

Wesleyan History Project

Era 1 Leaders

Zoom Interview 5/13/2026

Steve Mooney, Nick Donohue, Chris Heye, David Garfield, Bob Bischoff, Bill Ritchie

Bill Ritchie: Here we go.

Chris Heye: Nick, I remember you were one of the first people I saw, because I came to Wesleyan my first day, parents dropped me off, you know, they stayed there for, like, 30 seconds. Set up my stereo. Check my friend.

Chris Heye: This is September 4th, 1977.

Chris Heye: Of course, I brought frisbees to school, I had frisbees, and so I was walking around, I think by myself, with a frisbee, just walking around campus. And then I was on Fauver Field, and I saw you. hucking, you know, 40-yard forehands, which back in 77, there were, like, 12 people on Earth who could do that. And you and I were two of them.

Nick Donohue: That's right, baby!

Chris Heye: And you were hucking forehands to John Dione, and I was like, that guy's gotta play Ultimate.

Nick Donohue: Oh, oh, good.

Chris Heye: I ran up to you and I said, do you play Ultimate? And you said, yes. I said, when do we play? And that was it, so I met you the first day.

...

Nick Donohue: I want to ask Bill, Bill Ritchie. Bill, you convened this. Are we doing what you want us to do?

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, I think so, yeah. What I'm trying to do is figure out, sort of, First of all, defining What the team was that became, like, 79 to 81. You guys became, like, legendary, and... what that meant, what that was all about.

Chris Heye: I don't mind.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, I don't think we were the best we had.

Bill Ritchie: You're the best way?

Nick Donohue: Well, we're still losing at, like, sectionals and, you know.

David Neech Garfield: Oh, yeah.

Chris Heye: Yeah. Like, when we went to... that tournament... so, actually, that tournament in, I think. Pretty sure that in fall of 78, when we went to Hampshire, that's when... that's when the Neech versus Viking matchup.

Nick Donohue: First job by Paul.

David Neech Garfield: The Viking. The Viking.

Chris Heye: The Viking. That's what I said, the Viking.

Steve Mooney: And just importantly, since you brought that up, the phone call that morning comes from Nick, saying we're going to Hampshire. I say, no, we're not, it's raining. And Nick says, yes, we are. I call Neech and say, Neech, are you in? He's like, no fucking way, it's raining. We're not going to Hampshire. Nick didn't take no for an answer.

Nick Donohue: Well, I don't know if that's the right...

Chris Heye: That was a different tournament.

Nick Donohue: Yeah. What's the difference?

Chris Heye: tournament.

Nick Donohue: It was.

Chris Heye: I wasn't there that fall.

Nick Donohue: I didn't go there. I... that was earlier.

Chris Heye: That's when... that's when Nick was in Bogota.

Nick Donohue: Right, so before that, we had a tournament, a lesser thing in, like, UConn, and it was raining, and I do remember...

Chris Heye: That's...

Nick Donohue: Climbing in through the Williams Street window to get John Dione out from under his bed. Because he was... he was resisting the call to duty.

Bill Ritchie: All right, well, let's back it up a little bit, and see, take it from the beginning. So, in 75, you've got Bischoff and me. and a team of 7 or 8, I don't know, some small number of people, played one game, we beat UConn. And then, a bunch of us took off for a year. Bischoff and I took off, said... Oops, here.

Chris Heye: I just sent you a request to share, because I found that picture, if you want to look at it.

Bill Ritchie: Okay great. So there was sort of a vague year in between, and then I'm not clear what happened in the fall of 76, or was it after that, or...

Nick Donohue: Right, so I was there, and that's sort of known, but this looks good. Look at this.

David Neech Garfield: That's the one.

Chris Heye: Belmont.

Nick Donohue: Nice!

Chris Heye: Felling the event.

David Neech Garfield: I have.

Chris Heye: Mitch had this.

Nick Donohue: That's so great.

Chris Heye: That's the number, that's the K&K number, Nick. That's the K&K number right there, I'm pretty sure.

Steve Mooney: No area code.

Nick Donohue: So, Bill, you have this... you have this well documented. I had raised some issues with Bill Ritchie about thinking about the early days, but I take that back, because I... Chris has constantly reminded me that we met in 77. Yeah. And we were both there. I think my... what I do is I make a memory about me leaving Chris coming being awesome. And then, you know, needing to wrest the reins of power, but I think it's all.

Chris Heye: Yes. You were in Bogota, so that was.

Nick Donohue: Right, right, exactly. Right, so...

Bill Ritchie: Were you guys freshmen in 77 together?

Nick Donohue: No.

Chris Heye: He's a sophomore.

Nick Donohue: So I had... I was... this is written... I was in 76, I had been... throwing a disc with a friend of mine, Josh Lincoln, we use SuperPro, at night, we get stoned, and we just throw forever, which meant I could do, passively, forehand, overhead. And I got recruited to play lacrosse, I went and played for a season. and discovered Ultimate at the same time. In the fall of 76, on... Foss Hill, throwing with somebody, and Spike Barry comes up and goes, have you ever played Ultimate? And I said, no, and we walked over and started playing. So that was the fall of 76 for me. And it was very... you know, it was great, but not that competitive. And it enabled me to quit lacrosse, because my fragile ego was such that I... I was, like, starting JV in lacrosse and playing with all the football players, and it fucking sucked. And I'm like, I was not used to doing things where I wasn't the best player, so I bailed, which is my own little character flaw, but... but then joined Spike, and... And not you, though, Bill.

Bill Ritchie: I was there in the fall of 76 ...

Nick Donohue: So we played together. Yes, we did. We played together. And we had the epic competition that you won. And then... so that... that was us playing and playing and playing. And then... I think we played some games, but I don't remember playing any intercollegiate games that year, but maybe we did.

Bill Ritchie: that's... those are mystery times. That's what I'm trying to... I mean, that's not for this call, but...

Nick Donohue: I think we went... I feel like we traveled, played UConn, and lost. They had the... they had that guy.

Chris Heye: Dan Buckley, they were good.

Nick Donohue: Dan Buckley, he was good, and I think they beat us on their quad. So I don't have a lot of firm memories. I remember having a good time, and then upping the ante on the workout, and that's when, you know, it wasn't the best time for everybody else. Well, that's true.

Bill Ritchie: That's what we're gotta talk about, and we're gonna have to spend some good time with that. But first, let me say, Bischoff, you mentioned something about finding some information about that gap period?

Robert Bischoff: Yeah, there's some continuity. The team played continuously, so there was no year where there were no games or tournaments, so... and I have some...

Nick Donohue: We play. We play soccer.

Robert Bischoff: I think I can share on that, and I'll dump it into the NF Forever, drive.

Nick Donohue: Great. And do you remember any specifics about that? Like, any particular thing we did? We didn't play sectionals, I'm pretty sure of that. Was there a sectionals?

Chris Heye: Good question. I don't remember sectionals until... Oh, f... Oh, yeah, fall of 79, I think I remember. We went down to Purchase and got destroyed.

Nick Donohue: Right. Didn't make it.

Chris Heye: Just, like, like, we... and it was pouring rain. And everybody killed us. I think that was... that's the first section. I don't... that was fall of 79, so Nick, you weren't here. Neech may have been gone, too. You may have already left.

David Neech Garfield: But I left late. I left in October.

Chris Heye: You might have been there.

David Neech Garfield: I might have been.

Chris Heye: But that's when, you know, we played, like, the heifers or whatever, and they killed us. I think we played Purchase, and they killed us. I just remember being in the locker room, just being soaking wet.

Nick Donohue: This is fall of Sunday.

Chris Heye: fall of 79, I don't think you were there, so... Okay, so that's why...

Nick Donohue: Fall of 79. I am in New York.

Chris Heye: It's part...

Nick Donohue: No, no, I was in New York 79 to 80, my senior year.

Chris Heye: Right. It's possible you were at that tournament.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, I think.

Chris Heye: Playing with heifers.

Nick Donohue: team, which I don't remember playing with you guys.

Chris Heye: But yeah, maybe we didn't... we just got killed. I just remember, like, we just, like, it was... it was just one day, and I think we played 3 games, and everybody killed us. We may have played UConn. And I just remember being in the locker room, and, like, we got outscored, you know, like, 45 to 12 or something. But maybe it wasn't quite that bad.

