OSU offers Ultimate Frisbee

By Susan Frisbee
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For those frisbee fanatics who are addicted to tossing that flat, round disc on the Oval, Ultimate frisbee is here.

Ultimate frisbee is a simulation of football without the pads, pigskin, referees or goal posts.

The game is played with seven-member teams on a field 40 yards wide and 60 yards long with two 30-yard end zones.

The object of the game is to pass the frisbee from one player to another and work it down the field. There are designated players for different positions playing offense and defense.

There are no referees for the game. The offensive team calls the fouls and the game is played for two 45-minute periods.

The OSU team was started last year by a dozen students and is funded by members.

The team practices three or four times a week. This week, members are practicing for the two-day sectional tournament at Ohio University Friday and Saturday.

Teams will play two or three games each day, eliminating the competition until four teams are left. The sectional champs will play in the regionals in Lexington, Ky., and go from there to the nationals in California.

Last weekend the OSU team played at Wittenberg University and won. The team has games scheduled at Ohio University for this weekend and the weekend of Oct. 31. The dates for the regionals and nationals are not yet known.

There are several schools in the country with frisbee clubs. The teams are divided into regions by different areas of the country with 10 to 12 schools in each region.

The club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Ohio Union Memorial Suite 201.
Hacky Sack, Frisbee lovers will get ‘kick’ out of festival

By Maria A. Reynolds
Lantern staff writer

The Oval, usually full of dogs, preachers and students tanning, will be full of Hacky Sacks and Frisbees Saturday when the Third Annual Frisbee and Hackey Sack Festival invades campus from noon until 5 p.m.

The festival is being sponsored by Whamo, Cross Country Cycle, McDonalds, Burger King and Peasant on the Lane restaurant.

“The purpose for the festival is to instruct and to demonstrate,” said Bob McSheffery, a senior from Upper Arlington and chairman of the festival. “It is not about competition. We aren’t looking for just spectators. We’re looking for participants,” he said.

McSheffery expects more than 1,500 people to attend the festival.

McSheffery said there will be many games set up all along the Oval, and onlookers are encouraged to get involved.

Games that will be played at the festival include:
• Guts. This is played with two five-man teams that stand facing one another 14 feet apart. Once they are situated, Frisbees are thrown back and forth at high speed by both teams. The team that catches the most Frisbees wins the game. They must be caught with one hand. (Records show Frisbees have reached speeds of 70 m.p.h.)
• Disc Golf. Discs are thrown into a wire basket that has been mounted on a tall pole.
• Freestyle Hacky Sack. A player uses different body movements to keep the footbag in the air. He cannot use his hands or arms to prevent the footbag from falling.
• Ultra Footbag Net. This is played by one- or two-man teams. The teams kick the footbag back and forth over a six-foot net. Players can hit the bag only with body parts from the knee down.

Although the games will be played without a competitive team, individuals displaying the best skill in the various events will receive Frisbees and/or coupons from several of the festival’s sponsors.

“We sponsor many events like these,” said Amy Berard, project coordinator in the Sports Promotion Office of Whamo, makers of Frisbees and Hacky Sack footbags.

“Saturday’s event is an educational activity,” she said.
Frisbees catch respectability as competitive university club sport

By Scott Riedel
Lantern sports writer

There's another kind of football team at Ohio State. It doesn't play in front of 80,000 fans in the horseshoe on Saturday afternoon. Its entire game plan is an aerial attack. Its members don't have dreams of roses, they're just out to have fun.

The OSU ultimate disc club offers students the opportunity to participate in frisbee football in a fun, exhilarating and organized way.

"It's a lot like frisbee football," said President Brett Bedore, a senior from Stow majoring in surveying engineering. "It's a different kind of sport that's a little less serious, but fun to play."

"The most unique thing about it is the spirit of the game. The ultimate goal is to have fun. Competitiveness and playing hard is encouraged," Bedore said.

The game is played on a 110-yard field with two seven-member teams. The strategy of the game is to throw the frisbee from teammate to teammate until a player catches the frisbee in the end zone. However, when a player catches the frisbee from his or her teammate, they are not permitted to run with the frisbee.

Many students join the club not only for the exercise, but also for the challenge of trying to catch the frisbee under unexpected conditions.

"Because I'm a juggler, I like to catch things," said Noah Cowan, a junior from Delaware majoring in electrical engineering/pre-med. "Because I'm also a runner, this sport gives me the combination of both things that I enjoy to do."

Cowan also said the elements of the sport are much more difficult than other sports.

"Throwing a disc compared to a baseball or football is much different, especially when the wind becomes a factor. There's a lack of predictability because of the element the sport provides," Cowan said.

The games are not officiated, so the players make their own calls.

"We really haven't had any problems having officials," Bedore said. "We really don't worry about things like that because we're all having fun."

Some members who join the club do so in order to understand how the game is played.

"When I was in high school, my friends and I would play a lot, but we really didn't know the rules," said Kathryne Hirsch, a sophomore from Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

"The people are nice, plus they are also understanding when you're unable to attend practices, because they know that it's just a hobby and we sometimes have other things we must do," Hirsch said.

The disc club meets three days a week for practice, and has competed against clubs from Ohio University, Miami, Dayton, Toledo and Oberlin, to name a few.

The club is also a member of the UPA (Ultimate Players Association), which is a group that organizes and puts together regional and national tournaments in the United States and around the world.