

Interview with Al Jolley, including Bob Lacy, Bob Bischoff, Steve Mooney and Bill Ritchie

7/1/26

Cleaned Transcript

Bill Ritchie: Okay, I just put the recording on. I should explain this when Al gets on, but I'm gonna... I'll send out a transcript, and if anybody sees anything they don't like. Just let me know and I'll get rid of it. But this is great material for, putting Al to it and telling stories about background stuff, because it's just... we just get to talk about things, and We go, okay, here comes Al. Let me admit him. Two days ago, he did his first Zoom call. There we go.

alan C Jolley: Okay.

Bill Ritchie: You're a fast learner.

Bob Lacy: Whoa!

alan C Jolley: Yeah. Huh? Okay. Looking at all the faces up there.

Bill Ritchie: You know, you got names with them. Greetings.

alan C Jolley: Yeah. Bill Ritchie, Bob Bischoff, Steve Mooney, and Bob Lacy.

Bob Lacy: Yep.

alan C Jolley: Okay, I can't see myself this time. Is that correct?

Bob Lacy: You should be able to see yourself.

Bill Ritchie: We can see you.

Bob Lacy: Yeah.

alan C Jolley: Though yesterday, I could see myself also. It's not necessary, I know who I am, but, you know, I don't know if I have something wrong, that's all.

Bill Ritchie: I don't know, do you have... I... I haven't had that experience. Part of it is, you get two... there are a couple of different views. You can either have a view where we're all equal-sized on the thing. Or you can have a view where the speaker's Big, and everybody else is little.

alan C Jolley: Well, right now, all of your... the same size across the top of the screen.

Bill Ritchie: And no you, huh?

alan C Jolley: No me.

Bob Lacy: And I think there is a setting somewhere where you want to see yourself or not, but I don't remember where that setting is.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, I was there the other day, but it's a mystery now. Looks like somebody's in Maine here.

Bob Lacy: Yep.

alan C Jolley: Bob Lacy is in Maine.

Bob Lacy: And Steve is also.

alan C Jolley: And Steve, yeah, but I can see, the background here. Very Maine-like. Crows, yes.

Bill Ritchie: Well, you haven't officially met.

alan C Jolley: We haven't seen you.

Bob Lacy: Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: You haven't met Steve or Bob Bischoff, right?

alan C Jolley: No, I only knew Bob Lacy from Staples, but the other gentlemen are only names to me now, although I've seen information in the history book of Frisbee about, Steve.

Steve: Nice to meet you, and great to meet you both. And I've... I've seen your names as... founders, and Johnny Appleseeds, and thank you.

alan C Jolley: That's true. True.

Steve: Years ago, that resulted in... Amazing opportunities for the rest of us.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, God worked out a lot that we didn't know at the time, what was really being accomplished. through Staples, in our little motley group of 20 or 25 people. Yeah.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I don't have any recollection of us thinking that we were starting anything big or contributing to anything that was going to grow into something big. We just were not there to have fun, and...

alan C Jolley: Have fun, yeah.

Bob Lacy: Played the sport.

alan C Jolley: The problem is, we didn't have anybody to play against.

Bob Lacy: Oh, yeah.

alan C Jolley: except ourselves, you know, so it was really nice to finally get a real team like Columbia High School to come and play us, and that was a big turning point. But we didn't have anybody else after that, CISO. Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: All right, well, listen, what we're gonna do is sort of talk through a bunch of, you know, the topics, and talk... just... Capture the conversation.

alan C Jolley: By the way, I did dress up for this event today. Bob should recognize what I'm wearing.

Robert Bischoff: Oh,

Bob Lacy: It looks like...

alan C Jolley: Now, this is the original uniform I created in 1972 for us.

Bill Ritchie: You gotta stand up a little bit, we're not...

alan C Jolley: Or do I tilt it this way? I don't know.

Bob Lacy: I feel...

Bill Ritchie: Little more.

Bob Lacy: Or tilt it the other way. Yeah, that's perfect.

Robert Bischoff: Oh, yeah.

Bob Lacy: So you still have that shirt.

alan C Jolley: This is the original shirt, yeah, yeah. That was my shirt, yeah. I don't know if I can... Frisbee with the big S.

Bob Lacy: Yep.

alan C Jolley: Nice.

Steve: And did you... and did you say Dan Buckley was Staples? Was he Staples?

alan C Jolley: Oh, yes.

Bob Lacy: Yep.

alan C Jolley: Jan Buckley, Ed Davis, Ronnie Kaufman. They were all on our team.

Steve: Dan Buckley I know well, hadn't played against him until later, when he was in Connecticut playing for a team called the Dukes. and another team called the Tourists, and the tourists We love, because they always wore Hawaiian shirts.

alan C Jolley: Everybody has their uniform, yeah. Yeah, I know Dan played for a lot of other teams, and he played a lot after he graduated from UConn. So he was very active. I saw him... Well, the last time I saw Dan was we had a 35th reunion in 2009. And, Dan was there, and Ronnie Kaufman came in from Singapore, Annette Davis was there from Seattle or somewhere. Bob may remember some of those names.

Bob Lacy: Yep.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, yeah, yeah, so...

Bill Ritchie: Alright, well listen, can we get you to, how about if we start with talking about your... your timeline from... you went to school in Maplewood, New Jersey. Correct. And can you sort of start any Maplewood memories, and then sort of take it from there, and make sure you put a little emphasis on Wesleyan.

alan C Jolley: Of course. Well, my memories at Columbia High School was just as a student. There was no such thing as ultimate at that time. It all came... I graduated in 60. Columbia High School started playing frisbee around 68. So I was long gone. I had no contact with the high school. But my sister was there. My younger sister, Audrey. And she knew I just liked to throw frisbees around, and she was a good friend of, Larry Shindel, one of the organizers, promoters, of the Columbia team. So she, told me about this game, and said, you know, they've got some Wonderful. team sport using frisbee, so I said, well, if you can get me the rules, send me the rules. And she did. And, we got the rules, and I looked and said, hey, we could do this. And that's when I organized Well, it ended up around 20 of us, Bob? was in the class of 73, I think there were 3 or 4 in 73. Almost everybody else was the class of 74. So I went to friends that I had, from Boy Scouts. friends that I had in a church youth group. students I had at Staples, and then they would talk to other friends. And, we just gathered together, and we started to play the rules as we had them. We made some slight modifications for ourselves, because we didn't really... Know if there were... copyrighted. We modified them about no contact. You know, you have to let the person freely throw. You can't make physical contact with their throwing arm, and so on. So we just had a great time. Bob remembers we played 3 afternoons a week. Monday, Wednesday, Friday. And the only place we had to play was a, Well, it wasn't even grass. It was mostly stones and scrubby grass outside of a building. We had wonderful athletic fields. But, nobody would let us play on them. They were for the soccer team, the girls' field hockey team, and so on. One day, we went on the girls' field hockey team, if you remember, Bob. And, the girls drove us off with their sticks. They go back to where you are allowed to play, which was a crummy place. So, it was my contact through my sister, I got the rules, and I did go down and visit my family, and I think it was in a Thanksgiving then. I mean, I have.

Bill Ritchie: Can you be clear about... do you know what year it was? It must have been...

alan C Jolley: The rules?

Bill Ritchie: Well, when your sister got in touch with you, with the rules, yeah, that must have been 70 or 71.

alan C Jolley: I think it was 71. I think it must have been 71. And I think I went down, perhaps, in November of 71 to visit my folks, and I said, now I want to see the game being played by these people. And, every Thanksgiving weekend, they play on the original asphalt field at was the home of Ultimate Frisbee. And, I was just astonished to watch these guys and what they could do with the frisbee.

