

Will saucer's apprentices take the fun out of Frisbee?

Syndicated article by Patricia McCormack, a long-time resident of Westport, CT. She was a journalist for local newspapers and for United Press International.

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James Driscoll from the National Observer followed up on her article and visited Staples HS to watch a game of Ultimate, he wrote a full page article in May 1973 which helped to bring national attention to the new sport of Ultimate Frisbee.

Article:

Having fun with your Frisbee? Well, hurry up and enjoy all the unstructured recreation. Frisbee appears about to be going the way of the organized sports groove. Some high schools have Frisbee teams. In Westport, Connecticut, the Staples High, for the Staples High Frisbee team, fielded under the banner of interscholastic sports, is co-educational. The team has girls on it.

Frisbee teams don't just go out and see which players can do the fanciest things with the Frisbees. Frisbee. No, ma'am, there are rules, there are goals to score, and in case you don't think it's getting to be a big organized sport, hear this, the Frisbee teams have uniforms. At Staples, it is a Frisbee shirt, a shirt with a Frisbee printed on it, and blue jeans.

The rules for the game, Ultimate Frisbee, were patented by Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey. So if Frisbee someday gets into the big leagues, we can cheer or hiss the folks at good old Columbia. It does seem a pity, in a way, and to take a nice free form thing like Frisbee tossing, and making a dogged game out of it.

Future of Frisbee

If ultimate Frisbee goes the way of other sports, some day we may have the Frisbee teams that rival baseball and football teams as spectator sports. Complete with bonuses for promising Frisbee players signed when spotted by a talent scout going over the material in elementary school Frisbee playoffs.

The ultimate "Ultimate Frisbee" match, when that day arrives, probably will work up the country's sports fans something like the way a Super Bowl does with football. Only it probably will be called super saucer, which a Frisbee resembles, or super paper plate, which a Frisbee also resembles. It would never do to call it super Frisbee. That's too plain.

We will have Frisbee stars endorsing products and appearing on television to remind kids to play the game according to the rules and all that. We will have superstars who have tricky frisbee joints, wrists that go blotto, frisbee elbow, and all that.

The rules of the game

If you think I'm kidding, listen to some of the rules for Ultimate Frisbee, as reported by the Westport News to enlighten the community about the play style of Staples High's Frisbee team.

Object of the game, to score more points in the 60 minutes of playing time than the other team does. Sounds like football, doesn't it?

A goal is scored when a member of one team successfully passes the Frisbee to another player on the same team, standing or running on the far side of the goal, which that team is currently attacking. Tie games will go into sudden death over time.

Throw off. The play begins with the throw off. The captains of the two teams determine which team will elect to throw off or receive by the flip of a coin.

The Frisbee may be moved only one way, it must be thrown. A player cannot run or walk with a Frisbee. If someone does, the Frisbee goes over the opposing team.

See?

They're making it a complicated game out of what used to be pure joy. Next thing you know, we'll have to wear Frisbee clothes and toss only on a Frisbee court.