

# The MagnUM Every-So-Often

*The Occasional Newsletter of the University of Michigan Men's Ultimate Team*

## **Editors' Welcome**

Dear MagnUM parents, friends, and alumni,

Welcome to the MagnUM Every-So-Often. Here in Ann Arbor, we are hard at work trying to improve our ultimate skills, physical fitness, and team play as Regionals in Columbus, OH quickly approaches (May 7-8). We are excited for the launch of our newsletter, and we hope you are excited to be a part of the MagnUM family—a family that spans many generations, continents, and syrup chugging abilities.

We would like to take the opportunity to let you know what is on MagnUM's horizon. During the summer months, we will kick-off a fundraising campaign in an effort to start a scholarship for outstanding athletes who join our program. We hope to attract a large pool of athletes during fall recruiting in order to bolster our already talented younger players as they look toward future seasons.

In addition, we need your help in our effort to get in touch with all of MagnUM's player and parent alumni. If you know of any other players out there, or if your parents might want to receive future newsletters, please send us their email and their address by writing us at [magnum.ultimate@umich.edu](mailto:magnum.ultimate@umich.edu). If you want directions to Regionals so you can come cheer us on, or even if you just want to say hello, just drop us a line—we love hearing from our out-of-town family. Eventually, we are hoping to organize an alumni game so the current team can meet

the legends of old (not that you guys are old).

Please check out our website at [www.umich.edu/~ultimate/magnum](http://www.umich.edu/~ultimate/magnum), and keep your eyes open for a post-Regionals update. Finally, we hope you enjoy the Every-So-Often, we look forward to hearing from you, and try not to get broken on the mark.

Sincerely,

Mike Swiryn  
Andrew Brix

## **More than Assistants**

*By Richard "Ricky" Eikstadt  
(Ricky has been MagnUM's head coach since 1999, leading the team to four top-ten finishes at Nationals in five seasons.)*

The latest version of MagnUM is everything you could want in a college ultimate team. There is a gritty, aggressive, and determined defense that is hell-bent on making life miserable for an opposing offense. The bad guys might score sometimes, but they will always leave the field short of breath. The offense can be brainy and mechanical or it can paint the sky and thrill the crowd. The captains are thoughtful, dependable, and emotionally sturdy. The rookies are springy, resilient, and hooked on the game. And the whole team contributes. The longer we play, the more likely we are to win.

So how did we get this latest product? I would like to take all the credit, but the truth is that most of it belongs to "assistant coach"



*"King" Slovan levies the tax against Brown at CENTEX.*

Jonathan Brodhag (better known as 'JB'). He is incredibly demanding and pushes the team in practice and at the track. He is passionate about doing things the right way, and even more passionate about doing things intensely.

His attitude and approach are perfect for college players. College guys feed off intensity first and constructive criticism second. JB is skilled at balancing these perspectives appropriately. When the huddle needs more than one of my eloquent and reserved communiqués, JB is mixing sage advice with just enough pepper to make Jon Gruden and Bill Cowher rise to their feet and applaud.

Before JB, Mike Reiskind was the "assistant coach" of MagnUM. Although Reiks' style was a lot different than JB's, Mike had a gift for correctly analyzing what ailed us. He would then author a solution

that only an experienced and battle-tested veteran could offer. His suggestions usually involved one-part brains and one-part civil disobedience. As an experienced player, he knew the 'code' on the field better than most college players, and he knew when we were being taken advantage of. He knew that gamesmanship, attitude, and mental toughness are important in a game where there are no referees. And Mike's teaching of these attributes have been just as important to our success as the more tangible skills.

JB and Mike are now moving to more warmer climates and higher paying jobs (I can hear Julia Brodhag cheering all the way from NC!) We'll miss them both. The team is much better for their contributions and we cannot thank

them enough for all they have done. If you get a chance to see the current version of MagnUM ultimate and like what you see, let them know you had fun. They truly deserve it.

## ***This Week in MagnUM History: 2000 Regionals***

*By Andrew Brix*

Looking back at MagnUM's string of Regional Championships, it is easy to get caught thinking that it was all smooth sailing – that MagnUM's reign went unchallenged. But five years ago in West Lafayette, IN, it was anything but easy: down 11-14 in the semifinals with the losing throw in the air to a top Dayton receiver. No,

it was not easy, but MagnUM does not go out like that.