Nick Donohue: The fall of 80. Was that...

Chris Heye: That's when we were good.

Nick Donohue: Because we got out of sectionals.

Chris Heye: That's when we got out, that's when.

Steve Mooney: Manage.

Chris Heye: place.

Steve Mooney: Who knows?

Chris Heye: That's when we beat... we beat the Dukes. That was the big thing. We beat the Dukes, and we beat some, I think maybe Central, but we beat the Dukes, and then, you know, we lost to whoever was the New York team, Maurice.

Steve Mooney: We lost the heifers.

Chris Heye: I just were playing catch with Maurice, basically. Throwing hammers, and Maurice just grabbed them. Thank you.

Nick Donohue: I...

Chris Heye: Thank you.

Nick Donohue: That's right.

Chris Heye: He did that to us a lot. Yeah. So that was sectionals, but it was... but we didn't... so we made the finals. I mean, basically, it was between us and the Dukes. That was the... that was the big game. And we beat them pretty handily.

Nick Donohue: I remember winning...

Chris Heye: Pretty hands.

Nick Donohue: the game. I remember...

Chris Heye: beat them pretty handily. Greg Barrage had a good game. That's when, you know, Steve knew how to throw a forehand at that point. So we were good.

Nick Donohue: Right. We were good.

Chris Heye: And, and apparently the weather.

Nick Donohue: Ultimate. Yeah.

Chris Heye: And we had a, we had a good tournament, and then we lost to, you know, we lost to New York. I don't think it was that close. But we didn't really care, because we... because we won, and I think... Maybe only the top two teams went to regionals?

Nick Donohue: Somewhere.

Chris Heye: That might have been part of the...

Nick Donohue: I can't remember.

Chris Heye: Maybe it was 3, but we beat the Dukes, and we were happy, and then the next weekend, I don't... I blacked out because we were horrible in Regions.

Nick Donohue: Right. So, Bill, so we're getting ourselves, like, so I show up with Spike, we play. We... we play other games. We apparently play some... you know, competition. And then... In the fall of 77, Chris shows up. We're there, but you are not.

Chris Heye: No, Bill's there.

Nick Donohue: Bill's there, Bill's there still. Okay, you're there, and then... we... progress, right, for that year. 77 to 78. Right?

Chris Heye: In 77, we played what I can remember. My first Ultimate Game with Wesleyan was... I think it was homecoming weekend.

Nick Donohue: Yes, yes.

Chris Heye: against Williams.

Nick Donohue: Yes.

Chris Heye: And it was basically Guido and AJ.

Nick Donohue: Right, and we won that game.

Chris Heye: AJ, and... and that's... and we won at the buzzer.

Nick Donohue: Right, 23 to 21, or something.

Chris Heye: And it was raining, and that's the one that I... that... that, I... I threw deep to you, and you weren't quite in the end zone. Yeah. And then you threw to Fred, not Fred Bodner.

Nick Donohue: Oh, this is, yeah, I got this.

Chris Heye: And just to see if the disc was coming, he started to fall, but he was flipping. And it's true.

Nick Donohue: Shoulder stroke, this is great.

Chris Heye: Just grabbed it, got from the ground, game over, we win.

Nick Donohue: That's good. And then, here's the thing, I have a memory of us... Inviting two teams to play on the same day by accident.

Chris Heye: Yeah.

Nick Donohue: somebody showed up, and then the other team showed up, and we're like, oh, shit. And then we're like, wait, wait, wait, we can play a Round Robin.

Chris Heye: Right, yeah, I was like...

Nick Donohue: Remember who those people were?

Chris Heye: I'm pretty sure one was central.

Nick Donohue: Central?

Chris Heye: Pretty sure one was Central, and then, God, who had the other one been?

Bill Ritchie: You wrote this up on Scooter's website...

Chris Heye: It could have been UConn, but I doubt it. UConn didn't come to us, ever. We had to go to them.

Nick Donohue: Right. They didn't fly.

Chris Heye: We were not worthy. But Central we played all the time. Central... I don't think it was Williams. Amherst, Yale or Amherst, maybe? Pretty big deal.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, Yale, Yale, they played...

Chris Heye: in Yale.

Chris Heye: Central, Central, those games were always close with Central. They were good.

Nick Donohue: All right, so Bill, what else do you want to ask us...

Bill Ritchie: Let's get Mooney involved. Mooney, you were like.

Chris Heye: No, Nick should talk about Steve.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, no problem.

Chris Heye: Nick's recruited him. No, Nick recruited him, and then I'll talk about my response to that.

Nick Donohue: I'll just say that Steve, we're friends, we're hanging out, getting stoned, listening to music... Yeah, I would... I'd hang out there a little bit. I worked there. I was not a big... I didn't hang out there socially, but Steve and I connected, and then I'm like, come on, soccer? Come on! And I don't remember much more than that, so you can ask Steve to tell his... his story.

Steve Mooney: Nick was relentless. We spent some time on Foss Hill learning a two-finger. Neech, I struggled, just like you, figuring...

Steve Mooney: fingers. And... Nick reluctantly came to Eclectic to play foosball and lose. Repeatedly, but he didn't care. He's like, I'll lose if I can recruit people to play on my frisbee team.

Nick Donohue: There you go.

Steve Mooney: And Steve Apicella and I would play, and Nick was there, and I don't remember... Mitch Knoss was there, those other two didn't play. And then, you know, I had soccer all the way through, so soccer in the fall of 79, But in the spring of 79, I would have played Ultimate.

Chris Heye: That's when you first played.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, and then Chris said, you should go... I needed... I needed credits, because I could never manage 5 courses. I'd start with 5 and have to drop one, because being a student wasn't my strength. I had other strengths, but... Wasn't one of them. And, so he said you should take courses at UC Berkeley, and they play frisbee up at Strawberry Field, which is above UC Berkeley. And you should hook up with, the frankster, because he will have the best marijuana you will ever smoke. And, so I go to UC Berkeley, take a photography class, an English class, and the frankster shows up. on this field with a bunch of the Flying Circus, which Chris had... had played with and knew, and...

Nick Donohue: What's the date? Steve, say the date again?

Steve Mooney: That's the sun.

Chris Heye: time, it seems Steve and I go back and forth. The timing isn't right for me, but... but we can... we can just ignore that far.

Nick Donohue: What do you think, Steve?

Steve Mooney: Well, it was definitely the summer before my last Year of soccer, which would have been... fall of 7... last year of soccer is fall of 79, and the reason why I know that is that they... asked me to come to Santa Cruz and play with the circus, and I said, I can't, I gotta go back and play soccer.

Nick Donohue: So that's...

Steve Mooney: Now I know it's that summer.

Nick Donohue: Okay.

Steve Mooney: And and then... Digression, I give, Frankster \$200, the only money I have. he's gonna bring back the best marijuana in the world, and then he doesn't show up for, like, 2 or 3 weeks. Like, Chris has steered me wrong. I've just given away.

Nick Donohue: Ripped off by the French. That's a lot of money back then.

Chris Heye: That's a lot of money. That's a lot of money, but I didn't... the part that's incorrect from my memory is I didn't know Frank then. I didn't meet him until 81. I might have told Steve to go to Berkeley. I might have done that, but somebody...

Steve Mooney: I'm talking about Brexit.

Bill Ritchie: I think this is one of the defining things about this era, is that you guys don't have a fucking clue what.

Nick Donohue: No, no, we do.

Chris Heye: For pizza.

Nick Donohue: it together!

Chris Heye: a long time ago.

Nick Donohue: Exactly.

Chris Heye: Long time ago.

Steve Mooney: I know, I'm right there with you.

Bill Ritchie: It's like...

Steve Mooney: Let me finish. So, he comes finally, and it is the best. sticky green ever. I mean, we've had bad marijuana back at Wesleyan, and this is good, incredible, whatever they called it back then. So then I go back to Wesleyan and play... When? This is 80.

Nick Donohue: Spring of 80.

Steve Mooney: Spring of 80, and I stay at Wesleyan after graduating, and play again.

David Neech Garfield: you're... it's earlier than that. We played together. It was in 7... we played together in 79. I know.

Steve Mooney: I already...

