

NEFA News

New England Flying disc Association
"Promoting Flying Disc Play in New England"

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Disc Fusion in Amherst

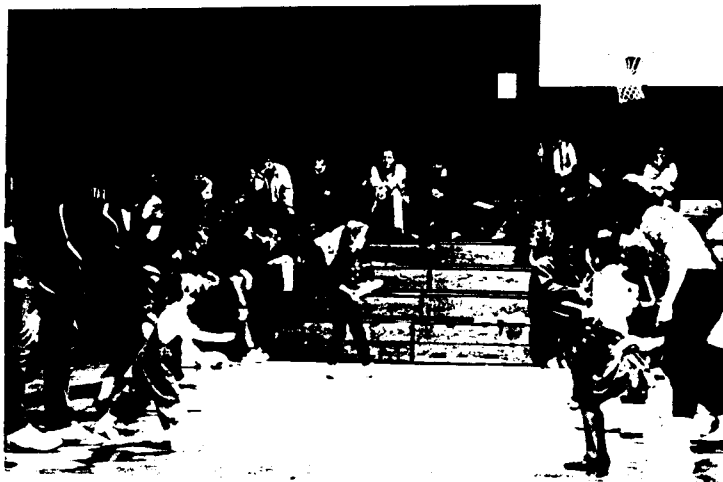
by Tiina Booth

I fumbled with the electrical tape as I put another flapping "Frisbee Show" sign in place. I had drunk too much coffee, and my anxiety level was tournament high. Although Tim Eng, Judy Robbins and I had hashed out almost every detail over the phone, I was nervous about something over which I had no control. How would my students get along with my disc-playing friends? Would there be a collision of my two worlds, and could any repercussions affect my tenuous position as a new faculty member?

I suppose this sounds highly paranoid, but you see, I really want to have a great disc sports club at Amherst High. One of the reasons I took my teaching job was of Amherst's reputation as a disc town. In 1980 I attended a big NAS event in Amherst. It was one of my first tournaments, and it was a terrific weekend. I was exposed to serious disc competition (Scottie Z. and DDC) as well as silly flying disc horseplay ("Riders of Tofu"). I desperately wanted my students to get a taste of this unique combination.

For the March 10, 1990 Amherst event, we secured the school gym from noon until 9:00 p.m. Preliminaries would be held in accuracy and freestyle during the day. At 7:00 p.m. we would hold a Frisbee® Show for the general public and top it off with the finals in both events.

My pre-tournament anxiety began to wane as people started arriving. Tim showed up with his tiny car loaded with the sound system and sushi donated from a local sponsor. Judy brought in boxes of trophies, prizes and NEFA propaganda. Poleholes began to mysteriously appear. Competitors from all over the northeast started warming up. And, slowly but surely, my students began to show up and timidly ask, "Ms. Booth, what would you like me to do?"



Disc'ers mix with youngst'ers at the Amherst Fusion

Fusion / Continued on Page 4

Amherst Freestyle

by Tim Eng

The March 10th tournament at Amherst Regional High School spurred several Northeast freestylers to leave their indoor havens for a trip to the Pioneer Valley. Four New England Flying Disc Association (NEFA) pairs were joined by five pairs of metropolitan New York jammers on a day fit for some outdoor concrete shredding. The players cracked the road-trip stiffness out of their bones, nailed up (except for Chris DePaola who goes au naturel), and, for those who were around for the Yankee Flying Disc Open, the Mass States, the North American Series tournaments, and/or the Progressives, reacquainted themselves with Jamherst.



Rick & Judy jam for the judges

Disc Expression Session

A Disc Expression Session led off the Freestyle events. For those not familiar with this phenomenon, the Expression Session is a non-competitive event which emphasizes cooperation, communication, and learning through freestyle disc play in a random co-op (a group of three or four players) structure. Co-op groups jam to whatever music happens to be playing. If the improvisational routine feels good to the audience and to the players watching, then the trio is encouraged to keep playing until they choose to end. It gives the participants a chance to express their joy of disc play with new partners and to share the excitement of a remarkable improvisational co-op exchange while feeding off of and returning the energy of the audience.