So the disc goes up to a 6-foot-plus Dayton receiver and two MagnUM defenders—Angus Mairs and Jeff Bischoff—converge on the throw. They all go up for the disc near the back line of the endzone, bodies collide, and the disc tumbles to the ground. The Dayton player starts to call a foul, but on seeing the size of the defenders—both at least six inches shorter—he thinks better of it. And that was it. MagnUM turned around, scored, reeled off the next four points to take the overtime victory 16-14, and then made short work of Notre Dame in the Finals to claim another Regional Championship.

Even before the semifinal against Dayton, MagnUM knew they had



***MagnUM at Classic City Classic XXXI, November 6-7, 2004 in Athens, GA***

*Back:* JB, Bill Conry, Colin McIntyre, Steve Gladieux, Jon Western, Dan Loewenstein, Dave Fumo, Nick Slovan, Pat Senatore, Aaron Bozicevich, Jason Zhang, Dave Boone, James Batey, and R!cky

*Middle:* Jeff Siddiqui, Armand Conti, Mike Swiryn, Craig Frankland, Sam Cohen, Vitaly Volberg

*Front:* Dave Collins, Trainer, Jason Barnes, Dave Gagnon

*Not Pictured:* Mike Akresh, Dave Branson, Andrew Brix, Ludi Ghesquire, Ryan Purcell, Eron Redbird

their work cut out for them that weekend. Perennial Callahan Award nominee Tim Murray was laid up in the UM Hospital with an infected knee and a promising rookie handler had previously been lost for the season to a shoulder injury. But these guys had grit. Michael "Hales" Haley played every point that weekend, save one. (Nobody remembers exactly when or why he decided to take a sub, only that he did. Once.)

## Spring Tourney Update

By Ryan Purcell and Aaron Bozicevich

Coming back to Ann Arbor in January for the Winter semester, the boys of MagnUM hoped to improve on a fall season that saw them win the Great Lakes Open in Oberlin, OH, lose to Wisconsin in the quarters of the Classic City Classic in Atlanta, and lose to Purdue in the quarters of the Dave Baldwin Memorial Tournament in Knoxville, TN.

MagnUM started the spring season off hosting an indoor tournament in January. The team lost to Purdue on universe point, and Michigan State went on to beat Purdue in the finals.

The next month saw the team working hard to prepare for the Queen City Tune-Up held Feb 12-13 in Charlotte, NC. QCTU was created by MagnUM alum and current coach Jonathan Brodhag while he played for the University of North Carolina. The team's play was much improved over their performance in the Michigan Indoor. A 9-7 loss against Georgia (eventual runner up) to round out pool play and an 11-8 loss in the quarters to Virginia (eventual Champions) were the only blemishes on MagnUM's record.

Two weeks later MagnUM returned to North Carolina to play in Spring

## 2005 Callahan Nominee: Craig Frankland

The Callahan Award is a big deal. It is college ultimate's MVP award. In fact, it is a big deal just to be nominated. I don't think Craig "Frank the Tank" Frankland wants us to make a big deal out of it, but we are going to tell you about him (and the award) just the same.

So what sort of person gets nominated for the Callahan?

*The Callahan Award has been established to recognize the most valuable players in college ultimate. Each year trophies are presented to the man and woman who combine superior athleticism with outstanding sportsmanship, leadership and dedication to the sport of ultimate.*

*In the eyes of his or her peers, the Callahan winner is the personification of the ideal ultimate player.*

(From: <http://www.callahan-mvp.com>)

For those of you who do not know Craig, I urge you to reread the quoted passage above. I think those of us who have played with Craig would all agree that it describes him pretty much spot on. And if you see him, congratulate him on his nomination and wish him luck in the voting this month.



Collegiates held on the campus of East Carolina University in Greenville. MagnUM won its pool with victories over Virginia Tech, Syracuse, and East Carolina, which placed them into a power pool with North Carolina, North Carolina State, and William & Mary. After a loss to UNC, MagnUM was thoroughly beaten in the "showcase" game by NC State late on Saturday. However, on Sunday morning the team came out firing and rattled off decisive victories over William & Mary and Tennessee which put them in the semis against UNC. MagnUM reversed the previous day's results with a 13-10 win over UNC and a 15-11 victory in the finals over NC State.

