

Main Essay for ERA 1 – Chat instructions

8/26

This essay is going to be the main story for our ERA1 Founders on our Wes Ultimate History website. As our storyteller I want you to play a wise and kind sage who is insightful and encouraging and uplifting, looking beyond the obvious.

Our audience will be enthusiastic Wesleyan Ultimate alums who will want to revel in past glory and build the bonds of comradeship through storytelling. Be sure to thoroughly read all the files I have uploaded and look for deep connections, the more juicy content you can draw out the better.

With this essay I want to capture the history of the team, the spirit of the team, from its founding by Bob Lacy in Spring 1975 to the 1981 precipice as senior players graduated and left the arena. Going into 1981 was the first time players really needed to grapple with changes from the mass graduation.

Particularly valuable will be the transcript of the Zoom call with the ERA1 Heroes, Donohue/Heye/Mooney/Garfield went at each other and it was hilarious.

Then land the essay in a good place to pick up the story later in Era 2.

Nick Donohue in particular stands out as embodying the tension between enjoyment and excellence, be sure to include his story.

Just to say, I have one nagging question. Wes's first game was Saturday April 28, 1975 against UConn. That same weekend, Yale was hosting the first "organized tournament."

History of Ultimate origins

The first organized tournament, The National Collegiate Championships, was played on April 25th in 1975. Eight teams took part in a tournament in Yale. Rutgers University won the final against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with 28-24. In 1976 the Yale tournament was expanded and renamed into the National Ultimate Frisbee Championship. Rutgers won again.

Is funny that we weren't part of the national tournament. Have to do some more digging.

Regarding the team name... reporter David Oppenheimer wrote in April 1975 calling us "the Cards" which is generic Wesleyan mascot. By 1978 we were the "Bees" according to reporting by Bill Ritchie and others. In 1980 we were WES-U-Bee. And then we became The Neitzsch Factor.

If you have enough material to do a good job, please include a side panel that highlights the ultimate careers of Steve Mooney/Nick Donohue/Chris Heye as they won national championships on Boston club teams. I can get more detail for you if you need it.

Make the essay as long as it needs to be to always stay riveting, not too long but don't cut anything important.

Please save your essay as a docx file