Preliminary Freestyle Round

Highlights from the first pool during the preliminary freestyle round included a spontaneous and energetic routine by the Memphis Connection, Sunny Cade and Steve Vinoski, followed by a loosely choreographed, cooperative set by Todd Brodeur and Tim Eng (me). Jeff Felberbaum's triple-spinning madness paired with Brad Keller's blind pickups and trick high-spinning throws was next, succeeded by Robert Fried and Pat Rabdau's flowing routine with their disc spending some time at moderate and extreme angles.

Freestyle / Continued on Page 4

Presidents's Corner

by Steve Hartwell

Welcome to 1990 and a new decade of disc sports in New England! To start things off right, enclosed is your super deluxe NEFA Membership Mini (unless you've already picked yours up previously). Use it as your calling card to NEFA events and to help turn new people on to flying disc.

If you look carefully at the disc and throughout this newsletter, you'll see that our organization, while keeping the NEFA acronym, has changed its name to the New England Flying disc Association. This important change, inspired by Sunny Cade as a result of talks with Dan Roddick of Wham-O, respects the word Frisbee® as the trademarked name for a particular brand of flying disc. Thus in the spirit of fairness to Wham-O and of accurate representation of our organization (most of our members use discs made by many different manufacturers, including Discraft, Innova-Champion and Lightning), we have agreed to substituting "Flying disc" for Frisbee.

I regret to say that Alan Caplin has resigned in his design and production role for the NEFA News; we thank him profusely for doing such a great job over the past year. Yours truly is filling in for now, with support from wife Joy (and not so able assistance from son Wesley -- at least he shows preference to teething on a NEFA mini). The graphics, unfortunately, will be much less scintillating (as I don't have nearly the knowledge of desktop publishing that Alan does), but hopefully the content will continue to prove newsworthy and enjoyable to the membership. Are there any disc-jock, computer-jock NEFA members out there who are willing to help with any aspect of the newsletter, especially the publishing side?

Have you renewed your membership for 1990? If your NEFA News mailing label says MEMBER89 on it, this will be your last issue and you won't receive a mini unless you renew. Please use the form on Page 7; it's still only ten bucks. Have you encouraged your disc-playing buddies to join? NEFA needs new blood to grow the spirit of disc sports in New England -- people to organize tournaments, seek out new disc golf course sites, run for office, and help with the newsletter.

NEFA Officers

President: Steve Hartwell	(508) 664-2888
Vice President: Theo "Sunny" Cade	(508) 464-5497
Treasurer: Rick Williams	(617) 666-5936
Membership: Jason Southwick	(508) 798-0704
Promotion: Judy Robbins	(617) 666-5936
Todd Brodeur	(508) 378-2024

Newsletter: Steve and Joy Hartwell

Please contact the appropriate person with suggestions or ideas.

New England Disc Players Fly South

by Rick Williams

Summer's here! At least for a few days it was for a number of Boston Ultimate players and one lone disc golfer who ventured south for the 3rd Annual Palm Beach and Disc Golf Tournament in Wellington, Florida. The tournament took place at the Palm Beach Polo Club (where Prince Charles plays polo when he visits) on the most beautiful, manicured fields one could hope for.

A pre-tournament party was held at Juno Beach on Friday, with beer, coleslaw, potato salad and chicken provided by non other than the great grandson of Colonel Sanders. The temperature was seventy-eight degrees, the sun was out, and the surf was up. A brief rainstorm interrupted the festivities, but the sun soon shone again, allowing some beach freestyling and getting horizontal in the surf.

Ultimate

On Saturday, eighteen playing fields awaited the forty-two teams. The wind was strong but not entirely unmanageable. Sixteen women's and twenty-six men's teams played off in a round robin format. Sun and clouds persisted for most of the day until a rainstorm dampened the last hour of play.

A party was held Saturday night just outside the polo stadium under a huge tent, where a bar was serving (free) beer and (\$) other drinks. Live bands kept the place rocking, while next to the tent a handful of freestylers added to the entertainment.

