players, three of whom captained their junior world’s squads. We are also excited to announce the addition of five ’18s to the team, who have so far proven to be incredibly fast learners, hard workers, and hilarious tweeters.

We started our fall season by hosting Club Sectionals, where we got to see some extraordinary talent from our freshmen, many of whom have played Ultimate in the past. Throughout the fall, we had the privilege of watching everyone develop and sharpen their skills, both at practices and tournaments. We had a stellar fall season, going 4-0 at our first tournament as an A team, Get Skyy’d (Wellesley, MA). The next weekend at Hammertime (MIT), we split our squad into two teams, both of which tore up the competition. A few weeks later, we road-tripped down to...
Running the Show: Pain Train

Captains: Henry Frost, Andrew Pillsbury, Brett Szalapski
President Emeritus: Jon Xu
Co-Presidents: David Friedman, Ted Owens
Treasurer: Daniel Finch

Princess Layout
Captains: Amy Lu, Patricia Neckowicz, Katy Peake
Presidents/Treasurers: Ellen Plane, Sarah Heybourne, Angela Zu

Disco Troll
Captains: Tyler Fisher, Tyler Fritz, Wilson Xu

Princess B-ride
Captains: Annie Fagan, Antonia Hoidal, Amelia Ritger

... Rhode Island, where we placed third at Huck-a-Hunk hosted by Brown. To cap it all off, we closed out the fall season going 6-0 at Fall Brawl in New Jersey. Overall, the fall was a huge success, and we used it as a chance to develop some new strategies that we hope will surprise our competition. Thanks to all the friends and alums who came out to support us; we loved having you there! Also, thanks to all those keeping in touch with us from afar, whether via Twitter or Facebook.

Looking ahead to winter term, we will use our indoor practices as a chance to solidify the new strategies we introduced in the fall. In addition, we will offer lifts and track workouts to get the team into peak physical condition before the spring season. In terms of winter tournaments, we plan to fly to at least one west coast tournament (preferably, someplace warm and sunny!). The competition will be tougher than we've seen so far but we know our training will have prepared us and we will be in peak performance shape to do well!

Captain's Update: Pain Train

Under the expert coaching of Brook Martin, the Dartmouth Pain Train has thrived over the last five years. Two years ago, led by an incredibly talented team of 5th years and seniors, the team made it to the quarterfinals of nationals. Last year, in what we thought would be a rebuilding year after losing many of our starters, we made Pain Train history by qualifying for Nationals for the second year in a row. There we finished tied for 17th with a strong win over Michigan in pool play and close losses to Texas A&M, Central Florida, and Florida State. This spring, we hope to return to Nationals for a third consecutive year.

Despite graduating 7 seniors and two 5th years, the 2014-2015 Pain Train is looking as strong as ever. We have a roster loaded with talent from top to bottom, a lot of high-level experience under our belts, and the desire to work harder than ever to make sure we're ready for the big moments. We're a young team, but everyone is already stepping up in exciting ways this season.

At our practices this fall we focusing on bringing our seven rookies up to speed and learning the ingenious new strategies that Coach Brook has designed for us (and let me tell you, once we've implemented them, they will blow people's minds). In addition, we've hired Wayne Burwell, an elite running coach, to help improve our speed, agility, and running form. We've played three tournaments this fall: Huck-a-Hunk of Burning Pumpkin (Portsmouth, RI), Purple Valley (Williamstown, MA), and Classic City Classic (Athens, GA). We used these games to try new strategies, give our rookies experience, and solidify our team chemistry on the offensive and defensive lines. As always, our focus in the fall is not on wins and losses but rather on gaining experience and positioning ourselves to be dominant in the spring.

This winter, despite being pushed indoors by the New Hampshire winter, we will be practicing, lifting, throwing, and sprinting to prepare for the spring season. We plan to flee the ice and snow to tournaments in San Diego and North Carolina, and then we will travel south during spring break for ten days of practice, tournaments, and soaking up the sunshine. By the time the spring season rolls around, the Pain Train will be rolling down the tracks with a full head of steam, ready to compete with any team in the nation. I can't wait.
**FreshWoman Perspective**

Ultimate has been a large part of my life, and I knew coming into college that I wanted to continue playing. Though, when I was initially applying to colleges I told myself to not apply to a school based on the ultimate program. I knew there was more to college than ultimate. But, my final decision came down to the ultimate community. At Dartmouth, I stayed with Angela Zhu ('17) and hung out and practiced with the team. I was so impressed with the tight-knit feel of the entire community, both the men’s and women’s teams, the amazing people I met, and the potential of the program. During my drive back to the airport, I knew that becoming part of Dartmouth ultimate was an opportunity that I could not pass up.