Chris Heye: 29.

Steve Mooney: Started Spring 79, Summer Berkeley, back to Wesleyan for soccer, and then spring... Wesleyan Ultimate, and then Fall of 81, I played again. Before I moved to Boston in the winter of 81.

Nick Donohue: So that was after I graduated.

Steve Mooney: winter vacation.

Chris Heye: No, no, no, no, no, no, you played Fall of 80.

Steve Mooney: That's it, sorry.

Chris Heye: That's when we beat the Dukes, and then that spring, the spring of 80, both Nick and I were gone.

Steve Mooney: I went to...

Chris Heye: I was at Harvard, and so you and Danny ran the team in the spring.

Nick Donohue: The spring of 80, you're saying?

Chris Heye: Spring of 80.

Nick Donohue: Right, I'm in New York playing...

Chris Heye: And I was in... I was in Boston, so I remember actually coming down with Harvard, playing with Harvard against Wesleyan.

Nick Donohue: That's good.

Chris Heye: But then the fall of 80, fall of 80 is when we were good, because Steve was... because Steve had gone away that summer, came back, and he was... he could throw. Looks like that.

Bill Ritchie: Is there... is there a single semester that anybody remembers as being, like, the peak, the pinnacle?

Chris Heye: elevating.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, I think we were bad. We won...

Chris Heye: Steve was... Steve could... again, Steve learned how to throw by then, and Steve was good. Yeah. And so we had, you know, me, Nick, Steve, Danny... Greg Barrage was good.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, he was... Definitely.

Chris Heye: He, yeah, he was there. He might have been... he was a sophomore, I want to say.

Steve Mooney: But either, might have been a freshman.

Chris Heye: That would have been, jesse would have been a freshman, yeah.

Steve Mooney: Yep.

Chris Heye: a good team. Definitely, and then we had those, those, Steve, that's Steve Cohen. I'm like, Steve.

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Chris Heye: good. So he played, he had played...

Steve Mooney: gone at that point? I was just gonna...

David Neech Garfield: gone. I was gone.

Chris Heye: But that one, I'd say, that fall of 80 was the best. probably easily the best team we had when I was at Wesleyan.

Nick Donohue: Right.

Steve Mooney: And then again...

Chris Heye: And Nick was... I mean, Nick was like a star, because he had been... he had been playing with the heifers. So you had, you'd played some real tournaments.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, no, I also want to say, I have this, like I said before, I have this idea that I left, and you came, and then I'm like, who is this guy? But I think it was that I was there, you came, and I was like, who is this guy? Because you made us... this is the reason we got a lot better, is that... Because I was... I was trying to do stuff, but when you came, it was like... There were... it was just better that you were there, because you could also play.

David Neech Garfield: Because Nick...

Chris Heye: thrill. I learned, I, I, you know, I was... I played Ultimate.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, as well, you can play D, you're athletic.

David Neech Garfield: Well, and he played barefoot.

Nick Donohue: feet.

David Neech Garfield: He played perfectly.

Chris Heye: Yeah, I play different. But that's when, you know, and Bill, and then, And then what I remember is... Spring... you knew you were in spring of 78, you, you, you said you were going to be gone in the fall, and I remember talking to... it might have been Bill, or I remember it was, you know who it was? It was, god, who was the guy who was really fast on our team?

Nick Donohue: Dave Flynn?

Chris Heye: Flynn, yeah.

Nick Donohue: No, he was a year ahead of us.

Chris Heye: Correct, but I remember talking 78, we're trying to figure out, because you've been, you've been captain. My freshman year, so we're trying to figure out, you're gonna be gone, so he's gonna be captain? And I said, I would do. I remember talking to Flynn, and Flynn said, Christian, can you, you know, take the reins? I said, sure.

Nick Donohue: Good job.

Steve Mooney: Let me clarify one thing. Neech, when he played with us, we've failed to give Chris and Neech credit for repeating over and over again He's a phenomenal scorer, and then sending Neech deep, throwing it to him, and having Neech catch it over and over.

Chris Heye: time.

Steve Mooney: Over.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, overnight. And Bill, you have this in the history as me and Chris doing this, but the Chris-Neech combo, where it really...

Steve Mooney: Unstoppable.

Nick Donohue: One of its own.

Steve Mooney: Chris To Neech was... was unstoppable, and.

Nick Donohue: Normal score.

Steve Mooney: Anish, how do you remember that?

David Neech Garfield: I remember we used to throw all the time. Right. I mean, outside, I mean, so we just had a chemistry, and he would just... I'd look at him, and he would just throw it to a spot, and I would just sprint down there. We just had a nice chemistry.

Nick Donohue: We should've named the team after you. Oh!

David Neech Garfield: Yeah.

Nick Donohue: What do you know?

Chris Heye: Now, Neech and I would throw... Neech just was, like, as obsessed. I just remember he was one of... Neech and Nick, obviously, too, but... was, you know, when I saw Neech ran into Neech on campus, like me, like, I would just walk on campus with a disc. Yeah. Just had it with me, just in case. I just remember, you know, Neech always like, let's throw, let's throw, and then we would, you know, we would throw, we would run, so just, like, Neech, you go, you know, so we practice a lot, like, long throws.

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Chris Heye: And dive factor and all that, so we were... we were, like... and I think that's how Neech and I developed that chemistry, because I just was, all the time, just... just... I'm throwing as far as I can to Neech.

Steve Mooney: And I think it was... the beauty of it was... Everybody on our team knew it was gonna happen, and even everybody on the other team started to know it was gonna happen, and they still couldn't stop it.

Nick Donohue: Right.

Steve Mooney: There was just a determination, once Neech got a step on you, it was over.

Nick Donohue: Right.

Steve Mooney: And I think that is hard to repeat. You know, years and years of playing Ultimate, there aren't that many combinations that are that confident, where it's like, boom, go, throw, go. And that pairing is... is really, it's epic, really.

Bill Ritchie: the ability.

Nick Donohue: Kinda like members only.

Bill Ritchie: The ability to float it to a spot and have the guy run under it, it's... that's what.

Chris Heye: And that's kind of taught me how to do that, and so after a while, my goal was almost, like, to throw the disc out. And have it eventually... effectively stop.

Bill Ritchie: Right.

Chris Heye: Right? And so... so someone... so Cthora would go over everybody's head, and if Neech had a step on someone. the disc would be kind of waiting there for him. Yeah. I don't know if I really did that, but that's how I thought about it. Just throw it far so the defender has no chance at it, and just knowing that, you know, the defender's not gonna... as long as I throw it... far enough. Each is the only one who's possibly gonna get...

Steve Mooney: Hence, the Nietzsche Factor.

Nick Donohue: speech factor.

Steve Mooney: And the other thing we gotta bring into this is that it's Neech. who suggested we go to Mars, Pennsylvania.

Nick Donohue: Really?

Steve Mooney: Mars, Pennsylvania is the beginning of the Rude Boys. Right. So, we're in Boston, Neech's in Boston, and...

Nick Donohue: What year?

Steve Mooney: Guido.

Chris Heye: 81.

Steve Mooney: 81. Guido is Williams, and he's on, he's on Aerodisc, Neech's on Aerodisc, I'm on Aerodisc, and Neech goes, you know, there's this tournament. in Mars, Pennsylvania, over July 4th weekend, and we should go as a different team. So we kind of don't tell the Aerodisc that we're abdicating. So we abdicate, and we get about 10 or 11 people, but maybe it was more.

Chris Heye: Wasn't that many, I don't think. I wasn't there, but it wasn't that many.

Steve Mooney: It wasn't that many, and and it's really hot, and we're wearing black shirts. And we're ripping sleeves off because we decided that was cool. And the Rude Boys were born, because Neech lived in Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh, and he knew about the tournament. And Neech, how do you remember it?

David Neech Garfield: Well, we went 2 years, right, before the pool incident, when we were no longer... permitted to go, right? First year wasn't the pool, the second one was the co-ed team, right?

Chris Heye: 82... I was there 82 and 83. That's what I remember. The 83 was the pool incident. I think we went twice.

Steve Mooney: Two or three times.

Chris Heye: You guys went 3 times, so it would have been...

Nick Donohue: I have a shirt from 80.