Another round of play continued Sunday morning. The finals were held in the polo stadium prior to an afternoon polo match. The women's final saw Lady Godiva (Boston) trounce Satori (Washington, D.C.). In the men's final, New York City Ultimate prevailed over M'GUS (Boston). Between the ultimate finals and the polo match, the crowd was treated to an MTA demonstration and disc freestyle performances.

Golf

The disc golf tournament was held on the ball golf course at the Wellington Country Club. Upper class protocol prevailed as shoes and collared shirts were required for all disc golfers while on the course. A total of forty-eight competitors in four divisions -- Open (24), Advanced (13), Novice (5), and Master (6) -- played two rounds on Saturday and two on Sunday with a seven hole final for the top Open players. On Saturday the wind was heavy, and the holes were long and wide open. With few trees and manicured grass, rollers were always tempting. However, the wind was often a big spoiler, since the disc's release angle was not often enough to determine an accurate throw with unpredictable gusts. The last six holes were played in the same rainstorm that drenched the Ultimate players.

The wind was mild and the rain stayed away on Sunday. John Andrews won the Open division with a 204. Ken Climo took second with 208, and Tom Monroe had 209 for third. Ex-New Yorker Ed Malloy tied for eighth place, still in the money, with a 217. In the Master's, Marshall Scribner (229) took first with Danny Winters (231) second and Randy Osborn (233) third.

Many thanks to Tom Finan, Director of the Ultimate Tournament, to Glenn Dooner, Director of the Disc Golf Tournament, and to the Palm Beach Polo and Country Club in Wellington, Florida, for the use of their beautiful facilities.

Frostbite Folf at Miantonomi

by Bob DeCosta

The Frisbee gods were smiling upon us once again, as we had a brisk sunny day and a super turnout at the Rhode Island Frostbite Classic, held at Miantonomi Park in Newport, Rhode Island, on January 13, 1990. All the diehards were there, as well as surprise visitor Harvey Brandt, ever-punctual Tiina Booth, and a healthy contingent of amateur and junior golfers.

In what can only be considered idyllic conditions for January in New England -- 25 degrees, no snow, and Firm Tee Footing -- nineteen hearty souls set on a quest for the coveted "Broken Disc" award and cash prizes. The 27-hole course wends its way uphill and down through an unfortunately littered, but otherwise beautiful park. Golfers were challenged to make par and scramble back to the car to warm up before going back out in the cold to do it again. Except for a minor problem with disappearing tee markers, the tournament went off without a hitch.

When the folfing was done, all invaded Ho Jo's and did dinner in style. Tim "Choke" Dyer was his usual eloquent self and did a nice job presenting the awards, which included an awesome \$22 purse. For top awards, Harvey Brandt held off some stiff competition for the Men's title. In the Women's division, Ms. Tiina Booth was in a class by herself. Chris Livingston won the amateur division in his first tournament. Joey Walker, also in his first tournament, was the champion of the Junior's.

Tim Dyer, John Affonso, and I want to thank all of you who braved the cold for a great time; we hope to see you again on the course this season.

Final Standings (54 Hole Totals)

<u>Men's Open</u>		Total			Total
1) Harvey Brandt		159	6) Bill MacWilliams		174
2) Todd Brodeur		165	7) Bob DeCosta		175
3) Rick Williams		169	8) John Affonso		178
4) Tim Dyer		172	9) Sunny Cade		180
5) Chris Phillips		173	10) Dale Fuller		181
			11) Bob Belmore		182
<u>Women's Open</u>		193			
1) Tiina Booth					
<u>Men's Amateur</u>			<u>Juniors</u>		
1) Chris Livingston	182		1) Joey Walker		200
2) Bruce Kennedy	207		2) Harold Pfeiffer		214
3) Alan Neal	225				

One Fine Saturday, Worlds Apart: A Serial Feature

by "Herbert Herman"

Out in the Woods

It was way more than a million to one chance. Gelinda's computer puts it at approximately 17,697,847,719,002.6 to one, give or take a percentage point, but that's not important. The point is that one fine September Saturday at exactly 2:11:16 P.M., three guys from Massachusetts, each playing the 13th hole on their respective disc golf course, took their respective discs out of their respective golf bags, and shot three simultaneous holes in one.

