

Wisconsin Hodags

Volume I Issue 2

2/29/2012

"The Hodags are ready for Boulder"

Recap of Regionals

The Hodags stepped out of their cars into the chilly, grey, and drizzling morning in Northfield on Saturday as the first seed going into the tournament. They faced the 3rd seed in their pool, University of Minnesota - Duluth, in the first game at 9:00am. The Dags warm up was brimming with energy on the verge of overflow.

Team-wide bids were a regular sighting in dragon strike and 3-on-3s, and it was understood that today was a day to go to work. Continued on pg 3



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The Someday Tournament

The Someday Tournament was an unequivocal success. Dave Wiseman built it from the ground up, enlisting teams, securing multiple field sites, hyping on RSD, and garnering sponsors. Not enough can be said about the level of effort he put into this fundraiser, and it is part and parcel to why we are proud to have him represent the Hodags as our Callahan nominee.

The tournament allowed local teams to experience a high level of competition, elevating the level of play in our section and region, and helping teams that lack the supportive community we have to experience the high level of ultimate we are able to afford and enjoy. It improved our relationship with Ultimate community as a whole, and it is all thanks to Dave.

From the start of the year, Dave made it clear that he wanted the team to foster a strong relationship the teams in our region. He asked that we treat our opponents with dignity. This tournament is one obvious measure of the success of his goal as a leader on the team, and the Hodags have replaced youthful bravado with an honesty and respect for the game.

The tournament also raised over \$2500 for the Someday Foundation, and cost the team nothing but our time. While Minnesota won the tournament, the Hodags gained valuable experience from top to bottom, and some parents and fans that couldn't otherwise see us this season were able to come out and show their support, and as icing on the cake, the Hodags demolished Minnesota 15-5 in the play-in game to the 2/3 game at regionals.

See the Tournament Results

<http://scores.usultimate.org/scores/#college-open/tournament/10975>

Get involved with the Someday Foundation here:

<http://www.somedayfoundation.com/>

The Tournament Website:

<http://www.hodags.org/page/show/448630-someday-ultimate-2012>

Donating to the Endowment

By Jim Foster

Alumni,



The Hodags have proven themselves as a power house program over the last several years. It is now up to the alumni to produce the same results in support of our dominant program. We now have a way to contribute to the Hodag Trust Fund monthly. This is a perfect way that we as alumni can ensure the future of the program without taking a huge hit to the wallet. If 100 alumni contribute 5 dollars a month for 10 years the fund will be worth over \$30,000. That's like half of your Netflix subscription, or one stop for fast food, or one drink at the bar. If you can set aside any amount of money per month for the Hodags it can pay huge dividends in the long run.

We all know the financial commitment it is to play on the Hodags. The players on the team now spend a tremendous amount of money throughout the season to be a part of the program that we built. Costs for a single player can reach nearly 2000 dollars in one season. It is our responsibility now as gainfully employed

graduates of the University of Wisconsin to provide a hope that the Hodag program will be able to support the financial needs of all of the players. The reality is that this goal is achievable. We are not asking everyone to contribute a large amount. Even if you contribute a small amount per month, we can collectively make a difference that will be immensely valuable to the the program and its future.

These contributions are considered charitable and many employers will also match, so please be sure to check with your employer to find out. The fund is not in the direct control of the current Hodag team. The responsibility to manage the fund lies with the Board and money will be distributed as we deem necessary. The goal, however, will be to build the fund to the point where the interest from the account will fund a portion if not all of the teams expenses for the season. Again, this is an achievable goal. We have a numerous and tightly knit network of alumni and if we pool our contributions we can have a quantifiable impact on the future of the program that we built.