Steve Mooney: Let me just... I wanna... I wanna stay on... Neech, you're right.

Chris Heye: I know you've been with the heifers, which you might have.

Steve Mooney: Perfection.

Nick Donohue: Maybe you're right.

Steve Mooney: What's your recollection of year one in Mars?

David Neech Garfield: We stayed at my parents' house. Is that... but that's not the year Joey shot off the fireworks? No, that.

Chris Heye: 82 or 83?

David Neech Garfield: Yeah, because that's when DC... we had DC and... Boston staying. Moons, I don't remember 81 so much.

Steve Mooney: Alright, well...

David Neech Garfield: Sorry.

Chris Heye: There's a picture, Steve, there's a picture.



Steve Mooney: It's Knob, Joe Johnson, Tyler Bruce, myself, Paul Brenner, Neech.

Chris Heye: Kent, I think.

Steve Mooney: FGA, maybe?

Nick Donohue: I think I'm on that team also.

Steve Mooney: Yeah.

Chris Heye: Thank you, Arnie.

Nick Donohue: I think he wanted to...

Chris Heye: I think it's Kent and Joel, 81. I was in Cal... that's when I was in California playing with Frankston.

Nick Donohue: And it was super hot. It was just...

Steve Mooney: It was so hot.

Chris Heye: It's always hot there. Every year we went there, it was 90 and humid.

Steve Mooney: And and the only... I'm just gonna make one other connection, then we'll go back to Wesleyan. So Neech introduces us to Mars, we abdicate from Boston Aerodisc, who were the number two team in the country?

Nick Donohue: I think you're saying abandoned is the word.

Steve Mooney: Hold on. They had lost to... the borough at game point, okay? And so why are we abdicating from the second best team in the... in the... In the country. Well, because we aren't leading that team. So, we're gonna create this other team. And then, by meeting Guido and pairing with him, that started the Wesleyan Williams April Fool's tradition. Right. For a long time. And what's important about WESwill, which is the name of the team, Wesleyan Williams, is how many Wesleyan players played on it. So, as we look at the History Project. Generationally, it's the team that carries, you know, a good 15 years of ultimate players coming out of Wesleyan and Williams, and I think that's probably a good thing for us just to capture.

Nick Donohue: I'll need it.

David Neech Garfield: Maybe 20 moons, yeah.

Steve Mooney: Maybe, maybe.

Bill Ritchie: Can you elaborate on that?

Steve Mooney: So we start going to April Fool's as a Wesleyan Williams team, and call it We Swill, and we win it a couple, three times, but maybe it was only twice. We're always competitive. We've not played a single point prior to that tournament. It's at... it's in... it's on the mall one year, it's at Bull Run, and then it's.

Nick Donohue: NASA fear.

Bill Ritchie: This is a club team?

Steve Mooney: This is just a one-off team. One day, one weekend. Yeah, and...

Chris Heye: Yes, Club.

Steve Mooney: Yeah.

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Steve Mooney: And we're playing, you know, great teams, and beating them. And and we, you know, how much of this makes our project, who knows? Strategy was born there.

Nick Donohue: Right?

Steve Mooney: Risk to Nietzsche. Strategy, very simple. They're gonna pull to us Chris is gonna hook it to somebody, probably Neech. He might catch it, but it's okay if he doesn't. Then we're gonna set the zone. they're gonna turn it over, and we're gonna score 5 yards out. And we would do that You know, game after game after game.

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Steve Mooney: It worked! And so...

Nick Donohue: On wind, yeah.

Chris Heye: Yeah, downwind, we do it downwind and play zone, so the other team I just... I just have one memory that just... a vivid memory of this. We were playing, I think it was Fillmore? Remember that team, Fillmore, the I'm showing.

David Neech Garfield: Philly.

Chris Heye: So, they pulled... they pulled upwind to us. And they only got it, like. 3 quarters of the way up the field. Steve, you just ran up to the disc. And just threw it back to them. Listen, threw it out of the bed, like, didn't even, like... Steve, Steve was, like, the furthest person in the stack already up, and there was no one downfield. Steve just picked it up and hucked it, and you could tell that the other team was like.

Bill Ritchie: They were wrong.

Chris Heye: But Steve didn't even... didn't... there's no pretense that he was even throwing to anybody.

Bill Ritchie: That's incredible.

Nick Donohue: And I... so, and Bill, you can appreciate the WESwill name, right?

Bill Ritchie: Reese will?

Nick Donohue: WESwill.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah. It's like.

Nick Donohue: WEScrew. That was the Wesleyan rowing team logo.

Bill Ritchie: Right.

Nick Donohue: And then we say, we swill. And I will say, in... at 81, graduating... I have two... this is a... a minor point, but I have two job offers. I have one in New York. and one in Boston for teaching. And Steve is, like, come to Boston. we will... Form a good team. And that was an easy choice, but it was like... and it's what's so great about that... oh, am I still here?

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, you're still...

Nick Donohue: Okay, my computer's fucking up, but what was so great about that, in hindsight, is that my daughter, Dorothy... has organized her... well, until she blew out her ACL, I don't know who knows that, but she's having surgery next Friday. Yeah. But she is like, Dad, I just want to play Ultimate. I want to go to Boston and be with Bruce Squad. And it was funny being the parent who I'm like, I'm all for it. Like, go follow your ultimate... you know, follow your... make your... make your pre-career ultimate. And that was a big moment. And Moons, I remember going and seeing like, seeing Hunter... What was his last name?

Chris Heye: Awesome.

Steve Mooney: So...

Chris Heye: Great picture.

Steve Mooney: I don't remember... I don't remember Hunter's last name, but...

Nick Donohue: Anyway, he goes, we're there in the summer, playing pickup, and he's like, hey, I hear you, you know, you guys are coming to play with Aerodisc. Right. And I remember the awkward moment of... Not so much. It's a great... this is a classic picture.

Steve Mooney: Left to right, Guido, Adams, Wesleyan.

Nick Donohue: FJ.

Steve Mooney: J.

Nick Donohue: Nob.

Steve Mooney: knob, Robert Rao, who's probably done more to expand Ultimate in the world than any other single human. Behind him is Kent myself, Bruce is Joe Johnson's brother, so that's Bruce Johnson, Joel Perry, Nick Donahue. I don't know how we ended up with Paul Branner. He went to Cornell. Must have been Joe J that brought him, and Joe J's down low. So that's year one. And Neech, were you not there year one? You had...

David Neech Garfield: Maybe I wasn't.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, that's like...

Chris Heye: That would have been right after Wesleyan graduation. But what... do you remember what you did the summer after graduating Wesleyan?

David Neech Garfield: Whoa... No.

Chris Heye: Were you in DC... did you go to... you must have been in DC, maybe.

David Neech Garfield: Well, remember, I tried to get into Northeastern Law School when I was playing with their.

Chris Heye: Yes.

David Neech Garfield: And I didn't get in, so I went to D.C. in, yeah, the summer of 81.

Chris Heye: Yeah, so maybe...

David Neech Garfield: Yeah, so maybe I wasn't there in 81. At, at, at, Mars.

Chris Heye: But it might have still been your idea to go.

David Neech Garfield: Yeah, it might have been my idea, but I don't... yeah, because that's what I was saying I don't remember being there in 81. So...

Bill Ritchie: I want to turn the conversation back a little bit to leadership and training, and... and focus and stuff. Did you guys go through and do, like, training drills? Did you have strategies? Did you... Like, Nick, were you the one leading all of this?

Nick Donohue: Well, that's the... when I was there, before Chris, in 76, Yes, we... definitely... Did too much running. I remember... this is old stories. I don't know, Chris, if this was the next year or not, but remember, we had a co-ed team. That woman, Mary?

Chris Heye: Well, that was, that was.

David Neech Garfield: Mary Freeman.

Chris Heye: Mary Freeman... That would have been fall of 80, probably, Nick.

Nick Donohue: Oh, really? Alright, so that was fast.

Bill Ritchie: What's her last name?

Chris Heye: Mary Freeman. She was very good.

Nick Donohue: She was very good, but I remember her crying and saying, why do we have to do these things?

Chris Heye: Yeah, you and Steve made her cry.