Then Bill MacPilgrim, Wayne Bergenflug and myself, each of us several miles from the others and unaware that our combined spectacular shooting was about to zap us through time and space, raised our right fists and yelled "YEAHHH!" Then we were gone. We just sort of stepped out of this temporal plane and into another. There we were. One second later, there we weren't. With the odds at better than 17 trillion to one, we hit the cosmic jackpot. I guess the Big Casino Owner in the sky decided to call us a taxi before we could take a piece of his action.

The Twisted Visionary and the Concept of Mutual Solitude

It was Bill who had the idea of staging this three person tournament, where each of us plays 18 holes on his own disc golf course -- all at the same time. After we finished, went the plan, we would call each other up to gloat and moan.

"What are we, radioactive?" said Wayne with friendly sarcasm.

"The Disc Golf Association for Lepers," I added.

But Bill's infectious enthusiasm for far-out competitions spread over to us. Somehow we recognized it as one of the stupidest, most moronic, ridiculous and unique tournament idea we had ever heard...

"How about Saturday?"

"One o'clock?"

"Saturday at one? Sounds good to me."

"OK, Saturday at one."

"Great!"

... in a word, irresistible!

The Future of Video and the Fate of My Friends

Gelinda's computer is truly an awesome piece of equipment. It makes using a Macintosh seem like counting on your fingers. Four thousand years of development have yielded more than a few technical advancements. And while the authorities here on this new and improved planet figure out what to do with me, the accidental tourist from the 20th century, I can use the anywhere-anywhen key to keep an eye on Bill and Wayne. It's like watching TV; when I get tired of Cave Bill and the Cromagnons, I switch channels to Wayne's Wacky Adventures in Rome.

The two of them materialized, oh, about a million years apart, on separate continents, dressed as they were when they, quite literally, disappeared from the New England Disc golf scene. They bore disc golf bags (it's a good thing Lightning Discs are guaranteed forever) minus the one driver, and a few other odds and ends, the likes of which their new contemporaries had never dreamed.

Tripping in Alpha-Eden

When my particles pulled themselves back together, my shout of triumph gurgled to a quick stop and my raised right fist shrivelled back into my sleeve. I stood in the middle of a colorful and, how should I put it, mellow metropolis. It was as if the corners of the buildings and other objects, perhaps artworks, had been sanded down, rounded off. It was as if the circle had replaced the square.

The inhabitants were a race of relative giants, and they gaped at me, raggedy man time-warped to the doorways of this brave new world.

One Fine Day / Continued on Page 5

Disc Fusion / From Page 1

Ruth and Louis helped Judy with registration, as competitors and spectators began to trickle in. I smiled to myself as Judy gave them lightning-fast instructions, and they quietly struggled to follow everything that she said. Other students guarded the doors; because of the awkward setup of the accuracy hoops, people were allowed into the gym only between rounds. The youth corps were ever vigilant, and I was delighted to see them playing a fast and furious game of HORSE with the Hartwell's mini polehole as well.

Accuracy Preliminaries (Score number of shots made out of 28)

<u>Open</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Amateur</u>
1) Joe Proud 18	1) Tiina Booth 11	David Caputo 14
2) Harvey Brandt* 17	2) Joy Hartwell 9	Donald Booth 11
3) Dan Berman* 17		

*Harvey won playoff with Dan for second place, 22 to 19

Spectators continued to arrive throughout the day. 93 people paid \$1 each to see the festivities at various times.

The freestyle preliminaries were next after a long players' meeting (what do they talk about anyway?) and the "Expression Session" was particularly impressive. I do not feel at all competent to comment perceptively about the freestyle, so I won't.

During the break before the evening performance, pizza arrived to feed the competitors and Edwin "Stick" Dissossway organized a game of basketball. He had just returned from shepherding Wayne Roberts through the UMass clinic, as poor Wayne had gotten some superglue in his eye earlier. Wayne sported a macho eye patch as he went into observer mode for the rest of the day.