Bill Ritchie: This was Thanksgiving of 71?

alan C Jolley: That's my guess. I just remember I was there, and I would guess it was perhaps in 71. Because in 72, we formed our team. And we were busy then. So somewhere prior to that, I had visited, I had spied out Columbia, I saw how they played, I saw some incredibly different type of throws that they had over their head. We gave it the name of Jersey Throw, and then some of us, not me, but others, would figure out how to do that. So we... that was our contact with the Columbia team. I don't think I ever talked to anybody there. They were just busy playing, and I was observing, and I came back more enthused than ever, and told the kids, we just have to get going here and play this game. You know, and then we just ran from there.

Bill Ritchie: So, at that point, you hadn't met Larry Shindel or any of.

alan C Jolley: No, I never met... I never met them until the 50th anniversary of Frisbee at Columbia High School. And I'm not sure Larry came to the... to the game at Staples. I don't remember him being there. I'm not sure he was a big player, he was an organizer, he and his brother. But I simply had snail mail communication with Larry to set up the meeting.

Bill Ritchie: What letters, you mean?

alan C Jolley: Letters, yeah. Yeah, there's no internet, we had no phone communication, we just had to send letters back and forth, set the date, here's the instructions, here's the time, you know, and then the Columbia team came. But I don't think Larry was with them. But.

Bill Ritchie: But now the Columbia team came... when was it, like, April of 72? Is that... something like that?

alan C Jolley: April of 73.

Bill Ritchie: 73.

alan C Jolley: April 14, 1973, was the game with Columbia. Yep. The week prior to that, we would... we had played Westin High School, a neighboring.

Bob Lacy: community.

alan C Jolley: had a bunch of kids who didn't play really well. We wiped them out. That was our only neighborly school that had any sort of a group of people playing frisbee. So we played against Weston. Did you get the email I sent you, Rick, Bill, about the timeline?

Bill Ritchie: I... Privately, yeah.

alan C Jolley: You sent me a timeline, I gave you some new notes about timeline, because I really researched more out the timeline.

Bill Ritchie: Okay, maybe I didn't pick up on that yet.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, well, we played against Weston High School. We soundly beat them, but we were very good about getting media coverage. And we always went to the Staples High School paper and our local town paper, the Westport News. And they always knew, about us, and they would always send a person to cover the game, and then write articles, and produce photographs, and they were really good about that. So when that game happened against Weston, it hit Westport News. And pictures of us, intercollegiate game, played Staples beats Weston. The next week, is when... the game is with Columbia High School.

Bill Ritchie: Right.

alan C Jolley: the next week. So Columbia came. We've certainly had the local newspaper there, and our school newspaper. A lot of media coverage. was posted? N... The Westport News, Connecticut News, and Norwalk News, a neighboring town. articles about the Columbia game, Staples against Columbia High School, We win. We claim... That we're now national champions.

Robert Bischoff: And you used the name Wreckers. Was that the name, or you just made it up on the spot for that event?

alan C Jolley: No. All Staples teams are called the Wreckers. Football, Wreckers, basketball, Wreckers, and then they attributed it, since we're now Staples, they called us Wreckers in some article like that. Yeah. So... between the game with Weston and the upcoming game with Columbia. A lady in Westport, long-time resident, is a journalist, Patrick McCormick. who wrote articles for local papers, and also, UPI. United Press International. She saw the articles in the local papers, and she wrote a piece about Staples playing this new game, Ultimate Frisbee. She more or less went over the rules, she made some snide comments about the future of Ultima and whatever, but she posted this stuff. After the game, we had with Columbia, and it went on UPI, Out there, you know, wherever.

Bill Ritchie: Do you have any record of that?

alan C Jolley: I have the article that she wrote.

Bill Ritchie: Okay, great.

alan C Jolley: I have the article that she wrote, yeah. And that was it. It was after the game with Columbia, so we're at the end of April now. The next big event in the timeline is, now there's all this press with UPI stuff about this game. a man named James Driscoll now, a national observer reporter in Washington, obviously must have become aware of this event. And got interested in it. And he contacted Staples High School, then, to come and see this game, Ultimate, being played, and he would like to write an article about it. So then in May 12th. Mr. Driscoll was there. We played a game in front of him. Bob was there playing, I'm sure. Bob Case damaged his ankle in that game, among other things. And Mr. Driscoll then wrote this full-page article posted in the National Observer. And from there, we know what the history is of what then happened, thanks to the chat analysis of, you know, the implications of that particular article. So those were the timelines. It was, Small media, local media, bigger media, thanks to Ms. McCormick on UPI, and then Mr. Driscoll. And that... that did it. I got letters from, some colleges in the South, in Atlanta or somewhere, asking for rules. Columbia High School got requests, you know, please send us the rules. And I think As we learned, all of a sudden, Ultimate was known far... beyond New Jersey, In Connecticut.

Bob Lacy: And before that, there were already, all over the country, a lot of people throwing frisbees around.

alan C Jolley: Frisbee's... I think there was a...

Bob Lacy: Ready audience for... Yeah.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, just like all of us, we always like playing with frisbees. That's what my sister said, you like throwing frisbees, but here's a game. I said, oh, that's interesting. You know, so, so the Frisbees were there, all they needed was Rules, and some awareness of, The presence of the game.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, no, that all happened. Do you have any... do you know what, sort of, the evidence would be? for how the game picked up and spread from there? Are there... number of teams that form. What... if we wanted to investigate Sort of what the trajectory was.

alan C Jolley: I don't know who may have records. I don't know if Columbia kept records of contacts. I have.

Bob Lacy: Hmm.

alan C Jolley: I do... I did see one letter I got from somewhere, university in Georgia or North Carolina. Said they were interested in getting the rules to use in their, college program, or whatever. So I sent them the rules, or told them they can get them from Columbia, and I may have gotten some other inquiry that came to me, but my guess is most inquiries went to the creators of the game. And, it was Columbia. Did they keep track of that? I hope. That would have been good for their own personal history.

Bob Lacy: And we know some of the Staples players who went on and formed teams elsewhere, you know, UConn and elsewhere. And probably the same thing happened with Maplewood, with Columbia High School.

alan C Jolley: Oh, yeah.

Bob Lacy: Because their players probably formed college teams when they went on.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, the next team formed was Princeton. They're one of their great players went to Princeton, Princeton is listed second, Columbia is first, Princeton's the second team, Staples is the third team in the history book, and then Rutgers. So they had people going to universities in Connecticut that formed teams, and then, just like us. as more of their graduates left Columbia, they were all going to start teams elsewhere. So there are, like, 29 or 27 people who were listed as Johnny Appleseeds, and probably a good bunch of those are probably the staple... of the Columbia kids. They were very, very, Anxious to spread the word and to create teams.

Bill Ritchie: So who are the...

Steve: Certainly the genius... certainly the genius of that group is, hey, this is a great game. Let's go to college and create teams so we have others to play.

alan C Jolley: Play, right.

Steve: That may have been just, like, an offhanded comment, but that statement is why we're here today.

alan C Jolley: That's true. Bob wrote that... I saw the article that Bob wrote in the Wesleyan student newspaper, just inviting people to come and play this new game, you know, and that's how it all started. People went.

Bob Lacy: turned up.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, they turned up, and it was fun. Yeah, it was fun.

Steve: The other thing I have to say, which I love that you said, is... that you won the game that you're talking about on April 14th, and declared yourselves national champions.