Nick Donohue: That was bad. Okay, so in the first year, I was sort of, you know, I was just with Spike and company and you guys, not... I don't think I was asserting myself as a captain, but I think maybe in the fall of 76... the spring of 77, I still don't think... I think it was still Spike, and you got it.

Chris Heye: Yeah, Spike, when I was there, yes, fall of 77, Spike was the captain, you were the best player.

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Chris Heye: But Spike...

Nick Donohue: 77.

Chris Heye: 77.

Nick Donohue: And then I think I tried to usurp, or it just sort of... maybe it was later, when I came back.

Chris Heye: I think it was more... I think it was... let's see, fall... so it was spring, I think, then spring of 78, I mean, again, you were clearly the best player, so... and Spike graduated 78, right? He was... he was graduated 78.

Robert Bischoff: Yeah.

Chris Heye: Bill, and you grad... Bill, you graduated 78?

Bill Ritchie: I graduated in the spring of 78, yeah.

Chris Heye: That's right.

Nick Donohue: Not a proud moment, but I'm not captain, but I'm doing plenty of talking and telling people what to do, because I think I'm doing... helping everybody. But I have memories of it being slightly overbearing, and John Dione, at one point. when I'm saying we're going to do this and this, and so we did have practice, because we... some of them jocks, I mean.

Chris Heye: Yeah, we practice.

Nick Donohue: So we would do wind sprints, and we'd do throws, we didn't really know what we were doing, but I remember John going, because this is proof about the captain thing, and I don't know when it was, but he goes. We're having some moment where I'm like, we're all gonna go on a team run now, or something. And he's like, who said you were in charge? And I go, I'm like, me, or something. You know, like, it was this moment of... or I think I looked around, and nobody, you know, disputed, but it was very sloppy.

Chris Heye: Spike was very low-key.

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Chris Heye: It's very, you know, that's the kind of old school, like, we're not... this is not a competitive sport.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, yeah, yeah, we're having fun.

Chris Heye: Nick? Wonderful.

Bill Ritchie: constraints.

Chris Heye: I had to tweak that a little bit.

Nick Donohue: I'll take her a little bit, right?

Bill Ritchie: I remember doing a lot of yelling, but I didn't have any strategy, so it was just like, go long, go long, get on him!

Nick Donohue: I think we knew... it was... you know what it was? It was a terrible event of, like. The better players get to spend all the time they need to get open. So, clogging is like a thing. And then you look, you know, you look downfield, and who's there, and then you look, and you... Throw it to somebody else you think can throw. Because there are people who didn't really couldn't throw. I mean, it was very... It was not a... it was not planful. I don't remember it being that planful.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah.

Chris Heye: It also... it was... there was... there were large discrepancies, right? Because... because, you know, my... when we're 77, You know, beyond me and Nick, I don't remember anybody else having a really good forehand.

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Chris Heye: Exactly.

Nick Donohue: There was no.

Chris Heye: And there was the joke, I was in each, just make sure you catch it in the end zone.

Nick Donohue: Yeah. Right, because... and so this is testimony...

Chris Heye: Otherwise, you're gonna have to throw it.

David Neech Garfield: I'll throw it away.

Nick Donohue: And then you...

Chris Heye: Literally within, like, 6 inches of you.

Bill Ritchie: By the way, you can throw a backhand pretty far, too.

Nick Donohue: Bill Ritchie's Great backhand.

Chris Heye: So Bill had... but Bill had... Bill had the beautiful back... Bill had the nicest back hand, I think. Bill had a beautiful back hand.

Bill Ritchie: If only I developed my.

Chris Heye: Nice polls.

Nick Donohue: You didn't need to...

Chris Heye: I know I spoke.

Nick Donohue: You made it all happen. We're right here, today, because of that.

Chris Heye: But I think, Nick, you're right, there was a big... there was a big discrepancy, And, you know, and again, Spike's... Spike's approach was not one of... it wasn't like, we're playing "We should, we should really try to win." Right. Excellent.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, you... but...

Chris Heye: playing, and that's gonna be fun. We'll try hard, and we don't really care.

Nick Donohue: And he was excited.

Steve Mooney: We also had, we also had Janet Crenshaw. Have we mentioned her in this conversation?

Chris Heye: She's a little later, but yeah.

Steve Mooney: She was there when I was there, so whenever... whenever that was, so we're both married...

Chris Heye: I remember Mary79, for sure. I'm positive of that, because I had no relationship with her, which we won't talk about now.

Bill Ritchie: Talk about that relationship.

Chris Heye: No, we don't talk about that relationship, yeah.

Nick Donohue: Okay, good to know. She's a sweetheart, she's a sweetheart.

Steve Mooney: I do...

Chris Heye: Very nice woman.

Steve Mooney: I do remember, I feel like we ran... Okay. Those runs where you circle the field. The last guy runs to the front, didn't we do those?

Nick Donohue: Indians, Indians.

Chris Heye: Indians, but those... I think that... I don't remember doing that until... I remember warming up would be, like, you just do a lot of throwing, run, like, dive factor, running around. And then you'd play.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, and I just.

Chris Heye: I think it was really... I think Steve really brought... I really associate... Steve, you the one who... the one who added structure to the, to the practices. I didn't.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, that could be true. I mean, I remember doing... doing the wind... the Indians on a track. Down the road. And...

Steve Mooney: I think... I think given four years of soccer, you come to a game that's the same game, throw to space and run, and you say, alright, we gotta get in shape. So, whether we were running sprints or, you know, going around the field running, Indians or whatever, I'm sure we did some... amount of that. And... I think the word I would use is competitive, as opposed to asshole. I think we were really competitive, and that hadn't been necessarily the culture Prior, so that is definitely something that We, you know, windowed the team down in numbers, which wasn't actually seen necessarily as a problem, until, of course, we ran out of gas and lost miserably, and then we're like, okay, this isn't... this is not the best way to form a team, but... We were very competitive, and Neech's competitive, Chris Heye is competitive, Nick is competitive, I'm competitive. So, that foursome, Jeff Williams is very competitive.

Nick Donohue: Right.

Steve Mooney: There were, all of a sudden, 4, 5, 6, 7...

Nick Donohue: Barrage.

Chris Heye: Mercy's competitive, he's a hockey player.

Steve Mooney: who want to win? And, you know, like, fun, win, can you do them both? you know, how do you balance the two? You know, and that's a... that's a lifelong battle.

David Neech Garfield: Well, let me just say, I remember that we did... I don't remember any structured drills or anything, but we would go out, and we would play pick... pickup, or, you know, but we would play as hard as po... I mean, we played really intensely, and we played all out, but I don't remember any... Any, you know, structured Do you... you know, Chris, do you remember anything?

Chris Heye: Yeah, that's... I think that that is exactly right.

Nick Donohue: Same later.

Chris Heye: you left fall of 79, and I think, you know, and I don't remember anything really much up till then. But it was fall of 80 when Steve came back. Steve was in great shape, and Steve had played soccer, so he's like, you know, like Steve said, here's some drills we do in

soccer. It's kind of the same thing, we're doing a lot of running. And, that's what... that's what I remember. So, really, fall of 80.

Nick Donohue: That's right.

David Neech Garfield: Moons, were you there? I thought you graduated in 80.

Steve Mooney: I did graduate, but I stayed that fall, and I worked on a photography portfolio.

David Neech Garfield: Okay.

Steve Mooney: Played on the team.

Nick Donohue: Smokin' weed.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, and then December 8th, the day that John Lennon was shot, I moved to Boston.

David Neech Garfield: Okay, okay. That's why I was confused, alright.

Bill Ritchie: Alright, so, Nick, you mentioned weed. You guys are not associated with excessive drinking, or smoking, or...

Nick Donohue: Yeah, no, there was too much to it. Like, early, you were there. There wasn't a lot of that, but later... well, I'm also confounding that with the Rude Boy thing, because I had a big... I was like a party spoiler. It really bothered me that people would get stoned. before playing... And I have that memory for the Rude Boys. I do not...

Chris Heye: for Wesleyan. I know.

Steve Mooney: I don't remember that. No?

Chris Heye: I don't think so.

Nick Donohue: Okay.

Chris Heye: I don't remember, Nick, it's possible, but...

Nick Donohue: I was smoking pot. But not... anyway, anyway, I don't...