Now, almost a term into my time at Dartmouth, I could not be happier. Everyone on the team is so caring, fun, accepting, smart, and all around awesome. They have made the transition to college much more manageable -- always having a group of people to eat, hang out, trust and play with. It is so nice to know that whenever I want to find friends, I can always count on seeing someone on the ultimate team in Collis. The four tournaments we have gone to this quarter have also been a very nice way to get off campus, have a break from school, and bond with the team. Ultimate, and my Frisbee family, defines my Dartmouth experience -- I wouldn’t have wanted it any other way.

- Julianna Werfelli (JWerf)

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**FreshMan Perspective**

Deciding to try out for Pain Train remains the best decision I made this fall. The team and the Dartmouth ultimate community as a whole offer so many unique and enjoyable athletic and social opportunities. The pure joy I feel when playing ultimate, a sport that I originally knew nothing about besides the most basic rules, makes the long practices and early wake-ups completely worth it. No feeling beats throwing the perfect huck or laying out for a sick D. It amazes me just how much my teammates have been able to teach me in the mere nine weeks since I arrived on campus.

Nowhere else does there exist such a close and loving, yet completely non-exclusive group of students. I look forward to practice every day knowing that I will get to work my ass off while having a blast with some of my closest friends on campus. I doubt any other organization or sports team here fosters such genuine friendships among teammates across all ages and backgrounds. I cannot count the number of times my friends have asked me whether they could pretend to be an ultimate-r just to get in to some original and exciting Frisbee social event. Ultimately (lol), the Frisbee community epitomizes what Dartmouth strives to be - geeky, athletic, selectively ragey, and loving. Having experienced this over the course of one term, I cannot wait to see what the next four years of ultimate bring.

- Eric Greenlee
Today, in 2014, one can browse the scores from the 39th National Championships, held in Frisco, Texas. It includes men’s, women’s and Coed divisions from all over North America. Semifinal and final championships are broadcast live by ESPN (the sports network), and hosted by The United States Ultimate Players association (USAU), boasting over 35,000 members. Two professional ultimate leagues have emerged in recent years, and are competing with USAU to be the premier organizing body for elite ultimate. World championships are hosted by the World Flying Disc Federation every year, and include teams from Europe, South America, Canada, Japan, and Russia. **Ultimate is played in over 80 countries by about 7 million people.** The international governing body, WFDF, represents 59 member associations in 56 countries. Over 12,000 student athletes on over 700 college teams from across North America enter the USA Ultimate College Championship Series in early April, and the college national championship is also broadcast by ESPN. The biggest growth in ultimate over the last ten years has been in the youth (middle and high school) divisions. In June, 2014, USA Ultimate obtained official recognition by the United States Olympic Committee. A small industry of companies that cater events or sponsor teams has emerged around ultimate. They include Discraft (maker of the 175 gram Ultra-Star, the official disc of ultimate), and merchandisers Patagonia, Five Ultimate, VC, Gaia, and Breakmark. Events are covered by online magazines, such as Ultiworld, Skyd, and The Huddle.

So, wouldn’t you agree that Director Peters got that one wrong?

**HERE’S TO YOU!**

Whether you play all four years, for just a term over the summer with the mixed team, or just happen to find yourself at one of our crazy practices—Dartmouth Ultimate is an integral part of our experience here. Amazing friends and teammates are a given, as is the insane amount of fun we have playing at our tournaments each year. We are a largely self-run and self-funded organization. We work hard to support the team with many fundraising activities, but we can always use some extra help. The financial contributions from our donors help us travel to our tournaments each year as well as pay for uniforms and other equipment to support our teams.

Thanks to all those who have helped us out so far by hosting us at your homes, sending us your well-wishes and cheering us on from the sidelines. We really appreciate how, no matter where we go to compete, there’s always a piece of good old Dartmouth there with us.

Each year, the Dartmouth Ultimate program grows in strength with each new player to step onto the Big Green. But no matter what happens we know that we can count on your unwavering support. Thank you to all our friends and kind donors! Be sure to check out our website to follow our progress throughout the season and to find out how you can give back.

Thank you for your support!

**Live it. Love it. Lay it Out.**