Bob Lacy: Yeah.

alan C Jolley: tongue-in-cheek. I mean, we just beat the creators of the game. This was significant, you know, and Columbia hated that. They didn't like that, because that got national press, you know, that we were... we said we were now national champions, and then they demanded a rematch because... because they want to regain their title.

Bill Ritchie: That's true.

Bob Lacy: Which they did.

alan C Jolley: Which they did, yeah, they soundly beat us, they returned.

Steve: You were ahead of your time in declaring something that wasn't actually true.

Bill Ritchie: Well, hey, it was true! What are you talking about?

alan C Jolley: Yeah, I mean, it was only Columbia and us, and Princeton, and maybe Rutgers around, you know, yeah, but hey, we didn't care. It was fun.

Bill Ritchie: I gotta ask you to back up a little bit. So, you guys... I mean, the story you're telling, and what it seems to be the case, is that you guys basically dunked over their face. But Maplewood is... they're... they're... they're known for being... have... getting a lot of publicity, being very brash and boisterous, and doing a lot of media. What... what was the experience going in? You guys got all this publicity in press. Were they sleeping on it, or were they doing their own thing down in New Jersey?

alan C Jolley: I assume if they were smart, they would be getting a local coverage, you know, in Maplewood. I don't know. I don't have any documents, I never had newspapers from there, I don't know. But we had people on our team who were the ones who made the contact always with our school newspaper and our town newspaper. And they were really good. And they just took... my kids took care of that, and they were there every time there was an event they wanted to... well, we didn't have a lot of events, we only had a couple of games. But they ran articles about us, about me, you know, a teacher, you know, forming this game, I have most of the copies of all the articles that they ran on us, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: What was the incentive for doing all the publicity? Were you imagining that you were gonna...

alan C Jolley: I think it was just through a... Get people to understand about this new game. publicity is to make other peoples know about it, and, hopefully, become interested in it. And I don't know if.

Bob Lacy: And I think part of it might have been just the sense that we wanted to put the word out there that there's other sports you could play in that aren't the very formal football team and soccer team at Staples had an outstanding soccer team.

alan C Jolley: That's right, we're. You weren't one of the... typical athletic person, you know, that jocks around, you know, and they had their own fields, and they guarded them and stuff like that, you know, fancy uniforms and a big budget. You know, we had nothing. We had a few frisbees and grass and rocks to play on. Yeah. But we were just, because we were such a... I think we were just really excited about the game, and we enjoyed it so much, we wanted others to know about it, and I guess, Yeah, it was just to let the game be known. We didn't realize where it would go. We certainly didn't expect somebody from Washington to come up and visit with us. You know, that was a surprise when the principal called me in and said, we're gonna have a visitor from Washington coming for lunch with us. in principle, and me, and Mr. Driscoll, you

know, and then he wants to see us play Frisbee. Whoa, okay. I guess we were all ready for that, Bob, were we? I know.

Bob Lacy: And... you know, we only played a couple, you know, games between us and other tools, but I think most of the fun was had just in our three sessions a week of getting out there and playing against each other.

alan C Jolley: Yeah. Yeah, somehow we made up teams, right?

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I don't remember how.

alan C Jolley: I know, all I remember is Ronnie Kaufman always said he was the last one chosen, because he was a lousy player. You know, and you can't throw really well, but he said, but they always let me play. That was what he compliments, because he's such an advocate for Ultimate, and he credits a lot of his whole life to his experience with us. For those couple years playing frisbee. You know, and he's a bigger spokesman for frisbee than I am, or anybody else that I know.

Steve: That's a... That's a really important thing you just said about quote, they always let me play. I do think this sport, over the 50, 60 years. Has kept that spirit of... inclusion and... Slightly alternative, and even as it has attracted athletes. It's still a place where people get to play and feel more equal, and it's less top-down.

alan C Jolley: Yep. You didn't have to go through any, you know, checkout list, you know, we didn't try out to get on the team type business. No. You come and you play. And I think what was unique with us at Staples is it was co-ed. There's no other co-ed sports that were happening. at that time in history. No, there was girls' teams and guys' teams, but Ultimate Frisbee was co-ed. We had girls playing with us, and they played against Columbia. You know, so we always pushed out. Also, this is an interscholastic co-ed athletic event. You know, that's novel, too. That was picked up.

Steve: And that was listed as the first of its kind, just as you said. being, interscholastic, two different states, and mixed gender.

alan C Jolley: Go away. That's right. You know, I don't think Columbia brought any girls with them. I'm not sure they had girls playing at the time, I don't know. But our two girls did play, yeah. Yeah, and they were good. They scored goals. They're in the history book.

Steve: I know Staples because, Andy Simon went there and would have graduated in 1976. Is he a student that... he wouldn't have played Ultimate, he would have been a student and he played soccer. Is that a name?

alan C Jolley: Staples is about a thousand kids, and he wasn't in my math class, as I recall.

Steve: Okay.

alan C Jolley: I was there, but .

Bill Ritchie: Was he good at math?

Steve: Beautiful.

Robert Bischoff: He was...

Steve: He was the best soccer player at Wesleyan.

alan C Jolley: Well... My good friend of mine in town here was coach of soccer for years, and he probably would know his name. We tried to get soccer players to play frisbee, because they would put... they'd be good, you know.

Bill Ritchie: That makes sense. Can I... I want to talk a little bit more about the timeline, because I'm just still confused about the compression of events. You... you first heard from your sister, maybe in '71, about the game from Maplewood, you got a copy of the rules. How... did you, like... was it immediate that you could see an entire program happening, and you were, like, the next day off recruiting people, or... what was the timing of... You realizing that you had the opportunity to create a sport here.

alan C Jolley: My guess is, bill, I don't know, why I'm... you've... fellowship at Methodist Church. I was with a... evening group, and these are high school kids from Staples. And... we probably just had frisbees around. And probably with some of that group ended up being frisbee players, and that would have been an automatic group I had. Not my classroom. That would be a different story. I can't go to my kids in my classroom and organize frisbee. I had to be outside of school, so I had kids and scouts, and I had kids in this youth group. And somewhere in there, I must have started to say, you know, I got a game, you know, a frisbee. This is a group of kids, they all know me, I know them, you know, and I say, I must have said, you want to, you know, try this and see how it goes, you know? That had to have been the nucleus, you know, of the YM Youth Fellowship Group. other kids that I knew from Scouts, and then there'd be kids in my class, you know, that would know other kids, and somehow it came together. I don't... and all of a sudden, we started to play. And Bob was there in '72, so somehow... Bob wasn't in my class. But... We got these... But I knew you. Yeah.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I looked back at... I looked back at the list of the photograph from the old, Westport News article. That lists who the members were on the team at that time. And about half of them were people who I knew in other ways, and were already good friends with. So it's probably just word of mouth among friends.

alan C Jolley: Yup.

Bob Lacy: The other half must have been people they knew.

alan C Jolley: Yes.

Bob Lacy: have heard about it, who I only got to know through Frisbee. Yes. But I think it's just... Spreading the word, word of mouth.

alan C Jolley: Yeah. Have you known? And people just seemed interested at that time, you know, let's see what it is like, you know? Let's have fun together.

Bill Ritchie: Well, so there's two ways of spreading. One is by building high schools, and Maplewood, I think, did a lot of communicating with other high schools and trying to send a schema. And then the other is sending kids to college and starting a college team with apple seeds, I guess. How much work, other than getting Weston. Did you guys find other schools that... other high schools that you could teach the game to and play against? How many other schools did you play against over the years?

alan C Jolley: No, it was only Weston. Weston was... the Weston kids... used to be part of Staples High School. And then at the end of the 60s, Weston built their own high school. So, a lot of Weston kids knew Staples kids because of this overlap for years and years. We were together. So, in fact, some of the kids who played on my team against Columbia were now at Weston High School, because that's their official high school, but they were playing with us, because they were part of this church youth group, and knew other kids who were playing. But beyond Weston, we had no contact with other local schools. And the difficulty is... We weren't going to be able to travel anywhere to play games.