After an awesome spring break trip to Florida and a week of recovery time in Ann Arbor, the team headed out to Atlanta for College Terminus, March 12-13. The team beat NC State, Illinois, and Georgia on Saturday which pitted them against

Purdue in the pre-quarters on Sunday. MagnUM avenged their two previous losses to their regional rival with a 12-11 universe point victory, but in the quarters, MagnUM suffered a 12-11 loss to Michigan State.

The following weekend (March 19-20) MagnUM flew to Austin, TX to take part in the nation's premiere regular season tournament, CENTEX. The entire 24-team field was top notch, a fact MagnUM discovered very quickly after a few small mistakes cost them a 13-11 loss to Oregon. The team then rebounded with a victory over Illinois before being outplayed in a bad loss to Brown. The fourth pool play game was cut short by lightning with MagnUM trailing the University of California-Santa Barbara 7-4. After the storms moved on, MagnUM took on the then UPA number one ranked team, Virginia, in the "showcase" game. The team put forth one of their best

performances of the year in a dominating 13-5 victory. On Sunday the team opened with a tough loss (15-12) to Texas A&M (coached by MagnUM alum Nick Kohn) in the quarters before beating California 15-14 on universe point. In their final game under the Texas sun, MagnUM failed to protect a late lead and lost 15-14 on yet another universe point to University of California-Santa Barbara.

In their final tune-up before Sectionals and the start of the College Series, the team headed to State College, PA on April 2-3 to take part in the Spring Phling tournament. Bad weather was forecasted and bad weather was received as the fields became a veritable frigid swamp early on Saturday morning. MagnUM emerged victorious over UPenn, Carnegie Mellon, and Ohio State before the tournament was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Most recently MagnUM started the College Series with Sectionals in Lansing, MI. MagnUM dispatched Saturday's competition: Grand Valley State, Hope College, Western Michigan, and MSU-B with no team scoring more than 5 points against our heroes. The collective focus of some two dozen MagnUMites was fixated on the much anticipated match up with bitter rival Michigan State. Burning Couch, who had won the section the past two years,

seemed poised to win an unprecedented third straight Sectional Championship. Their ultimate dreams were soon obliterated by MagnUM. The team from Ann Arbor never trailed in the epic battle described by revelers as "awesome," "phenomenal ultimate" and "nectar of the gods." MagnUM survived a determined State run and won back the section in a 15-12 victory, earning a number one seed going into Regionals. What other championships will your merry band of frisbee aficionados win this spring? Only time—and whoever wins those tournaments—will tell.

## *MagnUM's First Regionals*

*By Michael Reiskind, with recollections from Tim Murray*

My first year in Michigan was also the first year of MagnUM. Some things I remember very clearly, like our first team meeting, complete with free pizza and some attempt at multimedia. I believe the first team meeting tradition continues to this day. Tim Murray, our captain and leader had the podium and he asked us, "What do you want to get out of Ultimate?"

"I want to go to Nationals," I brashly suggested. Everyone agreed. Simple, right? We wanted it, we were sure it would happen.

That fall was full of good times, and optimistic finishes at tournaments. We lost in the semifinals at Knoxville, and lost in the finals of our home tournament to an Ohio University team with three notable, local pickups: Eric Geile, Mike van Lent, and, yes, Ricky Eikstadt. The spring continued to be successful, with credible finishes at White Smoke and complete domination at Sectionals. For those of you not familiar with the Ultimate Players Association College Series, there are three qualifying levels: Sectionals

(roughly 1-3 states), Regionals, and Nationals (which strangely includes Canada). In the spring, we had only traveled to relatively local tournaments, and with games against Iowa our only losses, we looked forward to Regionals, confident in our assured spot at Nationals.

Saturday was the kind of day all ultimate players dream about. Sunny, a strengthening breeze, about 65 degrees. Our first game was against some chump team; an unmemorable crushing which fit nicely in our Nationals plans. Next we played Indiana, with a young Thor (who would be Indiana's star for the next several years) and a not so young Meat (another mainstay of Hoosier ultimate). After a slow start, we rolled them as well, ending the game 13-7, ready for the third round.