Bill Ritchie: I remember one time, there was a Yale game at 9 o'clock on a Saturday, and I drank one or two Michelobs. And, man, my timing was off. It was like I was an inch under the thing every frickin' time. It did not suit me to be drunk.

Nick Donohue: Nicola for breakfast, nice.

Chris Heye: Yeah. Drinking and playing is hard. I used to smoke all the time. I convinced myself that I was better when I was stoned.

Nick Donohue: Yep, yep.

Chris Heye: I just smoked. Before every game, I got stoned. I'm bummed. I could probably pretty confidently say almost every game at Wesleyan I played, I was stoned.

David Neech Garfield: And I was right by.

Chris Heye: Send each, then, send each...

Nick Donohue: Okay, well...

Chris Heye: And Nick, I think you were, too, a lot. I think you were a lot.

Nick Donohue: I did, too.

David Neech Garfield: God, yeah.

Nick Donohue: I was... I... my... my... my ego competition juices... You know, part of this is also, like I said. you know, I was... you know, athletics was my biggest thing in high school. And then I come to Wesleyan, and I'm not the best in lacrosse. All of a sudden, I'm on the Ultimate Team, and so I channel this energy Which is good, and I kind of dramatized the bad part, but it was Steve Berlin who, at a party in Cambridge, introduced me as "This is Nick, the guy who ruined Ultimate for me." I'll never forget it. And I was like, Steve, I'm so sorry. He goes, no, no, no. You were trying to... you were doing something good, but it was a very interesting time. And I'm glad about the identity part of continuing to be an athlete, because when I asked In fact, at the 50th. I remembered being able to maintain an identity as being a superior athlete, even though, you know, in the broader world, I wasn't necessarily gonna play, like, pro sports, was a very important thing. It helped me my whole career.

Chris Heye: I remember, I think you had it about right. in terms of the balance. I mean, you're definitely... more competitive than Spike. And I... and I think that... I think... again, I think you struck a good balance.

Nick Donohue: I make it sound weird.

Chris Heye: You didn't scare that many people away, and your enthusiasm was infectious.

Bill Ritchie: Good, good.

Nick Donohue: I remember, did we ever...

David Neech Garfield: And positive.

Nick Donohue: Have you ever cut anybody?

Chris Heye: I don't think so.

Steve Mooney: I don't think so, I think they...

Chris Heye: There were some self-hacks.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, I think so.

David Neech Garfield: The munchkin?

Nick Donohue: Who was that?

Chris Heye: It was... Kind of natures. We don't have.

Steve Mooney: Have to name anybody.

Nick Donohue: Alright, alright, let's...

Bill Ritchie: Alright, so one thing about this is that I interviewed the team that came after you guys. After the 81 thing fell, and their new team had to come out of the ashes. And, who was it? Todd Maybrow...

Chris Heye: Yeah.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: did that, and what those guys said is that your team was... were hard asses, and Nick, you in particular, would drive people into the ground. But they all admired you, and admired your whole team for setting the tone of Doing the right thing, and being principled about it.

Nick Donohue: Good.

Bill Ritchie: And and that's... I think that's one of the main things about your team that has stayed with the Wesleyan team for... ever since. It's a combination of... Playing and having a lot of fun, but also doing the right thing and playing for the right reasons. And...

Nick Donohue: Good.

Bill Ritchie: Not every team does that.

Chris Heye: Nick, I can remember after some games where we lost, or got killed, and you and I would sit around, we'd be bummed for a while, and then we would just start laughing.

Nick Donohue: No, I didn't, I didn't.

Chris Heye: And I'd be like, Nick, remember to throw you through, like, 10 feet over Neech's head? And I would just start laughing, and then that would be.

Nick Donohue: No, no, I don't...

Chris Heye: I remember it.

Nick Donohue: I don't remember being sorrowful after losing.

Chris Heye: Right.

Nick Donohue: No, it doesn't. And I knew, I have sort of sharpened my... I was a little too much, but... I'm not... sorry about it. And no, I'm a good teammate, you know, I'm right.

Chris Heye: That's great, yeah.

Steve Mooney: I, I think that, the, you know, the competitiveness was there. Todd, Carson.

Nick Donohue: Right.

Steve Mooney: came in.

Chris Heye: That's it.

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Chris Heye: 50?

Steve Mooney: Jeffy, they were leaders that were gonna balance a little bit and be, you know, somewhere in between, which was helpful. And I think that, you know, the... the, you know, the competitiveness thing, you know, we also didn't have a lot of subs. It was a different... it was a different era. You didn't sub. You just played. Right, right. Whereas now, it's lines. O goes in, then D goes in. Back then, you basically played it like soccer. It's like you play and play and play, and.

Chris Heye: Right.

Steve Mooney: So that was a little different. The other thing that was... was unique, and not so much... a little bit still, we did... we did cheer. I feel like... Nick was always coming up with.

Nick Donohue: Right, we would cheer.

Steve Mooney: rhymes, and part of the spirit of feeling okay after a game is having a good cheer. I mean, that helps, sort of, lessen the angst. So I think that's important just to reference.

Nick Donohue: Yes, that's true. I remember when that started to evaporate.

Steve Mooney: Later, much later.

Nick Donohue: In the 80s, or, you know, just later.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, Chief.

Chris Heye: Yeah, that was later.

Steve Mooney: was important, and coming up with a good cheer, and a funny cheer, and, you know, using the other team's name, or our name, or, you know, something, and, you

know, not being overly negative with those cheers. I think we did a good job. Now, in terms of names, let's just do a quick thing there, because I'm just going to talk about one name, Nietzsche Factor. So, Neech goes to Africa. and says, I'm going to Africa, I'm gonna be there, I don't know whether you told us you were gonna be there a year, or whether you told us you were gonna be two years, but in my brain, it's like. He's never coming back. Nietzsche factor is gone. He's never coming back. we're gonna be the Nietzsche Factor. That, you know, so had he been to, you know, gone to Paris, we would have been like, well, he's coming back, so we can't call it the Nietzsche Factor. But because it was sort of this, incredible trip that was hard to get our arms around. And really, you know, produce the man that we are so proud of, because he's worked For, his entire career helping people, and now more than ever with immigration and all the things that are going on. And it all started on that trip, and so when you hear some of the stories from Neech not relevant to necessarily Wesleyan Ultimate, about what it was like that summer or that year, it's really pretty incredible. But, the name... the name was, prior to that was WES-U-Bee, And even before that, it was probably Wesleyan Ultimate. So, you all probably know more about name and how it sort of changed over those few years.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, let's talk about that before. So, it... in the spring of 78, we still were the Bees. And there's a lot of newspaper articles, I got them on the website.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, it says, WES-U-Bee.

Chris Heye: Where'd you be?

Bill Ritchie: the Bees.

Nick Donohue: The Bees, okay.

Bill Ritchie: So WES-U-Bee was something that came in in the fall of 78 or beyond.

Chris Heye: It's possible. I have... I don't have... I have a t-shirt, I have a WES-U-Bee t-shirt. That would have... yeah, could have been since fall of 78. For sure. We had t-shirts made at some point. This one is later, obviously, but we had a WES-U-Bee, it was, like, it was, like, yellow and red.

Nick Donohue: No, that was the famous Fred. Fred.

Chris Heye: No, Fred's... Fred was later. Fred was the first Neech... that was the Nietzsche first... This might have been the first Nietzsche Factor t-shirt.



Nick Donohue: I think it was, but we, before Nietzsche Factor, I think in WES-U-Bee, somebody... Made a t-shirt.

Chris Heye: Fred did.

Nick Donohue: A red and black checkerboard.

David Neech Garfield: Yep.

Nick Donohue: surrounding.

Chris Heye: And we had... we had the little... and we, we vetoed it.

Nick Donohue: Well, no, he... he... no, this is... my memory is he's like, I'm making sure it's great, he shows us the design, and I'm... at least me, I'm like... No, don't do that. That looks

stupid. Do this. And then he shows up, and he's got all the shirts. And we have this... we have this great exchange where I'm like... I'm like, what the fuck? We said we didn't want that shirt. How do you figure that you're making this thing after we tell you not to do it?

Chris Heye: Right.

Nick Donohue: And he goes.

Steve Mooney: I do remember that.