The Official Alumni Board:

Dean Bolton '03

Tom Burkly '06

Ben Feldman '11

Jim Foster '09

Jon Gaynor '09

Bert Kang '03

Chris Scotto Divetta '11

Make an online donation through the UW Foundation at:

<http://www.supportuw.org/giving?seq=14140>

The donation form can be found at:

http://www.supportuw.org/wp-content/uploads/uwf_printable_form.pdf

Mail a donation form to the UW Foundation at:
UW Foundation

U.S. Bank Lock Box

Box 78807

Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

2012 Regionals

By Jake Smart

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The Dags pressured a scrappy Duluth team from the get go, who had a few club players amongst them, with the O-line holding and the D-line rattling of two breaks to make it 3-0. Their star player, Jay, was able to throw some solid backhand hucks through contact to keep his team in the game, and the closest they ever got was 5-4 after a break by Duluth. The D squad consistently chipped away at them, averaging a break every other point they played and closing it out 15-7.

Next up was Wisconsin-Whitewater, a team that has been gutted of a lot of its experience with its past few years of graduations. Madison started on D and never looked back, cranking out two OATBAGS with an O-line hold thrown in during the second have for the teams first Bagel of the season 15-0.

To finish out pool play, the Dags faced Iowa State, who played a close (capped) game against them at the Someday tournament. The Hodags immediately established that this game would have a different timbre from Someday, going up 2-0 to start the game, and the D-line broke on 50% of the points they played to close out the pool 15-8

Quarters followed after a 30 minute break against Northern Iowa to determine who would play CUT in Semis the next day. Again the O-line came out strong, holding immediately, and the D-line chased that with yet another break. After 2-0 and a few holds by the O-line, Northern Iowa started resting some of their starters and the Hodags comfortably closed out the game 15-8

After a few Regionals Saturday night traditions, the Hodags were steeling themselves for the matchup against their Arch Rivals. There was a mild crosswind and the Sun was shining. There were some jitters during the warm-up but they seemed to shake themselves out as Wisconsin took the field on Offense upwind to start the game. After the hitch, a huck was point-blocked, and CUT quickly broke the first point of the game. The O line recovered, with some solid cutting and throwing by 5th year Pat Donovan, the Dags traded for the next two points, and then CUT extended their lead, capitalizing on miscues, drops, and impatience. To their credit, CUT played nearly flawless offense throughout the game, but the Hodags seemed to be lacking their characteristic defensive intensity. They reacted instead of dictating, and the magnitude of the moment got the better of them. The wheels never came back on after the initial recovery, and CUT shut the door on a trip to finals and the one seed of the tournament, 15-3.

There was a brief 25 minutes to mourn the loss and feel the sting of defeat before the Dags faced Duluth once again in the game to go. The Dags were still clearly processing the past game, as Duluth went up a break at the start of the game 1-3 before the Hodags rebounded. They found their legs and their fire and tapped into an unprecedented defensive intensity, allowing only one more goal in the first half, and knocking Duluth down to the 5th place bracket 15-6. With that the Hodags secured their trip to Boulder and all that remained was the 2/3 and 3/4 games. The Hodag rookies played like ballers, putting the loss behind them and allowing Hector to tap into our depth to defeat Duluth, and the ball kept rolling as the Hodags eliminate all hope of victory for Minnesota in the next game immediately.

The Hodags went up 4-0 to start the game with some crisp throws by Captain Dayu Liu and aggressive cutting by Jerry McGinnis. The Dags kept the train rolling all the way into half 8-1, and the Hodags kept their foot on the gas, closing the game out 15-5.

The next game was against Luther, who had just finished a capped game against CUT in finals. They made it to the fields a few minutes late, and played their starters for the first 5 points, but since the Hodag break train had left the depot, they quickly threw in the towel and decided to get their younger guys experience. The Hodags locked up the 2 seed out of the North Central with a win 15-3 over Luther.

It's hard to look directly at the loss that the team endured that morning, but the humility that came with it provided the Hodags a valuable asset in assessing their weaknesses and lit a fire that allowed the team to make the jump up the next three plateaus. The Hodags are ready for Boulder.

2nd Year Rising Studs



Name: Jordan O'Neill **Age:** 21

Hometown: Chanhassen, MN

Year: Junior

Major: Finance, Investments, and Banking

What is your favorite thing about Ultimate?

Chasing down hucks. No matter how tired you are you can always chase down a huck.

What are your goals as a player this year?

My main goal this year is to help the team win a national championship in any way that I can. Personal goals include continuing my growth as a player and understanding the game more fully.

