

Irv Kalb wasn't blazingly fast, but he was RAG's leader. (Richmond Avenue Gang). A 6 foot one fellow with the best disc skills going. He was also athletic and coordinated. He enjoyed Ultimate's athleticism and was attracted to it by its potential. He came to view the game much differently than the older generation of Columbia players. who, he felt, saw it primarily as a joke. Though Kalb respected Silver's vision, he felt disdain for Silver's approach to Frisbee.

My view of the sport was different than a lot of people's view of it, he said. For the first generation, this was a fun thing. It's a counter culture sport. It's the anti jock sport, that didn't fit with me at all. My view was that this was a real sport. that can be played competitively. It can be played athletically, and it has all the elements that are necessary to become a real competitive sport like football, basketball, and soccer. After steady improvement, the RAG, including Sullivan and Magret and McGarry, challenged the CHS VFS to a game on June 18, 1970. Late that summer night, the RAG lost 47- 28 but played with the varsity for the rest of the summer, earning their respect.

"They said we played well enough to take over their names", said Kalb, who, along with the others, opted to replace "squad" with "team". We officially became the CHS VFT after they left. Kalb was named Captain.

Socially, the team would play Ultimate, and then continue hanging out in the basement of various houses, playing bridge and Mahjong, and eating ice cream and pizza. By and large, they didn't smoke pot or do drugs.

That fall, in an effort to spread the sport, Larry Schindell and Evans and other RAG members sent the ultimate Frisbee rules to many other high schools in northern New Jersey. inviting them to form teams. Often, they used their connections with fellow Boy Scouts to spread the word. Milburn High School responded, and on the night of November 7, 1970, the first interscholastic game pitted Millburn against the more experienced Columbia varsity. In front of about 70 fans in the CHS parking lot, Columbia won 43 10, The game was covered by the evening news, and the publicity generated interest from students at other schools. who subsequently requested more copies of the rule.

Columbia would host other official games in the parking lot over the years. Columbia beat St. Joseph's of McCutcheon, New Jersey, 62 - 3, in 1973. But eventually, some schools would protest, forcing games to be held elsewhere.

They would come to Maplewood to play us, and we'd be, and we'd try to convince them to play in the parking lot against us, said Shalom, Eric, Simon, who graduated from Columbia in 1975. They would think we were completely nuts to even suggest it. Well, we were wondering what was wrong with this suggestion. Of course, they would absolutely refuse. And so then we'd go off in search of a field to play on. So I must have played hundreds and hundreds of times on a parking lot, but a dozen or so actual games we played were all on grass.

Shortly after the Millburn game, a showdown between the alums and the current Columbia team was set for Thanksgiving in the parking lot. In a newspaper story, Heinz openly taunts Kalb, "Despite some trouble in rounding up all our best from around the country, and getting back in shape. We will all be there. It would be a shame if Kalb and his boys did not show up. We taught them all they know, and we know what they can do. They are good, but we're better.

Paul Shindell countered, "Johnny Hines should know better by now. It'll be the students teaching their teachers tomorrow night."

The alumni, consisting mainly of the original Columbia team, jumped onto a 10 to 2 lead before holding off the youngsters 25 to 22. A year later, the Columbia Team beat the alums. The traditional Thanksgiving night game continues, always played on the original parking lot field.

The Interscholastic Columbia Millburn game, meanwhile, had spurred interest in ultimate from other schools, and more copies of the rules were needed. At that point, the third edition rolls were printed. And a joint copyright belonging to Silver, Kalb and Richard Denberg, a member of the class of 1970. Denberg's father owned a printing business in Newark called the Barton Press, and in exchange for doing the printing for free, His son's name was included. Silver's name was kept on. acknowledgment of his involvement in the first edition. Although that set was actually typed by Hellring. The initials "BH" were typed into the lower left corner. The new set of rules included some changes, the most lasting of which was the restriction of the side boundaries. Say that again. The new set of rules, including some changes, but most lasting of which was the restriction on the side boundaries. They also shortened the game to two 24 minute halves instead of a 60 minute game.

Over the next few months, kalb and his teammates were busy putting together a more formal Frisbee League. Columbia was joined in order. by Millburn, Mountain, which is West Orange, Nutley, and Dumont High Schools, in what became known as the New Jersey Frisbee Conference. NJFC. In the spring of 1971, the NJFC played a total of nine interscholastic games. The CHSVFT finished first, followed by Milburn, Mountain, Nutley and Dumont. In the late spring, Passaic Valley and West Essex Regional High School, also joined the league.

By the following year, Columbia had gone a perfect 19 with two NJFC championships. The team was rewarded with a plaque in an assembly at the high school in front of 500 exuberant

students. According to a history of Ultimate, written by the Shindell brothers. Robert Payne, the vice president of marketing for Wham-o, presented the plaque, 15 inches by 25, with a gold Frisbee and spaces for the names of the NJFC champions. Payne presented the plaque to Kalb with Larry Schindell as master of ceremonies.

Columbia would win 23 straight games before its first loss to East Brunswick in the fall of 1972, 16 - 15, in overtime. "The reason why nobody beat us was that it was our life," said Geoff West, a member of the class of 1972. "We literally played Frisbee 365 days a year."