In the third round of play, we matched up with Carleton College, or CUT. As evidence of our complete naiveté, we figured they would be a tough but beatable team. We had failed to recognize that critical "next level" in college ultimate—Nationals caliber teams. We went down 13-0, with Matt Wilken (Rook), a gangly, pale, sickly freshman scoring our first point. We lost that game 17-3, my personal worst defeat in any meaningful tournament.

Saturday night was a pretty depressing event for MagnUM, like waking up from a pleasant dream to realize it was just a dream. But, our eyes were open, having seen our future, however far away it seemed at that point. Saturday was pretty depressing for another reason, as the temperature plummeted and it started to rain, hard.

Sunday was wet, cold, and windy. We woke up to a match up against our nemesis, Iowa. In a slightly sleepy, unpleasant game, they beat us handily, 13-7, led by the best little man in college ultimate that year, Ryan "the best player in the"

### *Ultimate Online*

*MagnUM Website:*

<http://michiganultimate.org/teams/magnum/>

*Ultimate Players Association:*

<http://www.upa.org/>

*Ultimate Basics and Strategy*

<http://www.ultimatehandbook.com/uh/>

*Local Ultimate Highlights*

<http://astoria.dnsalias.org/Ultimate.html>

*MagnUM CENTEX Photos:*

<http://centex05.smugmug.com/>

Nation. Our spirits were low, as we now dropped into the losers bracket, facing the University of Wisconsin (Madison). We showed our lack of excitement, going down 7-1. The cold and rain had gotten to us, particularly me. My hands had become so numb that I could not throw the forehand, and I was retired to the cars with a cup of coffee to join another of our experienced handlers, Jeff Bischoff. The game seemed pretty pointless, as Jeff and I watched through the rain streaked windshield.

Then MagnUM scored, 7-2. Madison turnover, another MagnUM score, 7-3. A Madison score, 8-3. A run of 3 by MagnUM, 8-6. By this time, the MagnUM rotation had been reduced to just a few guys, because sitting more than 1 point meant your muscles went cold, and that you would be done. Perhaps Madison had not realized this, or they were tiring, but either way we were coming back. Another MagnUM score, 8-7. Two scores by Madison, followed by an improbable run of 3 from us. Lead by our undisputed leaders Michael Jaeger and Tim Murray, we ended up on a 9-3 run, tying the game at 10s. The hard cap horn had sounded, game to 11.

At this point, my zeal for the team overcomes my hypothermia, blue lips, and shivering, and I get out of the car. We are pulling. A decent pull into the wind, and they center the disc. From a straight stack, a cut off the front from Madison's Ben Jammin to the break side, where he catches a perfect break mark pass, and rips a backhand deep to a streaking downfield defender covered by Tim Murray. The disc is well thrown, but Tim has the speed edge, and can jump. They both leap for the disc, Tim stretching out his arms, the sideline holding its breath and...they score. Game over, 11-10, and our Regionals was also over.



*Senior handler Sam Cohen gets a layout D against Brown at CENTEX.*

So, I tell you this story without a happy ending to let you understand how much we all wanted that opportunity to make it to the next level. The following year the region was redrawn to include only Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. In the new Great Lakes region, we crushed all comers with the outstanding combined score of 60-12, including a shutout ("bagel" in the ultimate parlance) of the mighty Ohio University. We finished 9<sup>th</sup> at Nationals, beating Iowa, and started a tradition of

Nationals attendance that has only seen one interruption since, a feat surpassed by only three teams in the nation (of the now 300 colleges that compete): Colorado, Carleton and Brown University. We have always been a team that works hard, and when things do not go our way, we just want it more; we work at it, and achieve our goals.

Another great story of the MagnUM spirit is Regionals in 2003, but somebody else should tell that one...

## ***MagnUM Notes***

### ***Newest Member of the MagnUM Family***

Lucy Tea Murray was born April 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 am to Theresa Weber and Tim Murray. Timmy and Theresa met in 1998 at a Labor Day Michigan ultimate clinic.