Edwin, in his inimitable way, soon had a hot game of half-court underway. This was an event in which my students were not intimidated. They came out of the woodwork and held their own against the hulking disc players. Edwin played the role of the kind coach, and I loved watching him dish off to Brenda, a hard-working member of our school's girls basketball team, and David, one of my homeroom students who had never spoken a word to me.

Harvey Brandt provided the BIG VOICE during the evening Show, and soon had members of the audience involved in Speed Flow and Mini Distance. As I mingled during the demonstration, I had numerous children come up to me and say, "This is great! When are you going to have another one?" Several of my colleagues showed up as did my principal, and they were impressed with the entertainment and the talent.

Accuracy Finals -- Top 2 Competitors from Preliminaries (Score number of shots made out of 28)

<u>Open</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Amateur</u>
Harvey Brandt with 22 over Joe Proud	Tiina Booth with 11 over Joy Hartwell	Donald Booth with 11 over David Caputo

After the freestyle finals, I was surprised to see how many spectators stayed around to hear the results. Judy put together a fine selection of prizes. After awards were given out, everybody pitched in to clean up the area, and we all trooped over to Twisters, a local night spot, for a tournament party.

The following Monday, I returned to school and was met with revitalized enthusiasm for the frisbee club. Word must have gotten out that fun was had, for students who could not make the event were sincerely apologetic and wanted to be included in the next event. Two weeks later I had twenty people out for Ultimate practice, and we're planning a trip to the disc golf course in Barre. For the students of Amherst High and this faculty member, it was a genuine success.



Jahmherst Organizers: Tiina, Judy & Tim

My thanks to all who contributed their time and energy, particularly Tim and Judy. Assuming that I get my contract renewed for next year, I hope to make this an annual event. In conclusion, there was no collision, only a smooth fusion of two very important groups of people.

Freestyle / From Page 1

Harvey Brandt and Rick Sader led off the second pool by exhibiting some difficult moves including Rick's clean against-the-spin pullouts and inversions. Liz Powell and Doug "E. Fresh" Simon paired up for a smooth, flowing routine while Judy Robbins and Rick Williams got hot with Judy hitting a blind around-the-waist catch and Rick getting aerial on a few catches. Quinn O'Neill and Bruce Page made use of low to moderate spinning throws in a choreographed, highly cooperative and original performance to become the top seed out of this hotly contested pool.

Amateur Division

While reminiscing about a past performance, those of us who started freestyling relatively late in life sometimes think, "If only I knew then what I know now." When I watch Kyle Black and Walter Dunbar freestyle, I sense that these two thirteen-year-old jammers won't know that feeling. Both players displayed some solid delay work during their routine with Kyle setting up his catches with some nice rim pullouts while Walter preferred a clean setup. Perhaps other entrants to this division got wind of this team's talents as they were the sole representatives.

Freestyle / Continued on Page 5

Final Freestyle Round

After a break to digest some delicious pizzas supplied by our sponsors, the final freestyle round got underway. This final round was part of an evening of disc entertainment encompassing the Accuracy finals, an instructional demonstration, audience participation, and full court disc shots at a basketball hoop. For the Freestyle finals, Liz P. and Doug S. set the pace with Doug's steady arsenal of spinning catches off of roll and rim setups. Although his nickname is "E. Fresh", based on his performance in the finals I think he should be called the "terminator" as he finished off some of his individual sets with a spinning phlaud, flamingitis, gitis, and reverse flamingo. Liz's zen radar tracked a spinning blind behind-the-head catch and a nice scarecrow. Rhythm and execution was the key to this pair's success.

Jeff F. and Brad K. began their routine with two discs and then progressed into some low spin work. Brad displayed a gitis backhand, an ipsilateral (same side), twisted backhand in the sitting position, and a behind-the-back and under-the-contralateral-leg backhand with plenty of spin. Jeff exhibited plenty of variety with moves such as a double fluff into an osis behind-the-back catch with his palm facing the floor. He also amazed us with what can be described as a no-handed cartwheel with both legs coming over the disc in a step-over mode, but in the prone position. Although this pair took top honors for variety, their execution deductions pulled their overall score down.

