

Era 2 – Inclusion and Positivity

In the early 1980s, Nietzsche Factor, with the graduation of its legendary founding generation, faced the prospect of rebuilding an Ultimate Frisbee team composed primarily of players who never played with World Champion Ultimate players Steve Mooney, Nick Donahoe, and Chris Heye, among others. These early players of this new and growing sport had gone on to become the founding members of Boston's Rude Boys, one of the first National Champions of Ultimate Frisbee. Their legacy of excellence and fair play would become the DNA of the team from that time forward.

With the departure of its founding players, Todd Maybrown inherited the leadership mantle and began recruiting new players to the team, with a focus on inclusion and positivity. Everyone was welcome, and victories, no matter how small or how personal, were celebrated with the entire team. Under his stewardship, the team grew and prospered, with a continued commitment to Ultimate's guiding principle of "Spirit of the Game" above all else.

In those days, there was no distinction between Division 1 or Division 3 schools, in the NCAA sense of the terms. There were so few schools competing that everyone played against everyone else, even to the point that post-graduate club teams like the Rude Boys competed in the same tournaments as large Division 1 universities like UMASS and smaller Division 3 institutions like Wesleyan.

Despite its smaller pool of available players, Nietzsche Factor quickly thrived in this competitive environment, regularly finishing among the top teams in its New England region. The small university from Middletown, CT, consistently finished among the top four of five schools in the Northeast, and certainly far above expectations considering the size of its campus.

By 1988, under the leadership of Rob Bleiberg, Nietzsche Factor qualified for its first College National Champion tournament out of the Northeast Region. The team had grown its reputation to the point that high school Ultimate players were choosing Wesleyan based on the quality of its Ultimate team, and allowing a 2,600 student university to compete with the largest educational institutions in the country.