Bill Ritchie: Right, because the insurance company...

alan C Jolley: one more team in another school, and then we say, well, we can't come and play you, you know? All the burden would be on them. So that really... It was a terrible disappointment to us that we were not able to go and play elsewhere. School would not allow that.

Bill Ritchie: Right. Now, that reminds me, just as a quick side thing, Bob Lacy's story about going to the athletic department in the very beginning.

Bob Lacy: at Wesleyan, and...

Bill Ritchie: at Wesleyan.

Bob Lacy: And going to and asking, you know, can you give us some support? Thinking that I would be laughed out of the room, that, you know, we weren't the football team, or some big, you know... And Wesleyan's low-key sports anyways, but they didn't laugh me out of the room. They sort of said, well, what do you need? And I said, well, the only thing we really need is a way to get to games. And so they said, well, use the... Athletic department van.

alan C Jolley: Perfect.

Bob Lacy: They let us use their van to get to some games.

alan C Jolley: Yeah.

Bob Lacy: Which made a difference.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, otherwise you'd be trapped. You could play against yourself, and that's it. Unless Yale University came up to Wesleyan, something like that, yeah. Yeah, but high school is different. Insurance is a different issue, and that was it. It would not allow Staples kids to drive a neighboring town if there was an accident and it was a Staples event. lawsuits, you know, so I said, you know, that's why Columbia had to come to us, twice.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, they came north.

alan C Jolley: Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: What was the difference between the first and the second one? Were they handing out flyers, or did they get their own publicity, or did they just come to stomp you and then go home?

alan C Jolley: Well, they challenged us to play a second game, because they didn't like the fact that we said we were national champions, you know, and that tarnished their reputation, you know. But their excuse was. The day they came, they didn't have some of their best players. And the reason is, this was a Saturday game. Friday night was the senior prom. And some of their best players were seniors, and they were not able to come and play frisbee in Connecticut the next day. And they felt that made the fact that they lost to us, you know, that's their excuse. And they demanded a rematch, and those... guys were sure there this time. They came back in June and really trounced us, and it was David Lee Want, one of the big players. He really... was out to get us. He didn't want to have that national championship claimed by Staples anymore. So they came back with their players, and they showed what they could do. But we had fun. Yeah, that was it. So they...

Bill Ritchie: Well, what about...

alan C Jolley: match.

Bill Ritchie: years going forward, like in, say, you know, 75, 76, 77, while the team was still existing, but not growing. What were you guys doing during the later 70s?

alan C Jolley: I've been thinking about that a lot since we've, you know, been going all this early history. After the class of 74, And that's when almost all my players were. They all graduated. somehow, the basis... the basic group that helped to create Ultimate at Staples were all gone. And I don't have any recollection of what happened after the class of 74 left us. And they were the ones that beat Columbia, they all went off to UConn and elsewhere, you know, informed teams. There was a remnant left at Staples, but I have no memory, I have no lists, I have no names.

Robert Bischoff: What about the...

alan C Jolley: Some kids were playing, but I'm not sure I was involved with them anymore. What about...

Robert Bischoff: What about the Festival of Flight that took place, in... at Staples High School for the, you know, the Connecticut State Championship in 77 and.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, that was all done by, Dan Buckley and Ronnie Kaufman. They organized that in the summer at Staples. I never attended any of those, and I don't think I was there in any of the summers when they ran those events. It was totally an independent activity on their part in order to promote Frisbee. You know, and they were promoters, especially Ronnie Kaufman. And that went on for years, yeah. But I never, I never... was there. I was traveling out west, going to national parks, and taking trips, or going elsewhere. Yeah. But that was happening, but in terms of a Staples team. I don't know what the heck was going on at the latter part of the 70s. And by the end of the 70s, I was no longer associated with it as a quota advisor, and I don't think there was any organized team anymore. It was just kids maybe playing, yeah. I looked at all my notes and said, why don't I have any names of other players after the 74 group all left? And I said, the whole thing just changed. And I think it was, in my mind, there was something about a different element of students who began to play. They were not like the original 2- or 3-year groups, you know? personality, ideas, there was something about that in the recessed in my mind. I said, I'm just not comfortable with these guys. You know, it's not like the old days, you know? Maybe the motivations were different, maybe their behavior was different. I don't remember. But it just finally dissolved, you know, yeah.

Bob Lacy: Does Staples have a team now?

alan C Jolley: No, they never had a team.

Bob Lacy: deputies.

alan C Jolley: No, no. I mean, I'm well known there as Mr. Frisbee. There's a lot of PR with Danny Woog, who does all sorts of stuff, you know. podcasts in Westport history, but I tried as much as I could with the athletic department there to use frisbees. On the fields, when they've... athletic classes would go outside, you know, to get exercise. And they just go out there and, you know, throw a softball around, stand around and talk, you know, nothing. And I talked to all the phys-ed teachers, and I said, you know, this is a great game, you know? Your co-ed game, you could play it, easy. The problem is, they are jocks. they like football and basketball. These are their sports. They didn't see Ultimate as a sport, you know, that they wanted to be part of, because they didn't know anything about it, and they probably don't know how to throw frisbees. So, they weren't gonna instruct anybody, but I would see kids out there, and they'd have frisbees, and they would just be standing around and throwing to each other. But an organized game, no. And nobody was... trying to instruct them, you know, how to throw the frisbee, hold it this way,

you know, so... No, it never, never happened. Sadly, it would have been a much better athletic event than what the kids were doing on the fields during their gym classes, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: It is sad, but on the other hand, it makes kind of even a more remarkable story, what you did.

alan C Jolley: Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: I mean, it just came... you came out of nowhere. You were... stayed away from Maplewood. Probably they hadn't ever heard of you when your sister sent the thing.

alan C Jolley: No, they didn't know me, no. Only my sister knew a couple of the players there, just be... classmates, yeah.

Robert Bischoff: And how about that serendipitous path that led you to Wesleyan, of all places, and then they assigned you to Westport and Staples, or... as a name?

alan C Jolley: Yeah, my whole future was determined by being at Wesleyan, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: Well, let's go back and set the stage on that. You went to Rutgers for college, is that right?

alan C Jolley: Yes. Yup, you want to...

Bill Ritchie: I'm a math major.

alan C Jolley: A math major, right? pure math major, that's it. But I... but I went knowing I was going to be a teacher, but I didn't take any education courses. I didn't want to waste my time on those, I wanted just to take math courses. So, when I graduated, I had my math degree, but I wasn't able to teach. So I needed to get accredited by going through a master's program. In order to become a teacher. So then I... searched out programs in those days were called Master of Arts in Teaching. And, Temple University had one, Harvard had one, Wesleyan had one, different schools I applied to. And, I was accepted to Harvard, but as I told Bill, I had the pleasure of are refusing. the offer of Harvard to go there. And I told Bill the reason was part of their master's program would require me to write a thesis. And I'm a math person, I don't like writing stuff like theses, so I said, no, I won't go there. Wesleyan, now, on the other hand, smaller school, however, they had a wonderful program, and they didn't require any thesis. So I said, I'm going to Wesleyan. And it was closer, anyway, to my home in New Jersey to get up to Wesleyan. So I started at Wesleyan, and .