Nick Donohue: for this. He goes, if you're asking me, if someone commissioned me to make a piece of art, and it... without trees, would I make it with trees? I might. And I'm like, I'm looking up and I go, okay, well, I know you're never making another t-shirt, so thank you very much.

Chris Heye: But I think... I think the first Nietzsche Factor was... was that fall of 80?

Nick Donohue: Sure.

Chris Heye: Because I don't think it would have been fall of 79.

Steve Mooney: I think you're right.

Chris Heye: I think up.

Steve Mooney: I played... I played well.

Nick Donohue: You're probably right.

Steve Mooney: I played WES-U-Bee one year, and then Nietzsche Factor one year, and I remember the frickin' moment, and the shirt, and I remember Nietzsche Fact.

Chris Heye: I think that was fall of 80. I think it was like, okay, now we gotta...

Nick Donohue: ugly.

Chris Heye: now we gotta, you know, up our game, we've got a real team. It had a little... put on that.

Steve Mooney: You've seen it. I mean, Danny Harr has, like, it's...

Chris Heye: Danny, Danny must have it.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, yeah.

Chris Heye: And I have a, I have a, so this, the t-shirt that I just showed, I have a friend who is a, who was at UMass, who is an artist, and we commissioned him to do this t-shirt.

Nick Donohue: Oh, really? Wow. Cool.

Chris Heye: Yeah, Steve Lafler, here's the, you know, this is the back of it, let me show this again, and this is the back. But I think this was... I think it was fall of 80.

David Neech Garfield: I think it was spring of 80.

Chris Heye: I wasn't around, though. That's... that's...

Bill Ritchie: Oh, yeah.

Nick Donohue: Nice! Wow.



Chris Heye: That's the back. That's the back.

Steve Mooney: I didn't play.

Chris Heye: These were... he did the comic strip for the UMass newspaper. And these... this is Banana Man and Paleface. This... this guy's name's Paleface.

Bill Ritchie: Oh, alright.

Chris Heye: for characters. These... these are characters, and this guy's still around, I actually may see him in a couple weeks, he lives in Berkeley. And I'm sure he was... I'm guessing there's a reasonable chance he was tripping when he designed this. And he's just sort of, like... I don't know if you guys remember, like, R. Crumb?

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, oh, definitely.

Chris Heye: See, this is... that's, like, our premise is hero, basically.

Steve Mooney: I'm reading Genesis by R. Crumb as we speak. Are you familiar with that?

Chris Heye: Nice. No. But I used to read that stuff in high school.

Steve Mooney: It's pretty wild.

Chris Heye: And I had posters that are grump posters in my... anyway. But that... that's a good question. So my... my nearest memory is Neech... I know we were Nietzsche Factor in fall of 80. I don't know if we would... I don't know if it was prior to that.

Steve Mooney: I think it was fall of 80, because I think the two years, I played WES-U-Bee one year, and I played Nietzsche Factor one year.

Chris Heye: Yeah, so it's, I think, spring... spring of 79 when you played. I think we were still WES-U-Bee. I'm sure we were.

Steve Mooney: Yeah.

Chris Heye: I think... I think we had to wait till Neech left, because I think... and actually, I think Nick... I give Nick the most credit for the name, because Nick was always, like, Chris Factor, Nick Factor...

Nick Donohue: Oh, there you go.

Chris Heye: There was, like, the suffix on a lot of people's names. Like, Nick used to call me Chris Factor a lot, I remember that.

Nick Donohue: That's right, and I called my friends Becky, yeah.

David Neech Garfield: It was Moons. Moons used to call me. He used to play, like, 10 yards beyond me, so I wouldn't run past him, and that distance, he called the niche factor. Do you remember that?

Chris Heye: Oh, interesting.

David Neech Garfield: It was moons.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, baby.

David Neech Garfield: Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: Learn something every day.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, baby. One other sidebar, just so that we have it for the record, and you can cut it if you need to. While this might not have happened while we were at Wesleyan, by the time we got to WESwill, we had one other strategy that worked for us, and it was called...

David Neech Garfield: Shrooms.

Steve Mooney: the chemical advantage. Right. So, not only did we play strategy. And have teams wonder why we had thrown the disc back to them when they pulled it to us. But we were tripping. And that meant that the games had a whole different level. There were times when we would huddle, and somebody would finally say, is anybody gonna talk? We're just silent.

Nick Donohue: Where is this? Where is this?

Steve Mooney: This was Fool's...

Chris Heye: tools.

Steve Mooney: and Purple Valley.

Nick Donohue: Oh, yeah, I remember, I remember those. Those are the best.

Steve Mooney: Second thing, that... there are many memories, but the second one is. They're lined up, so we... we have to play. So, the Chemical Advantage, while it wasn't Wesleyan, so we can't... it was WESwill, and it was the Rude Boys, and this past weekend. Benji, at the alumni game, reminded us, as we were setting up to play strategies, like. We did have one other advantage, and everybody said, what? I said, the chemical advantage.

Nick Donohue: Medical advantage.

Steve Mooney: Playing the chord.

Nick Donohue: Alright, this is my favorite picture, my favorite alternate picture.

Chris Heye: That's a great picture. That's such a great picture.

Nick Donohue: girlfriend Beth Soloway. Taking this...

Chris Heye: Best of all.

Nick Donohue: question. Beth Soloway, yeah, she was great.

Chris Heye: remember her. When was that, Nick? Just so... do you know what year that was?

Nick Donohue: It was like, we were playing somewhere else. Look at the 12-pack, though, come on.

Steve Mooney: No.

Chris Heye: Give it a six-pack.

Nick Donohue: Exactly.

Chris Heye: Or is that just... is that just the photo? It's just imperfections in the photo, maybe?



the wobbly thing.

Steve Mooney: It is a great picture, though.

Chris Heye: Great picture.

Bill Ritchie: How about one more topic? Alumni games. So, it... I'm... you know, I've just surfaced and starting to understand all this stuff, but you guys played alumni games faithfully for all... through the years, and it was like... seems like it was a really thing that cemented The current teams with the... alums over the years. Were you guys, like, instrumental in making.

Nick Donohue: Yeah, we were there. I think it was 5 years, wasn't the first one? Or a week before that?

Chris Heye: Sounds about right, yeah. I remember especially in the 90s, because then the 90s... there were some good western teams in the 90s with, like.

Steve Mooney: Rob Blyberg.

Chris Heye: Rob Blyberg and, Ezra. And, well, I guess...

Steve Mooney: Segoria.

Chris Heye: It is. Phineas de Gorja, so late 80s, early 90s, those guys were good.

Nick Donohue: But we won a lot earlier.

Chris Heye: a lot early on.

Nick Donohue: And that was another... talk about chemical advantage, it was don't lose to the current... to the students.

Steve Mooney: So the first year that we lost, because I saw that this year, I think is 1997.

Nick Donohue: Nice.

Steve Mooney: We went pretty far, I think, before losing. Somebody else could correct me.

Chris Heye: That sounds right.

Steve Mooney: And that was Blyberg's year, and they went to Nationals that year.

Nick Donohue: Oh, really? Wow.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, that was...

Chris Heye: Lightbark was good.

Steve Mooney: That was their first year of qualifying for nationals, and I think that might have been the first year we lost to them. So we played.

Chris Heye: And then we had that trophy, the Papst, the Papst trophy.

Steve Mooney: Still alive and well.

Nick Donohue: That trophy. That's so good.

Chris Heye: I think I had that in my attic for a little while. Nice. Pretty sure I did. Pretty sure I did. This would have been, like... Yeah, like, mid-90s, kind of.

Nick Donohue: But we were at some alumni game where that... was that just last year, where the Papst trophy made its appearance?

Steve Mooney: It's still alive. It was there this year.

Chris Heye: Let's the other thing.

Nick Donohue: It showed up in the 50th.

Chris Heye: I think it did.

Steve Mooney: The truth, the truth, which maybe we shouldn't admit, It's a new, old trophy.

Nick Donohue: I knew, I knew that. That got spoken, too.

Steve Mooney: We've lost the original Pabst trophy, but we found another.

