

# Frisbee game is just the ultimate

Campus club carries on sport's long tradition of playing for fun

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It is not unusual to hear ultimate Frisbee players serenading each other with creative cheers on the playing field or patting a competitor on the back for making a spectacular catch. But, such behavior is as much a part of the game of ultimate Frisbee as the disc itself.

"Ultimate players have one goal and one goal alone, the betraying of which is considered the sacred sin in the game," said John Whiteman, senior co-captain of the St. Thomas team. "Play as hard as you can for as much fun as you can, but never do it in a way that will compromise the game of your opponent."

This philosophy, also known as The Spirit of the Game among ultimate players, and the game itself began more than 30 years ago in a high school parking lot in Maplewood, N.J. High school student Joel Silver and his friends started what they called "the ultimate game" and predicted that someday "the entire world will be playing this."

Today ultimate is played by an estimated 100,000 players in more than 30 countries, with the Ultimate Players Association in the United States having more than 30,000 members. At St. Thomas, the ultimate team has 30 members and is quickly becoming popular with both female and male students. For some former athletes, such as junior David Zeller, ultimate provides an opportunity to play a competitive sport without the extensive time commitment of a varsity sport.

"If it weren't for the Ultimate Frisbee Club, I wouldn't even be here at St. Thomas," Zeller said. "I wrestled here my freshman year, and unfortunately they cut that team. Frisbee is the only real reason I stuck around."

With Zeller, Whiteman and junior Rob Mooers serving as co-captains for the upcoming season, the St. Thomas ultimate team hopes to com-



LISA JOY LOMURRAY/THE AQUIN

Aaron Opp attempts to block John Whiteman's pass during an ultimate frisbee game at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

pete in more tournaments and attract more fans to watch the fast-paced sport.

"The great part is that it's hard to watch without wanting to play; fans become players," Whiteman said.

Although the St. Thomas Ultimate team does not have access to a home playing field on campus, they still practice and play games at various fields around the Twin Cities area.

"We don't really have a home field," Zeller said. "St. Thomas has a field space problem, and we kind of get pushed aside."

This fall the team hopes to play at least one home game on campus, and Zeller said the spring season will provide the ultimate team the opportunity to play in front of a home crowd at St. Thomas. In addition, the team

will play in tournaments in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

In ultimate, the players serve as their own officials. The field is 70 yards by 40 yards, with two 25-yard endzones and seven players from each team on the field at a time. Play starts when one of the three "handlers" initiates play by picking up the disc and throwing it to another teammate. Players may not run with the disc, and possession of the disc changes teams when a pass is not completed. Each time the offense completes a pass in the defense's endzone, a point is scored.

But scoring goals and winning the game comes second to the camaraderie and good sportsmanship that is expected between competing teams. Although they play against

larger schools such as the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, St. Thomas has already shown the team spirit that is integral to the game of ultimate.

"Last fall we got many comments from well-established teams on how well we played, how hard we played and how impressed they were," Whiteman said. "Last spring [St. Thomas] won the spirit award at a tournament held at Luther, an award on par with getting first place. [It's] not a consolation trophy; the spirit award gets respect."

This year St. Thomas will field two men's teams and one women's team with both experienced and rookie players. The team's captains said anyone can join the club and play on the team.

"It doesn't matter if you have never thrown a disc before in your life," Whiteman said. "We have some dedicated players who picked one up for the first time in their life freshman year and who will be playing quality games against the best teams in our region their senior year."

For ultimate players like Mooers, this season provides another chance to play a game different than any other.

"The idea of the game is just to have fun," Mooers said. "That is why I love it so much, because we are always having fun."

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## Two-minute drill

### Men's CC ranked 8th nationally in preseason

The St. Thomas men's cross country team is ranked eighth nationally in Division III in the coaches' 2002 preseason poll. Hamline, at No. 16, and Carleton, at No. 24, are the only other MIAC teams ranked in the top 25.

Coach Pete Wareham's 2001 Tommies repeated as conference champion and took fifth in the NCAA championships. That marked the school's best national finish since the 1989 team placed fourth. It was also the 15th MIAC team championship in the last 24 years.

### TE Ryan Collins released by Kansas City Chiefs

Former St. Thomas All-America tight end Ryan Collins was released September 1 by the Kansas City Chiefs in the final cut-down day for NFL teams. The Chiefs trimmed down more than a dozen players to get to 55 players, and must eventually cut two more.

Collins had a frustrating camp with the Chiefs, who signed him in late June. Collins made the All-NFL Europe team after playing well with the Amsterdam Admirals. Despite the absence for most of camp of All-Pro tight end Tony Gonzalez, Collins saw limited time among a group of five tight ends. His lone catch in four preseason games was a one-yard TD pass Aug. 24 in a 17-14 preseason loss to Seattle.

Collins, who is also a long-snapper, now must wait to see if any opportunities present themselves on other NFL teams, especially if injuries occur at his position.

### 2002 Tommies ranked 20th by d3football.com

Led by a wealth of returning offensive talent, the 2002 St. Thomas football team has cracked the d3football.com preseason top-25 rankings.

Fifth year head coach Don Roney comes into 2002 with Tommie team ranked 20th by the respected Internet site — it's first appearance in the d3football preseason rankings. St. John's, rated No. 2, is the only other MIAC team in the poll.

The Tommies will play four teams that reached the NCAA Division III playoffs in either 2000 or 2001.

### Tommies No. 1 in MIAC coaches' VB poll

The University of St. Thomas volleyball team has been ranked first in the 2002 MIAC preseason volleyball poll in a vote of conference head coaches.

The Tommies, who received nine first-place votes, return five starters and 10 of their top 12 players from a 22-8 team of 2001 that broke 14 school records. Their freshman recruiting class includes three Minnesota all-staters. Coach Cole Tallman's Tommies placed third in both the 12-team MIAC regular season race and

the six-team postseason tournament.

### Women's Golf second at CSB Invite

The St. Thomas women's golf team placed second in the seven-team Fairways Invitational hosted by St. Ben's. The host Blazers scored 700 to top the Tommies by nine strokes. Freshman Kerry Shea led St. Thomas with a 171 score, which was second low among 42 golfers in the field. Megan Doyscher shot 177, and Katie Glorvigan posted a 181.

The Tommies graduated four of their top five players from a 2001-2002 team that won the MIAC championship last October and placed ninth at the Division III nationals last May.

### Women's CC 4th of 12 at St. John's Invite

Sophomore Nicole Gurgel placed fourth out of a field of nearly 100 runners to lead the St. Thomas women to fourth place in the team competition Saturday at the St. John's Invitational in Collegeville.

Gurgel clocked 20:00 for the season-opening, 5,000-meter (3.1-mile) race. Freshman Chelsea Guettinger was 17th in 21:16; track and field All-American Tish Dusich made her cross country debut and ran 21:32 for 21st; Alana Lucio (22:02), Natalie Stork (22:03) and Brigid Power (22:05) placed 31st through 33rd; Beth Magnuson was 38th in 22:19; and Lindsey Hansen was 57th in 22:47.