Bill Ritchie: And that was, what, about 65?

alan C Jolley: I, yes, yeah, I graduated in 64, so, November of 64... September of 64, I... went to Wesleyan. It's a two-year program. But, what was unique about the program also was they would put me in a school. As a full-time teacher, as an intern. And I would not get a little baby practice teaching, I was going to be a real... full-time teacher for a half a school year, the

students belong to me, not to another teacher. They would be mine. I'm responsible for grading them, dealing with them, and so on. And there was a slight stipend for that that would help the freight costs at Wesleyan. So I like that program, I like that whole... structure, and I'd have a master's degree on with a sixth year in there. And, as God would have it. Staples High School was one of the schools in Connecticut that Coordinated programs with Wesleyan. They were a top-flight school, they knew about the program, they knew the... the head of the, of the program. Master of Arts in Teaching program. So... I got assigned, to come to Staples High School. To do my half-year teaching. And I came in January of 66. And spent that... semester at Staples, and I needed a job, and fortunately. they were happy enough with me to give me a job, and take a risk on this young guy, young-looking guy. I don't know, Bob, where you got all those pictures from. You got pictures out of my Columbia High School yearbook.

Robert Bischoff: I did.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, and you know, and then another one, I had a picture of intern, that was me, I guess, when I was there in the 66. I looked a heck of a lot younger than my students, you know. But my boss willing to take a chance on me, and I did a good job when I was there. And then I stayed 51 and a half years. You know, that's my whole life, was then at Staples High School. And because I was there. Then I was able to create Ultimate Frisbee.

Bill Ritchie: So, at Wesleyan, you were there for 3 semesters, is that right? Well...

alan C Jolley: Actually, on campus, only 3 semesters, because my fourth semester, I was at... in Westport.

Bill Ritchie: Where did you live on campus?

alan C Jolley: I can't remember... oh, there's a big Lutheran church on a main street there. That's all I remember. It's one of the main roads, there's a Lutheran church, and I was living in a house. It wasn't a dorm, it was a house with Master of Arts in Teaching. people. We were all in this house together. So, like, 3 or 4 of us in a room, and it was like a house, and I just remember walking up the road in a Lutheran church, because I went to the Lutheran church. What the road was, I don't remember. But we weren't part of the campus, you know, like an undergraduate would be. We were isolated in our own living facilities, and I guess we ate somewhere, I don't know where we ate, you know.

Bill Ritchie: Fun memories, though.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, I like Wesleyan. Yeah, I had two nice, fun years there. Yep, yep, took an astronomy class there, needed another course in something, and yeah, downtown, I remember going downtown. Yeah, it's a lot different now, I'm sure.

Bill Ritchie: It's doing well. There's a lot of restaurants on Main Street, a lot of activity going on.

Robert Bischoff: I see a Faith Lutheran church at 308 Washington Street, which is kind of the main drag. That must have been it.

alan C Jolley: That must have been it. Yep, yep. Yeah, I had some differences of doctrine. I had meetings with a pastor in that church, and I had conversations. I remember that church, yeah.

Robert Bischoff: We're all on the call today because of you.

Steve: Because you turned down Harvard.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, and that was... yeah, I always remember that. I can turn down Harvard. That said something about me. I don't know. You know, I wasn't interested in the big name. I was interested in the program, and I also didn't like writing theses. But I think the program at Wesleyan, was a better program. And Wesleyan was... I don't like big cities, either. Temple University, that was, what, Philadelphia? I didn't like going to big cities. I liked being outdoors, I liked rural areas, so Wesleyan was a perfect place to be.

Bob Lacy: I don't remember whether my decision to go to Wesleyan was influenced by knowing that you had been there. But there were a bunch of staple students who went to Wesleyan.

alan C Jolley: Wesley, it was a popular school.

Bob Lacy: Yep.

alan C Jolley: Yo. It's a good school.

Bill Ritchie: Bob, who... do you remember some of the others besides you?

Bob Lacy: First slide key. Trying to think who the others were. Woman named Betty, but I don't remember her last name. I'd have to go back and look at the yearbook.

Bill Ritchie: But not, not frisbee players, just students.

Bob Lacy: No, not frisbee players.

alan C Jolley: No, I think Bob was the only frisbee player going to Wesleyan that I knew about. Yeah.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I don't think anybody on the Frisbee team at Wesleyan had come... anyone but me had come from Staples.

Bill Ritchie: Well, so let's talk to you about you, Bob, a little bit. The articles that... there were two articles that I... that Al sent to me. One of them talked about you being one of two captains on the team, unofficial captains on the team.

Bob Lacy: I think that's probably... maybe in some ways similar to Wesleyan, I would probably help, you know, recruit people to play, and to organize it. I certainly wasn't one of the top

players, I wasn't all that good at throwing, although... Oh, usually... do better at catching. So I think unofficial is definitely the word.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, but back in then, you know, it was really important that organizing functions were paramount for the whole thing. And then the other talked about you being one of two players who had, I don't know, sort of built the foundations. I'm not sure exactly... that's paraphrasing it. But you came in on the 73 team, which went... Yeah. Which was the... early, right?

Bob Lacy: Yeah, when the team first started, Well, I graduated in 73, So I would have played initially, I guess, in 72 would be when we started, I think? Yeah. And then... Must have played for... a year or two before I graduated, I don't remember exactly.

Bill Ritchie: That's a really interesting... the timeline of coming into playing against Columbia, and whether that was the 6-month timeline, or a year-long time. I'm still a little fuzzy on how much playing you guys did before you... Because I think your... the game against Columbia was, like, 6 months after the original Princeton Rutgers The inaugural Princeton Records Frisbee game.

alan C Jolley: That's right.

Bill Ritchie: In the fall of 72. So you guys were boogieing.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I don't remember how long we had been playing just, you know, with each other, before we played against Columbia. Al, you might know, but...

alan C Jolley: I'm just looking, I have lists here, In Class of 73, there were 4 people in Class of 73. Bob Gassman.

Bob Lacy: Yep.

alan C Jolley: who I think was a Westin person, Bob Lacy, Mike Miller, and Dave Richard. Those were the only people graduating in 73. So you guys graduated right after we played our games with Columbia.

Bob Lacy: With Columbia, yeah.

alan C Jolley: That was in 73. 74 is this long list of, 15 or 20. That's it. That massive group all left in the end of that year. In 75, Doug Griffith, Mike Nash, George Patterson, and Mike Villa, the only names I have. So... There wasn't any team of 73, it was just... we were forming a team. We happened to have graduates for the 1973 class, playing with graduates for the 1974 class, which was the majority, yeah, and then some for 75.

Bob Lacy: And those that you had named from the 75 class, they were all playing with us from the beginning, when they would have been sophomores.

alan C Jolley: Right. Yeah, this is a year of graduation list that I have here. What year are the people graduating who were playing at Staples, yeah. I don't have any names of 1972. We were just starting, I guess, I don't know.

Bill Ritchie: That's so interesting, yeah. So, one of the things we've been doing in researching the history of the Wesleyan team is finding these periods when there was a big graduating class, and things fell off the cliff, and the people remaining had to rebuild. And it's a tough thing to do, and it sounds like you guys are the classic case of you just had this tremendous wave that had a class of 74, and then some things, aftershocks or pre-shocks. 73 and 75 around it, and that was the cohort that went through and really Did it all, and then it just kind of died after that.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I think that's right. Whereas at Wesleyan, there were some of you guys who picked it up. After the first year or two, and kept it going, and even grew it substantially.

Bill Ritchie: Harmonian!