What role do you see yourself playing in your final year as a Hodag?

In my final year, I hope to be a role model on and off the field. I want to be the guy that the older players trust and the younger players look up to.



Name: Nick Zeman **Age:** 19

Hometown: Menomonee Falls, WI

Year: Sophomore

Major: Civil Engineering

What is your favorite thing about Ultimate?

The competitions/traveling.

What are your goals as a player this year?

Win the Championship

What role do you see yourself playing in your final year as a Hodag?

I want to play the role of a player who is very consistent but also one that will make the big plays. This will come from a lot of hard work on fundamentals along with learning the game as well as possible



Name: Dan Stuligross **Age:** 21

Hometown: Kenosha, WI

Year: Junior

Major: Mechanical Engineering

What are your goals as a player this year?

I would like build myself as an Ultimate player. I would like to improve my Frisbee IQ and become more comfortable in the backfield. In the future I would like to see myself as a player who other players can look up to and learn from, but this will take alot of learning on my part.

Who is a player you look up to?

During workouts and games, I most look up to John Bergen. Although he was never the fastest or most athletic player, Bergen was always one of the first to finish a 200 and was the one who hit the ground the most during scrimmages. He was able to beat people in 200s and get a D on others not because he was faster or more athletic, but because he worked harder than any other player I have ever seen. And for that I look up to him.

What role do you see yourself playing in your final year as a Hodag?

As a 4th year, I hope to become a leader on the field. I will be the player that will be put on the field during universe point because everyone knows that I work my ass off and will get that D.

2nd Year Rising Studs



Name: Matt Becker Age: 22

Hometown: Monona, WI

Year: Junior

Major: Biochemistry

What Is your favorite thing about Ultimate?

I love the people that make up the local and national ultimate community.

What are your goals as a player this year?

This year I hope to make an impact on the Hodag's season after transitioning from a defensive cutter my first year to an offensive cutter this year. My timing of cutting has improved, but I will continue to work on that as well as becoming a threat after getting the disc because of down field throwing ability, especially break throws. As a team I want to beat CUT every time we play them, which we are off to a good start on, and become this year's national champions.

Who is a player you look up to?

Jon Gaynor, maybe Animal if he hadn't gotten so slow.

What role do you yourself playing in your final year as a Hodag?

Next year I hope to build off of my first year as an O line cutter and be a cutter that can throw upfield after every catch I make.



Name: Brian Hart Age: 20

Hometown: Portage, WI

Year: Junior

Major: Biochemistry

What Is your favorite thing about Ultimate?

Layout d-ing some fool.

What are your goals as a player this year?

Win a championship. Period

What role do you see yourself playing in your final year as a Hodag?

Whatever the team needs. Play both ways.

Alumni Weekend

Alumni Weekend was a success, coinciding with Mifflin and the lull in school work before the push towards finals. After the Hodags beat down the Madison Club Tryout squad 13-4, they geared up for the Alumni game. The Alumni came out hot against the young Hodags, taking half 8-4. Jammin was ripping lefty bombs, and Gaynor got a run through d, even Coach Hector Valdivia joined in the melee, dropping a full field huck to Jammin to close out half. The Hodags rallied and brought it back to 12-13 Alumni, but the Alumni held strong, and closed the game on coupled breaks, 15-12.

Thanks Jon Gaynor's fantastic job organizing with the short notice caused by the variable regionals date, the gazebo at Vilas park was at the groups disposal. The grills were running hot, and there was a bounty of food available. The keg was tapped for all those of age, and was cashed by 7 and used as one of many tests of strength and manhood by 7:30. Young met old, and experience and wisdom passed down to a team on the verge of exploding. The Alumni shared valuable insights about attitude, the mindset of dictation, and strategy to the Hodags and have surely pushed the team up to the level they need to be with their veteran knowledge.

The festivities continued after a brief respite with music and socializing on campus, setting the bar high for years to come. The team would like to thank all the Alumni who made it out and played fierce game against the college team. Also, big thanks to Jon Gaynor for stepping up when the scheduling had already caused some trouble, and singlehandedly made the weekend a success.