### ***B Team Qualifies for Regionals***

Tenacious B qualified this year for their first ever Regionals, earning a 12 seed. Congratulations!

### ***MagnUM Makes Lansing Nightly News***

MagnUM alum "TC" Joe Agostinelli tells us that the Sectional Final between MagnUM and MSU was reported on Fox 47 "News at 10" in Lansing. No word of any post-Sectional rioting.

## Who are we? MagnUM!

### #0 – Aaron Bozicevich

Sophomore, 1<sup>st</sup> yr. on MagnUM  
 Nickname: Boz  
 Stat: On IR 'til August with a torn ACL at CCC 2k4

### #1 – Colin McIntyre

Junior, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: El Presidente  
 Stat: High School Boggle Champion

### #2 – Craig Frankland

Grad student, 5<sup>th</sup> year on MagnUM  
 Nickname: Frank the Tank  
 Stat: Lifetime Achievement Award: Most Improved Thrower

### #3 – Ryan Purcell

Junior, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Mugatu  
 Stat: Once ran a marathon on 8 days notice

### #4 – Sam Cohen

Senior, 4<sup>th</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Sambone  
 Stat: 3 time DC wrestling champ

### #5 – Jason Barnes

PhD, 5<sup>th</sup> yr. (2<sup>nd</sup> w/ MagnUM)  
 Nickname: Old Man  
 Stat: Has played in the World Beach Ultimate Championships in Italy

### #6 – Dave Branson

Junior, 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: DJBRAN  
 Stat: Spent a semester studying Arabic in Egypt

### #7 – Jason Zhang

Senior, 4<sup>th</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: JZ  
 Stat: MagnUM's Greatest Driver

### #9 – James Batey

Junior, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Moist  
 Stat: Fell off a balcony without a scratch. Well a scratch, but not enough to keep him out

### #11 – Jon Western

Sophomore, 1<sup>st</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: JPW  
 Stat: Lost to Fumo twice. Syrup was a bad choice

### #13 – Dave Fumo

Freshman, 1<sup>st</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Fumes  
 Stat: MagnUM's up-and-coming syrup chugger

### #14 – Dave Boone

Senior, 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Boonedizzle  
 Stat: Man can gyrate with the best of 'em

### #15 – Dave Collins

Junior, 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Cowboy  
 Stat: Keeper of the "The Demoralizer"

### #16 – Jeff Siddiqui

Grad student, 1<sup>st</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Bandit  
 Stat: Played 3 years of club soccer at Cornell

### #17 – Dan Lowenstein

Senior, 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: D-Lo  
 Stat: Was a contestant on The Price is Right

### #19 – Steve Gladieux

Freshman, 1<sup>st</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Big Steve  
 Stat: Spends most of his time hiking, fishing, and hunting with a bola

### #20 – Andrew Brix

Grad student, 5<sup>th</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Brix  
 Stat: Has managed to stay in school and stay eligible since the Reagan administration

### #22 – Nick Slovan

Senior, 4<sup>th</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: The King  
 Stat: Eats faster than a grizzly bear coming out of hibernation

### #27 – Bill Conry

Sophomore, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Boo-boo tittykins  
 Stat: Varsity Squash letter winner in high school



Ryan "Mugatu" Purcell maintains possession

### #30 – Dave Gagnon

Grad student, 5<sup>th</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Pug  
 Stat: Least known first name ever

### #34 – Mike Swiryn

Senior, 4<sup>th</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Swigs  
 Stats: Single handedly: Brought down the Berlin Wall, caught Saddam Hussein, freed those child laborers in Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom and killed off all the dinosaurs

### #54 – Armand Conti

Junior, 1<sup>st</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Ram Dan, Tanzarian  
 Stat: Lets his father cut his hair (and my what a mighty fine job might I add)

### #55 – Mike Akresh

Sophomore, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Aflak  
 Stat: Has been playing competitive ultimate for 7 years

### #66 – Pat Senatore

Freshman, 1<sup>st</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: Senator  
 Stat: Gluten-free and LOVIN' EVERY MINUTE OF IT!

### #90 – Vitaly Volberg

Grad student, 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.  
 Nickname: V  
 This boy can climb like a ring-tailed lemur!