Steve: Before that, it was... it was, Bill and Bob and... and Nick. I mean, you three sort of came in in that next wave, right, Bill?

Bill Ritchie: Well, Bob and I started in 75.

Bob Lacy: You just helped keep it going. Yeah, I...

Bill Ritchie: You know, it was probably Spike Barry who did a lot of that, because Bob and I each left the 75-76 school year We were off traveling the country and doing various things, so that we weren't there. And... this is, you know, the Wesleyan group, we've been trying to figure out who... in the last meeting we had, people sort of came up and said, yeah, we were playing through 75 and 76. There were... there were games, and Spike talked about it, and I don't know if you remember, Bob, whether you were still on campus in the fall of 75 and the spring of 76.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I would have been. I don't remember much about, you know. What games we played those years, and... Yo.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, they were the vague years, but we kept going, so that was great. And then Donohue showed up, and others.

alan C Jolley: What other schools were you applying, Bob?

Bob Lacy: Blade, well, Yukon, Brown, Yale. I think Connecticut College. Don't remember who else.

Bill Ritchie: Hampshire?

Bob Lacy: Yeah, Hampshire.

Bill Ritchie: So there was a league that had formed, it was in the papers, the Southern New England Ultimate League or something like that, there was 8 teams. Does this ring a bell? There was a conference that had developed by this....

Bob Lacy: I don't remember the conference, but certainly it was a cluster of about 8 teams in southern New England, in Massachusetts and Connecticut, Rhode Island.

Bill Ritchie: Well, we're gonna be gone doing some research into figuring that out over the coming months.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I'm amazed at how much you've already been able to unearth about the early history.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, these little tidbits come up, and all of a sudden, there's a whole new thing to latch onto.

alan C Jolley: Bob, when you were playing Brown, did you recognize Ronnie Kaufman?

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I would have. Okay.

alan C Jolley: I mean, imagine...

Bob Lacy: I think I recognize you now.

alan C Jolley: player, though. He wasn't a big player, but he was, yeah, he was there. And then when you played UConn, you had Dan Buckley.

Bob Lacy: 30 bucks.

alan C Jolley: Davis, and Ed Davis.

Bob Lacy: Yep.

Robert Bischoff: And I seem to recall that in Spike Berry's notebook, which he dug out of his attic, he had those names and phone numbers, which he probably got from you, Bob Lacy, where you said, hey, I've got... we've got to get in touch with Dan Buckley and play against them at UConn, and here I got a number for this guy at Brown, and so I'm guessing they came from you, because they were all former Staples.

alan C Jolley: Yeah.

Robert Bischoff: Players.

Bob Lacy: And that's basically how we organize the games, that... call up people we know. And, both... we knew they were forming Teams at their schools, and we said, okay, how can we arrange a game?

Bill Ritchie: So, let's talk about calling up. I remember... Like, a payphone in the middle of a dorm.

Bob Lacy: Yep.

Bill Ritchie: Is that how it worked? You just... the phone would ring, and somebody would pick it up and say, hey, Bob, got a call.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, I know the dorms back then, and actually now they probably all have cell phones, so it doesn't matter, but there's always a payphone at the end of the dorm hall, and if it rang, somebody would pick it up and then find whoever the call was for. so I assume that's how we did it.

Bill Ritchie: Amazing. I wouldn't believe it if I hadn't been part of it myself.

Bob Lacy: Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: Well, good, well. This is a lot of material we've covered.

Robert Bischoff: Yeah, and I don't know if Al knows, you know, the recent history of the Wesleyan women's team. Last year, winning the national championship for, D3.

alan C Jolley: There's men's teams and women's teams. Are there any co-ed teams? There's no...

Steve: There's a lot of... there's a lot of mixing, yeah, and there's a mixed division, so, there's an open division. Within the construct of the sport, a men's division and a mixed division, And... The mixed division is probably 20... 20 years old, 25 years old. And it's highly regarded, and you play either 4-3, or 5'2, and I think the offense lines up, and then the defense does whatever the offense puts on the field, and... the players are amazing, and the... you know, at the early stages, a lot of the men weren't throwing to women, but when you watch these games now, everybody is an equal, the women's...

alan C Jolley: Oh, good.

Steve: Well, it's incredibly high.

alan C Jolley: That's good.

Bob Lacy: And Wesleyan has both a men's team, a women's team, and a mixed team, right?

Steve: I believe so, and and also, some intramural stuff. So, some colleges, Wesleyan. Carlton College being maybe the one that's gone the furthest, have really grown the sport as something that gets a lot of attention by the administration. And this year, Michael Roth wrote about the women, which was great, and cited their success, which was great. And when they traveled to nationals. At the same time that the lacrosse team was traveling to Nationals, he cited the two, and that's kind of a first, that we were in a mention with what is a more traditional varsity sport.

alan C Jolley: How does... how is, Frisbee supported now at Wesleyan?

Steve: They have a budget of... well, let me ask you, what do you think the men and women's team's budget from student government is currently, the dollar amount? Throw a number out.

Bob Lacy: I would guess about 500?

Steve: \$500 that comes from student government and out.

alan C Jolley: I've never been involved with anybody ever giving us money, so I wouldn't even. We had to buy our own frisbees at Staples. Nobody gave us anything. It's timeless it is.

Steve: When I first played, Danny Haar was able to get \$400 out of student government. That was 1979. And this year, they got almost 20,000.

alan C Jolley: Wow.

Steve: Each.

alan C Jolley: Wow.

Bob Lacy: And it's been mostly on the travel, I assume?

Steve: A lot of travel. You know, they have equipment, they have uniforms, Obviously, food, beverage, all the things that come with that. Field space, training. The expenses are, you know, significant, but a fraction of what it would be if you play on a football team or a lacrosse team.

alan C Jolley: Sure. What type of fields? There's a dedicated field for, Ultimate?

Steve: Now you're dreaming. Now you're... now you're living in the same world.

alan C Jolley: I'd be so jealous to hear that.

Bill Ritchie: It's a dedicated field, but they turned it into dorms.

Steve: Barbara Field. You know, it's a constant wrestling match. to get field space, Middletown and Wesleyan never really had a ton of it, though they did take over Long Lane, which was the school back behind the athletic center, so that was good. They were able to build out some fields, and... But they do play on either grass or turf, and, you know, they just have to do the permitting with the university.

alan C Jolley: Right.

Bob Lacy: So where do they play now?

Steve: They play on the soccer fields and the lacrosse fields that are behind what is called Freeman Athletic Center.

alan C Jolley: That's what we played. Remember, Bob, we played on the soccer field against Columbia. It was a Saturday, so the soccer players weren't there. You know, it was the only time we played on nice grass.

Bob Lacy: I thought I remembered that when Columbia was there, they actually let us play on a good field.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's true. They never would have... well, they maybe played on a rocky field, because they played on asphalt, you know, so what the heck? Here in Fairfield now, during the summer programs, there's a lot of things happening in town supported by a rec department. And they now have, people, an individual. has played college frisbee somewhere, and he runs, like, clinics for... Middle and high school age. kids to play frisbee. So, what fascinated me was, when I saw the guys out there one day, they're liming fields. And these are basically soccer fields, and there's a... there's a... Self-propelled machine going around and laying out the outline for the field.