Todd B. and Tim E. tried to use a version of the routine we were practising for last fall's New England Regional as a framework for this one. The co-ops consisted of the use of both spins with against-the-spin passes and pullouts. Todd's flowing style was punctuated by stabbing catches such as a scarecrow while Tim focused on upside down work and flat setups. Dropitis plagued our set as the energy level never approached that of our preliminary routine.

Bostyle's Judy R. and Rick W. performed a well-executed routine with Judy hitting a bad attitude catch off of a roll setup, a two and a half spinning osis behind-the-back pullout, and a gitis on a near-vertical setup. Rick added variety by throwing with both hands, working the top side of the disc and getting aerial with a reverse flamingo.

Rob F. and Pat R. began their routine hitting four out of their first four co-ops. Rob stuck some beautiful against-the-spin holds, an osis behind-the-back air brush, and some spinning catches including a two and a half between-the-leg grab. He also worked both spins. Pat looked comfortable with his against-the-spin and benign work, upside down play, and some smooth back and chest roll combinations into spinning catches. Unfortunately, their highly difficult routine suffered from execution deductions.

Last up was Quinn O. and Bruce P. who dubbed themselves "the same, but different". They extended their original choreographed and highly cooperative preliminary routine. The disc exchanged hands a remarkable 35 times (not including throws). The disc found itself spinning in both directions and upside down. On exchanges between the two, the disc was tipped, guided off of chest rolls, and expressively rim-swept. Even though their set was well choreographed, kept to the beat of their music, and made full use of the gym, this pair was hampered by several execution deductions.

When the results were tabulated the two mixed pairs, Liz/Doug, and Judy/Rick found they had executed themselves into first and second place respectively. The presentation of Quinn/Bruce helped them hang on to the third slot while Rob/Pat's difficulty earned them a fourth place finish. A varied routine by Jeff/Brad gave them fifth while Todd/Tim rounded out the finals. Kyle/Walter took the Amateur honors and all the participants in the Disc Expression Session won their share of fun.

Freestyle Finals

Amateur

- 1) Kyle Black /
Walter Dunbar

Open

- 1) Liz Powell / Doug Simon
- 2) Judy Robbins / Rick Williams
- 3) Quinn O'Neill / Bruce Page
- 4) Robert Fried / Pat Rabdau
- 5) Jeff Felderbaum / Brad Keller
- 6) Todd Brodeur / Tim Eng

One Fine Day / From Page 3

"I know this may sound like a stupid question..." I said. Upon hearing these utterances, my strange hosts -- these beautiful people with long flowing hair, brilliant eyes, and red, gold and silver clothing -- gaped even more. Evidently the evolutionary process had not lain waste to the feeling of surprise.

"... but did anyone see that shot?"

By now their eyes looked ready to pop out of their heads, and I remember thinking that if their mouths opened any wider, they'd dislocate their jaws. It was an awkward moment.

"Guess not," I said. "Then I have another question. Can anybody tell me how to get to Massachusetts...USA...North America? Well, then does 1989 ring a bell?"

More silence. My eyes searched for contact with theirs. About two dozen of these humans (yes, definitely humans!) had gathered to view the spectacle. I was starting to feel a little out of place. With arms extended upward, in a voice slow and deliberate and barely under control, I pleaded "Does anyone here feel like telling me what the hell is going on?!"

TO BE CONTINUED...

Happy Award Winners at Amherst Fusion

New Disc Golf Course at Barre

Sunny Cade, Bill MacWilliams and Chris Livingston report that they have discovered a new site for disc golf in Barre, Mass. They approached the new owner of the 140 acre Coldbrook Campground, and received permission to put up an 18-hole object course, consisting of portable 2x3 wooden targets which they made themselves. The terrain can best be described as rolling meadows, featuring open fairways, tricky winds, and beautiful scenery. The current arrangement is that prospective players should notify the campground in advance before playing, as the course is on private land. NEFA golf fanatics are grateful to Sunny, Bill, and Chris for their discovery, diplomacy, and efforts.