Nick Donohue: I will share one memory from our game. where I was hobbling around, but you... somebody asked us to line up and say, when was the last time we did mushrooms? And I'd been in Nevada with Keith and Pat, teammates, and we got some, and we took a little bit. It wasn't a big deal. But I'm... so I'm like, shit, it was, like, a month ago, and so I try to get at the end of the line, and there are these 3 guys who keep going before me.

Bill Ritchie: And I'm like.

Nick Donohue: I'm like, yo, I was... it was a month ago, how long for you? And they're like, this morning. Which is great. I said, how's it going? It's going good. I was like, okay.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, well, in 2004, on Scooter's website, there's a picture of... after the alumni game, and it lists all the people who played by the year they graduated.

Nick Donohue: Kelly, wow. Great.

Bill Ritchie: And it's like a who's who of...

Chris Heye: Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: really incredible.

Steve Mooney: I do... I do want to cite one thing, the lineup. So we would line up by something, and then you'd cut... you'd say, right, that group plays...

Nick Donohue: Great, insight.

Steve Mooney: So line up by SAT score, line up by the last time you did mushrooms, line up by the last time you had sex, whatever those things are. So we did that. Jody's freshman year.

Nick Donohue: That'd be great.

Steve Mooney: To me this year. He's like, that changed my whole... what this sport was all about. We were sitting there, and the alums are having us line up by when the last time we had sex? He's a freshman! So, he was pretty psyched. He'd found the right sport.

Bill Ritchie: Good.

Nick Donohue: And he's done great for us. Wesleyan had a super... but there was a whole period of where weed was, like, the culture, right? Am I making that up? Bill?

Bill Ritchie: Wait, say again?

Nick Donohue: I'm saying, I've heard a little bit, as we're hanging out with people, that get, you know, the dirt factor in weed was very big for a while with the team overall. It was part of their identity, almost.

Bill Ritchie: Well, that's the sense I get. I mean, you read through the comments that people had in the questionnaire that they did for the 50th reunion?

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: And there's a lot of people talking about smoking weed, and... Do it get...

Nick Donohue: That's what I mean, yeah, it was more prominent than...

Steve Mooney: It's legal now, by the way.

Bill Ritchie: But this is, I mean, all through the 90s, it just seems like there were a lot. One of the articles that I wrote in April of 78 I said something about, "After the traditional passing of the bowl ceremony at mid-court"...

Chris Heye: Right.

Bill Ritchie: da-da-da. I don't remember... doing that, but, you know, there it is. It's... it's written down, so...

Nick Donohue: Well, there are a bunch of stuff. I mean, Dave Flynn, his whole house was like a weed mecca.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, I mean...

Chris Heye: Danny Hall, Bill Brown, remember Bill Brown?

Nick Donohue: Right.

Steve Mooney: But in fairness, Nick said... Nick said before, it's not like the entire team was smoking in our window.

Nick Donohue: No, no, no. And I was smoking plenty of weed all through that.

Chris Heye: You were, Nicholson, you were.

Nick Donohue: I begged to get a single so I could bring my bong to Wesleyan. That was my... That's part of why I decided I need to leave school, because I was wasting my time. Right. Which is okay.

Bill Ritchie: Say, okay.

Nick Donohue: Wasn't a waste of time, but... Good choices.

Bill Ritchie: Alright, well, what else you guys got?

Nick Donohue: Well, what do you wanna... what else you... what do you... you got anything else you wanna know? No?

Chris Heye: I'm trying to think if there are any other seminal moments that were missing from that period.

Nick Donohue: How about the pass that went all the way back upfield because of the wind? Didn't somebody...

Chris Heye: Oh, yeah, we had one game that I remember I pulled with the wind at Fauver Field, I threw it over the fence.

Nick Donohue: Right.

Chris Heye: If the wind was just... howling.

Steve Mooney: One important memory is a game against Williams on Fauver in the pouring cold rain. I mean, worst weather you could possibly imagine. And they still make the trip down to play us, and we ruin the field. I mean.

Nick Donohue: Right?

Chris Heye: Right.

Steve Mooney: And... So much so that the athletic director is like, that's it. Like, that's it. You know, they're not playing on that field anymore. And I think it really was kind of... I mean, I don't remember if we won or lost, it was very close, it was Guido and AJ. I remember a couple of our players got hypothermia, and they're like, I can't be here, and we'd look at them, their, you know, their face was white, and their lips were blue, and we'd send them packing. I mean, it was a terrible... and even more ridiculous is... We're just staying in the game, and so there are people that are on the team that aren't getting into the game in the worst weather possible.

Nick Donohue: We're just like...

Steve Mooney: They're gonna freeze to death, so...

Chris Heye: Oh, that might have been Fall of 80.

Steve Mooney: Yeah.

Chris Heye: I remember a rainy game, fall of 80. I just remember. Well, if you were playing Stevie, it would have had to be. Yeah.

Steve Mooney: Been fall of 80, or spring. But Guido was there, and AJ was there, so they graduate... Guido graduated when I.

Chris Heye: No, it was Fall of 80, because I remember once playing... Fall of 80... I thought it was fall of 8, it could have been spring of 81, playing against, Williams. Guido was gone, but AJ was still there. I'm pretty sure we played against him once where Guido was in Boston, but it was AJ who did one more year after Guido. I think.

Nick Donohue: So I have a memory of connecting with Williams, partly because a high school teammate of mine knew Guido. How do we... how do we think we got Williams to come to see us?

Steve Mooney: I got... well, Guido was Danny Lynch's best friend.

Nick Donohue: Oh, okay, that's good.

Steve Mooney: I grew up with him, and Danny was my roommate for 3 years.

Chris Heye: Might have been Spike, but... might have been Spike. I mean...

Steve Mooney: I think Guido was one of the captains, with...

Chris Heye: Yeah. Yeah.

Steve Mooney: with Bern Kelly.

Nick Donohue: Doesn't matter, yeah.

Chris Heye: But Spike may... Spike, I mean... It wasn't me, it wasn't Nick, I don't think. It definitely wasn't me.

Nick Donohue: Oh, I know, I had a connection, though. I had a good friend of...

Chris Heye: Maybe it wasn't you.

Nick Donohue: Maybe. Maybe it wasn't. I think it came after.

Steve Mooney: Another, another thing to say, Danny Harr, I know he's not on the call, and maybe, Chris, you're gonna remember. He remembers the... this... back then, the team got \$400 from the school for whatever, and now they get, you know, quite a bit more than that.

Chris Heye: I think that was until maybe senior year.

Nick Donohue: Yeah.

Steve Mooney: Money at all.

Nick Donohue: I remember getting sick.

Chris Heye: So, like, 1980, like, that last year. I think that's the only time we got money. And I think we spent it on beer, probably.

Nick Donohue: I was gonna say, it's better than.

Chris Heye: pegs.

Bill Ritchie: I remember getting a box of Frisbees. But I... And there was...

Chris Heye: Maybe that.

Bill Ritchie: Like, in 76, there was, they gave us 50 bucks.

Steve Mooney: There we go.

Bill Ritchie: That's on the website, I've got a posting of that.

Nick Donohue: Well, you get hot stamp rejects. You could send to Whamo.

Bill Ritchie: That's right.

Steve Mooney: We have 50 bucks, 400 bucks, I will bet.

Chris Heye: That's a great stat.

Steve Mooney: Tuition in 1976 is \$7,000. Now they get \$18,000 or \$19,000 from the school, and tuition is what?

Nick Donohue: 76. 78...

Steve Mooney: 6,000.

Nick Donohue: high school. That's my high school training.

Chris Heye: insane.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, so the money involved is through the roof, both in terms of attending and then But the teams are pretty well, pretty well supported at this point, and we can take

some credit. We have brought Michael Roth closer to those two teams recently. He's right... he wrote about them today in the same.

Chris Heye: Oh, nice.

Steve Mooney: write-up about women's and men's lacrosse advancing in the NCAA, Michael Roth today wrote, and Vishes advancing to nationals as defending champs. That's amazing.

Chris Heye: That is amazing.

Steve Mooney: Yeah, so good. So I think somebody went up to him recently and said. do you, you know, you know we're qualified for nationals. He says, yeah, I know. I have one of your discs in my office. And that was the disc we gave them... him on, April 1st, 2025, as we were getting ready for the alumni reunion.

Nick Donohue: Good job, Steve.

Yeah.