Bill Ritchie: You mean like a robot?

alan C Jolley: Like a robot. Yeah, nobody's there. Nobody's walking along, you know, like in the old days, you know, with, like, a little cart pushing... no. A little robot is going around. I was fascinated, and the guy operating it is in a truck, so I got talking with him. And he says, oh yeah, this is all done by GPS now. All the town fields, this is Rich Fairfield now, all the town fields are all designed, and it's linked into the GPS, so the machine just comes and sets up a signal somewhere, and it goes out there, and it knows exactly where to go, when to make a turn, making all the lines. And he outlines all the soccer fields, and he said we outline frisbee fields. And I said, what? You're outlining field... frisbee field? Oh, yeah, we have several of them in town here. They are marked, I don't know what size, but yeah, we mark the lines differently, you know, for soccer, for field hockey, or whatever, and frisbee. And I was really impressed. I just don't see a heck of a lot of frisbee players. are playing, but I thought that was nice of town, and very novel to think that a robot actually climbs fields like that. Probably from Starlink or something, you know? So, who knows? Yeah. But the kids... kids weren't able to play Frisbee. I went down there last year with my Frisbee shirt on and everything, and chatted with them, and They just are out there having fun. Of course, now it's 100 degrees here, and not many people are going to be playing frisbee, you know? But this kid was doing, and I was surprised that this year they're running the clinic again, but he didn't... he only had a handful of kids. They had hardly enough to really field the team, but . It was so funny.

Bill Ritchie: And speaking of current tech, we... Al, we talked a little bit about this, but can we get some of your thoughts on... Almost making it to the Olympics, frisbee?

alan C Jolley: Yeah, that was disappointment, yeah. When I was at Staples, when at Columbia High School, 50th anniversary year. They invited me in order to be given my, Johnny Appleseed, because I did not go out to California to receive that whenever it happened. So, they invited me down, and that's where I got to meet All the players who are still alive. you know, that played

against us in that game in 73, and they remembered us, you know, and they remembered me, you know, so I was well known to them. And at that gathering. so many alumni from Columbia High School, frisbee players. I mean, it's like going back to a college reunion, or high school reunion. I mean, there's so many that return. We had our class of 74, gathering back in 2009, and quite a few came. Ronnie Kaufman came all the way from Singapore to be with us, so we had people coming, you know, and... Remembering our 35 years of playing frisbee together. But at that great gathering, they had a representative from headquarters, I guess in Colorado Springs. And, he gave a report about the status of Ultimate for the 2028 Olympics. And, the whole process is there's a... List of qualifications to become a sport. And... each... home country, sponsoring an Olympic, gets to choose one or two new sports. I guess that's how ping pong got in there for China some year, you know. But, He was very optimistic, that Ultimate would have a very good chance, because we were in the list of 10 New sports that qualified in the checklist. And said that, basically, he had never seen Ultimate played, and he was astonished by the game, and realized This really has all the components for an Olympic sport, so we're very enthused, certainly Colombia was. He said the only qualification is... The idea of no referees. Spirit of the game. He said that could be a big problem for an Olympic sport. And I don't know if that's what did it in, because it did get thrown out of the list eventually. Out of the 10, they started to thin it down, and tag football won as new Olympic sport in America. So I didn't know what... what happened. Spirit of the game has been there forever, and it's something that I don't think would be easily given up by whoever the governing bodies are for Ultimate. But maybe they would have compromised in order to, become an Olympic sport, but it didn't happen, so I think that was our best chance. I can't imagine any other country going to Select ultimate now. Yeah, so... That was it.

Bob Lacy: It'd be interesting to get the Olympics to accept a sport that didn't have any referees.

alan C Jolley: Yeah. Could be it.

Bob Lacy: A positive thing for the Olympics.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, they were afraid, though, you know, of... It's such a highly competitive intense thing. I mean, did you watch soccer last night? For example, the U.S. game? You know, when there are issues of fouls, how do you resolve it? Well, we would just talk about it, let's go on, you know, no big deal. But in an Olympic sport, they were concerned, maybe that's not gonna work. So, for whatever reason, I said, well, maybe I'll live to see an Olympic sport of ultimate, but I think I lost my chance. In 2028.

Bill Ritchie: Well, in talking about the spirit of the game, was that something that was... Actively talked about back in 73?

Bob Lacy: I think so.

alan C Jolley: Yep, yep.

Bob Lacy: I think one thing people appreciated was the fact that You know, the way we played. If you said you were followed, you were followed. There's no debate about it. And you wouldn't claim you were followed if you weren't.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, there was this...

alan C Jolley: person just said, yeah, I hit your arm, you know, they admitted, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, I remember that as good play, but Bob and Steve, you guys somehow met in the Manhattan Broadway play or something like that, about Spirit of the Game, right?

Robert Bischoff: loosely, tied to that concept, but really, it... it was a drama, and I don't think it sheds much light on this. I do remember... I think that's what struck me most about it when I first played, was just that... how wonderful that was.

alan C Jolley: Do you?

Robert Bischoff: And when I went for the 50th anniversary, I thought, it's all gonna be different now, you know, and much to my surprise, it really wasn't. That spirit of the game still is still there, and is as wonderful as it was.

alan C Jolley: Yeah.

Steve: The, the spirit of the game technically got coined in 1978 by Dan Roddick. Who was a Rutgers player, and then went on to be a big organizer and worked for WHAM-O for a long time. That's not to say that Spirit wasn't a part of how everybody played prior to 78, but he wrote it into the rules, and it has stuck as Fair play, and not, you know, you're not playing to win over the spirit of having fun. So, you're not gonna cheat to win, and the...

alan C Jolley: Amazing.

Steve: The clause is short and has really lived on. I'm gonna jump, just because, my darling bride is Waiting. It's great to meet the two of you, and I meant what I said at the beginning. Thank you. For the work, and... for... carrying it to Wesleyan, and... and making it possible for those of us who played for a long time, and thank you, Bill and Bob, Who are tireless. And digging for bits of information about our history. And putting it... and AI, obviously, is helping us so we don't have to transcribe and type all the notes. We just put it into AI, and out comes nice pieces on these interviews. But thank you all.

Bill Ritchie: You're good.

Steve: John's time.

alan C Jolley: Keep you safe.

Robert Bischoff: Enjoy the day!

Bill Ritchie: Have a good summer!

Bob Lacy: Beautiful.

Bill Ritchie: This is... if other people have things that they want to talk about, we can certainly continue on, but this might be a good stopping point. AI, with the assumption that you're... available for more conversations as we go forward. We've got to uncover these newspaper articles and do other things, too.

alan C Jolley: Which articles you're talking about?

Bill Ritchie: The, there were a series of local papers that you... you talked Leading all that.

alan C Jolley: Oh yeah, I have... I have a master 3-ring binder here that has all this frisbee information. Yeah, and I have copies of articles, you know, from Westport News and things like that. Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: Well, two of your guys have already contacted me and said, hey, let's... I'll call this and say, you wanna... you should... we should talk to you about AI, and...

alan C Jolley: Well, I know Ronnie Kaufman contacted you instantaneously from Singapore.

Bill Ritchie: He did, yeah, and then Ed... it.

alan C Jolley: Ed Davis?

Bill Ritchie: Ed Davis, yeah.

alan C Jolley: Okay, I haven't even heard from him. Okay.

Bill Ritchie: Oh, well, maybe, maybe, Ron... contacted me. Anyway, I'm gonna follow up with these guys. This is, like.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: the opportunity here.

alan C Jolley: Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: So let's... let's keep in touch, huh?

alan C Jolley: Yeah, I don't think I'm gonna find any new information, you know.

Bill Ritchie: Well, no, but I mean, you know, one thing leads to the next, leads to the next, so...

alan C Jolley: Yeah.

Robert Bischoff: And we want to review the transcript for accuracy, you know, the...