A Disc Catching Day

by Rick Williams

Since the invention of the flying disc, catching and throwing have been fundamental. Some disc sports, such as Distance, Golf, Discathon, and Accuracy, only require the throw.

What if the disc was always caught during a day of competition? No one, including the catcher, would know that a dropless day was in the making. My guess is that in Ultimate no one would even notice. At the end of a game the consistent catcher would realize that he or she had had a good game, but so many disc exchanges would have taken place that no one would have noticed someone having a dropless day, perhaps even the catcher.

In Guts a similar situation would exist. Of course if a player was catching every throw early in the game, the opposing team would avoid throwing the disc to that individual. With Double Disc Court, the opposing team would avoid "burning" the disc to a consistent catcher, but no one would particularly keep track of all the catches during the game. Self Caught Flight events require catching, but it's not unusual for someone to catch all five of their throws.

Only in Freestyle are the catches and drops so carefully monitored. In fact, some players believe the catch is everything. It would be very obvious, at least to the judges, if a team had no drops in a competitive routine. Of course the spectators would certainly notice a routine with many drops versus one without any.

Over the years there have been some dropless Freestyle routines in tournaments, but they are few and far between. Now that the Freestyle Players Association has limited the performing time in the finals to four minutes for pairs (previously five minutes), more dropless routines will be seen in the future. Having a no-drop routine in competition or in a Freestyle performance is certainly gratifying, but what about a dropless day of Freestyle!

During the winter, the hardcore freestylers in Boston practice in a gym near Boston Common, typically for two hours on Saturday and again on Sunday. For one person not to have any drops during two hours of virtually non-stop jamming would be pretty amazing. What would it feel like? How or why would it happen?

I recently experienced the closest thing to a dropless day of Freestyle. It happened one Friday evening in January. Alan Platt and I got together for our usual dose of Zees. I didn't feel unusually coordinated that evening, but I was catching a lot more frequently than usual. This became obvious rather quickly since there was only two of us and throws were coming at me

about every ten seconds. Only one drop occurred in the first fifteen minutes of jamming and by that time I was aware that something most unusual was taking place. I continued playing expecting a rash of drops to follow, but they didn't.

Things were going well so I decided to keep track of the drops in my head. It was certainly easy enough since I kept on catching. After my fourth drop curiosity overcame me. I checked the time and was amazed to discover that I had dropped the disc only three times in 48 minutes of non-stop jamming! That alone would turn an atheist into a believer.

The catching continued. I made no effort to concentrate on making every catch since I probably would have tensed up resulting in many more drops. The disc seemed to be in the right place at the right time, for both easy and difficult moves. I really didn't feel that I had much control over the exact placement of the body and disc. It just happened. It was effortless Freestyle. I could do any move in my repertoire and hit it.

At the end of our jam session I discovered that I had thirteen drops in just over two hours! (I'm sure in the past I have had that many drops in a three minute routine.) This translated into one drop per ten minutes, or one drop in about 30 attempts (a 97% catch rate!). How did it happen? Could the magic, energy, or fate be harnessed again? The following week everything was back to normal. Drops were coming at a rate of one drop per two minutes, not ten as before. Whatever it was that allowed all those catches was gone. I don't expect to ever have a dropless day or even one that approaches my near-dropless day again. At least it happened once in my lifetime!

The Stroke 'N Skins Game An Everybody-Wins Format for Disc Golf

by Sunny Cade and Steve Hartwell

There has been a lot of discussion around the PDGA recently about the distribution of prize money at disc golf tournaments. Some players favor paying more money to just the top finishers; others would like to spread the wealth around more. I challenged myself to come up with a "win-win" resolution -- to work out a system that would reward the big guns for their hard work with big bucks and keep them coming back, while letting the little guy or newcomer experience the thrill of victory in terms of cold hard cash. This would allow the amateur winner to set an example for other potential disc golfers, motivating them to stick around and bring their friends into the sport, which in turn, increases the total prize money available, so everybody wins.