Bob Lacy: To the extent that we can remember.

alan C Jolley: Well, there was only one typo in Bill when he transcribed the James Driscoll article. I think he misspelled Bob K.'s name. You know, I said, who's that name? I don't remember that name. Oh, that was supposed to be Bob K. He was the guy that Jumped and injured his ankle. Yeah, but that was a little typo, but that was amazing to transcribe all that article, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: Just a pretty amazing article.

alan C Jolley: I know, I know. And what chat did with it is just phenomenal.

Bill Ritchie: It's incredible how some of this stuff can work. Yeah.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, I expected to hear more back from my Frisbee people that got your chat. response. You know, that's what I wanted them to read about, to seed. The apparent implication of that game that was then followed up by James Driscoll's. National Observer.

Bill Ritchie: We'll keep it that. I'll tell you, the Stables people are better at communicating than the Westlane people are. Write somebody and say, hey, I just got a couple questions for you, and, like, 3 weeks go by.

alan C Jolley: Very good. Bob, you have, looks like, pictures of two Westies behind you.

Robert Bischoff: Oh, that... yes, I do, I'm surprised you can see those.

alan C Jolley: Oh, yeah.

Robert Bischoff: We had a couple of Westies over the years, both gone now, but yeah, loved them.

alan C Jolley: we had a Westie, and our Westy's gone, but we like Westies, and I just could see there, you had two of them. My wife would say, oh, boy, one was wonderful, wonderful creatures. So, are you in from Maine also? Where are you?

Robert Bischoff: I'm in East Hampton, New York.

alan C Jolley: East Hampton.

Robert Bischoff: So, near my talk.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, out on the island, okay. Okay. Yeah, I grew up on the island, that's where my... born in Franklin Square, Long Island, yeah, so...

Bill Ritchie: And Al, where are you now?

alan C Jolley: Fairfield, Connecticut.

Bill Ritchie: Fairfield.

alan C Jolley: Yep, next to Westport.

Bill Ritchie: Tonight.

alan C Jolley: center of ultimate history, right? And frisbee pies and everything.

Robert Bischoff: That's right, yeah.

alan C Jolley: I know. Do you agree with me?

Bill Ritchie: Okay, anybody got anything else?

alan C Jolley: I'm just trying to track info on Bob here, because I know he's up in Maine. We haven't had contact since the 70s. Yeah. I only know from his brother that he was up in Maine somewhere.

Bob Lacy: Yeah, occasionally, my brother has given me updates on when he's bumped into you, and.

alan C Jolley: We occasionally see each other, yeah. It was easier when he lived, you know, half a mile from me when you were growing up.

Bob Lacy: Right.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, but but you are...

Bob Lacy: one of the frisbee players from Staples, Matt Veya, is a math teacher.

alan C Jolley: Oh, really?

Bob Lacy: Yeah.

alan C Jolley: I never knew what happened to Matt. Okay, he's on my list.

Bob Lacy: he's in a high school... he teaches high school math in one of the suburbs of Boston, and don't remember which one.

alan C Jolley: And organizing Ultimate? I don't.

Bob Lacy: No, I'll have to ask him.

alan C Jolley: It's kind of old now to start now, but I mean... Yeah. Another math teacher, okay, so you got your brother, and you got Matt Via, I don't know. I never heard most people leave, you know, they go off... you went off somewhere, I don't even know what you got your degree in.

Bob Lacy: Yeah. Went off to Cornell for graduate school, and... Then I mostly worked for Chicago Zoological Society after that.

alan C Jolley: Which society?

Bob Lacy: Chicago? Zoological Society?

alan C Jolley: logical.

Bob Lacy: the organization that runs Brookfield Zoo.

alan C Jolley: And now you're in Maine. Retired there, or working there?

Bob Lacy: No, tired, retired.

alan C Jolley: Retired there, okay, okay. And then there was some picture that Bob printed, and it had you Said Virginia. And I said, what was the contact.

Bob Lacy: O.

alan C Jolley: Virginia, maybe you did...

Bob Lacy: After I went to Wesleyan, my parents moved to Virginia, so then my official, you know, home address from Wesleyan's standpoint would have been in Virginia, although I never lived there.

alan C Jolley: Oh, they left Westport, huh? Yeah. Okay. Good. So, bob said you were talking about moving to New Hampshire.

Bob Lacy: Possibly.

alan C Jolley: I asked Tom, I said, is Bob talking about perhaps a place in Wolfboro, New Hampshire? He didn't know where you would possibly be looking at.

Bob Lacy: We're looking at a place in Exeter.

alan C Jolley: Exeter, okay, I know about, okay. A senior living type community? Yeah. Yeah, very nice place there, I've seen literature about that. Yeah, there's a similar one in Wolfboro, in Winnispasaukee. Yeah, so I just... I just said, whoa, moving to New Hampshire, you know, I was investigating, maybe, and make a move there, too. Okay, very good. Too bad you didn't come for the... Class of 74, 35th year reunion.

Bob Lacy: Sure.

alan C Jolley: You know, it wasn't your class, but, you know, been a long trip, but that would have been great to have you there, because there were so many of the guys who played with you.

Bob Lacy: people I would have known, yeah.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, yeah, exactly, exactly, but But, those reunions are over now. They're too old now for a 50th, so, yeah, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: we've got the women's 50th anniversary, or 40th anniversary, coming up in Wesleyan, and... 28.

alan C Jolley: 40 years for the Wesleyan team.

Bill Ritchie: We're saying women.

Bob Lacy: I went missing.

Bill Ritchie: Gotta have a reunion.

alan C Jolley: You had a big, big turnout for your Wesleyan? Reunion?

Bill Ritchie: Yeah, it was about 80 people, and Bob and I had... basically, we completely lost touch of the Frisbee program. So it was like news out of the... lightning bolt out of the blue.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: my back. You guys are fantastic.

alan C Jolley: 80 people, that's good. I think Dan... I think Ronnie Kaufman may have sent you a picture of his... 50th reunion at Brown. It was... looked like hundreds of people, you know? Big gala affair, affair, yeah.

Bill Ritchie: Well, Brown. Had a great team. I remember that they were a really classy team. I remember playing against them once or twice. But they also had a whole program of, Like, building up an endowment and doing fundraising and getting organized, right?

alan C Jolley: No, I didn't know about that. I... I... Ronnie Kaufman could have been organizing that, but... an endowment for Frisbee? That's something.

Bill Ritchie: Somebody was doing an endowment.

alan C Jolley: Wow.

Bill Ritchie: I'll have to dig into that more.

alan C Jolley: Yeah. Oh, very good.

Bill Ritchie: Okay.

alan C Jolley: Good to talk to you, gentlemen.

Bob Lacy: Good to see you.

Robert Bischoff: Yeah, lots of fun.

alan C Jolley: Yeah. Yeah.

Bill Ritchie: And we'll be back in touch, and I'll send out a transcript on this in the next day or so. I gotta download it and then clean it up. And then I'll send it out.

alan C Jolley: Okay. Shalom. Take care.

Bill Ritchie: Okay, good.

alan C Jolley: Thanks, everybody. Bill.

Robert Bischoff: Enjoy your summer!

alan C Jolley: Yeah, 104 degrees up here.

Bill Ritchie: Maybe I'll go to.

alan C Jolley: Maine.

Bob Lacy: It's 70 here.

alan C Jolley: You're out near Acadia, aren't you? Past Acadia?

Bob Lacy: Past Acadia, yeah. Almost into New Brunswick.

alan C Jolley: Yeah, nice, nice.

Bill Ritchie: Enjoy your weather.

alan C Jolley: Okay, bye-bye.

Bob Lacy: Bye.