A few of us here in New England have been experimenting with such a system. We borrowed the "skins" game element from ball golf, and combined it with keeping track of overall number of "strokes". In a typical tournament scenario, have random foursomes use stroke play the first round, keeping track of scores on each hole, and adding them up for a first round total. Now use the totals to group foursomes with similar scores for the second round, which assures that golfers of relatively equal abilities will be playing together.

For the second round, keep a skins game score, declaring that each of the first six holes is worth, say, 1 skin each; if there is no outright winner, the skins from the previous hole carry over to the next hole. The second six holes are worth 2 skins each and the third six holes are worth 3 skins each. At the end of the round there is a playoff if there are skins left to be won out of the total of 36.

Stroke 'N Skins / Continued on Page 7

Stroke 'N Skins / From Page 6

Things get very interesting when money is involved. Keep track of skins won in the second round and cumulative score for both rounds. Assume a tournament fee of \$10 after expenses, and assign 1 skin to be worth \$1. So for each foursome entered, there is a \$40 purse. The first six holes of the second round are worth \$1 each for a total of \$6; the second six are at \$2 each, total of \$12; the third six are at \$3 each; total of \$18, with a grand total of \$36. Every hole of the second round is then filled with exciting drama, as one great shot can make a big difference -- imagine ties on holes 12 through 15 and looking at a 30-foot putt on 16 for deuce and 11 skins (\$11), more than your entry fee! What's great is this can happen in any foursome, be they top guns, weekend duffers, or first-timers!

Now what about the \$4 (40 minus 36) per foursome left over from the skins round? This goes into a pot to reward the best cumulative scores for the two rounds. With 9 foursomes, you can pay the top three stroke finishers \$16, \$12, and \$8 for their consistency, which is added to their skins winnings (up to \$36). Thus incentive is provided for both consistency over the two rounds *and* spectacular shooting on individual holes. A win-win proposition for the players, and definitely exciting to watch for the spectators!

Many thanks to Todd Brodeur, Dale Fuller, Wayne Bergeron and Chris Livingston for inspiration. Happy "Stroke 'N Skins"; give it a try with imaginary money next time you play your favorite course in your favorite foursome. Please let us know if you come up with any new disc-overies.



Three Mystery Golfers Give Stroke'N Skins a Try!

To join, clip and mail with your check to NEFA

*Who Says Flying Disc Champions
Don't Come From New England?*

**1988 U.S. Open
Overall Champion,
Jim Herrick**

**1989 World Grandmaster
Flying Disc Champion,
Sunny Cade**

**1988 World Junior
Overall Champion,
Shawn Kennedy**

Be a Part of the Rich Heritage Now Being Created in the
New England Flying disc Association

Name _____

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Favorite Disc Sport(s) _____

Please enclose your check for \$10, payable to NEFA, for 1990 dues. This contribution entitles you to future newsletters, notice of upcoming events, a NEFA mini-disc, and the knowledge that you are supporting disc sports in New England.

--- NEFA --- , P.O. Box 4152 BV, Andover MA 01810

SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 5	PDGA Tournament, Mt. Kisco NY * Contact David Jones, (914) 737-3939
Sunday, May 6	Greenwood Lake Disc Golf, West Milford NJ * Inaugural tournament * Contact Dan Doyle, (201) 728-7885
Saturday, June 2	The Light/Heavy Disc Golf Classic, Princeton MA * Play the course both ways for best overall score * Contact Theo Cade, (508) 464-5497
Saturday, June 17	2nd Annual Pyramids Open, Leicester MA * Disc golf, freestyle and barbecue * Contact Jason Southwick, (508) 798-0704
July 14-15 Weekend	First Coast Flying Disc Championships, New Britain CT * Full format tournament, including Golf, Freestyle, Distance, MTA, Accuracy * Contact Dan Berman, (203) 233-6979
Saturday, July 28	New Hampshire State Disc Golf Championships, Rindge NH * Contact Steve Hartwell (508) 664-2888
Saturday, August 11	Rhode Island State Championships * Contact Tim Dyer (401) 846-3236
August	WAAF Summer Fling * Golf, Freestyle, and MTA

NEFA News

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