

# Army of Darkness

Alumni Newsletter



April 22, 2013

Spring 2013 Edition

## Foreword

Today, we unveil our new vision for connecting current AOD players with alumni and prospective students – a bi-semester newsletter that contains information about what our team is up to, and where we hope to go.

This newsletter hopes to fill a void that has existed previously between these groups. Current players have very little sense of the players who hucked, pillaged, and burned years before they arrived on campus, and alumni likewise have a hard time keeping in touch with what the team has been up to. Finally, prospective students are left guessing whether Amherst College is a place where their ultimate careers can flourish (it is!).

This newsletter is also part of a larger focus to provide a way in which alumni can donate to the team. As our team develops a stronger and stronger presence on the DIII ultimate scene, we feel that this funding is critical to allow the program to flourish. We are excited to announce that this February, Army participated in a large DIII tournament in California against some of the top competition in the country. Although a major underdog in the tournament, and with only 11 soldiers making the long-distance trip, Army almost defeated the defending national champions, Carleton GOP, losing on universe point. The team's strong performance at the tournament earned it a glowing review in the recap to the tournament: <http://ultiworld.com/2013/02/11/diii-warmup-2013-tournament-recap/>. We consider this a watershed moment for the team, as it repositions itself as a top-tier DIII program in the country. The major barrier for participation in the DIII Warmup event was the price of the trip, and we hope that alumni might help in this regard for future years.

We hope that you find this newsletter as informative as it is nostalgic and/or enjoyable to read. By all means, contact us if you would like to give us some input about the newsletter, or if you would like to talk about anything else related to ultimate, Amherst, Bill Stewart, team gear,---- really anything!

Sincerely,

John Yarchoan '13  
Lock Whitney '13  
Alex Strecker '13  
Charlie McCalister '14

**Table of Contents:**

1. Tournament Recap.....	4
a. DIII Warmup (Riverside, CA).....	4
b. High Tide (St. Simon’s Island, GA).....	5
c. New England DIII Conference Championships (Amherst, MA).....	7
2. Regionals Preview.....	8
3. Roster.....	9

## Tournament Recap

### a. DIII Warmup; Riverside, CA (February 9-10)

With a massive snowstorm barreling in on New England, 11 brave soldiers boarded a plane destined for San Diego. This was the preeminent DIII tournament of the winter, DIII Warmup, located in Riverside, CA.

In order to travel the 150 miles from the San Diego to Riverside, the team rented out a massive 15-person van from a company called "Readi-Van." The van would prove very useful, as the weather in southern California did not cooperate on the Friday before the tournament. The team had to hop in the van and drive another hour into the desert, where the bright California sun (and wind) prevailed. After the strong practice, the team was geared up to compete against some of the best DIII teams in the nation, whom of course could not have possibly known of the intense microclimates in SoCal, and missed out on a day of practice.

Army's first game Saturday was against none other than Carleton GOP, they of several DIII championships, including in 2012. Carleton knew they were going to be in for a tight game from the get-go, as Army traded points with the powerhouse program during the first half. News of the closeness of the game spread throughout the tournament, and crowds swelled for the second half of the game. Army needed to win its last two points in order to take the game. The first one was no problem, as Rainer "Rain-man" Lempert threw a score to Lock Whitney after a chilly o-point. The team then generated a turnover on a layout D on universe point, but could not generate a score in the ensuing possession. Carleton took the game by the skin of its teeth, on universe. Highlights of the game, provided by Spin Ultimate, can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTsAyXtsEXE> at 1:00.

With just 11 soldiers, and by day two only 10 healthy soldiers (Lock aggravated an existing head injury), the remaining tournament proved exhausting. Against PLU, another highly ranked DIII program, Amherst again took the game to universe point, but could not put the team away. Amherst took home wins against Westmont and Connecticut College, but its record at the tournament did not reflect the team's highly competitive play throughout.

Then, the highlight of the trip. We had to hop on a red-eye flight back from San Diego in the evening on Sunday, but we could not shower at our hotel before the flight. The solution involved finding a promotional deal at a LA Fitness, and walking into the gym with suitcases of clothes to shower and change. "None of you are even from this part of the country?" said one confused receptionist. The showers were fine, though, and

Rough stats from the tournament can be found here:  
<https://www.leaguevine.com/teams/21479/amherst/stats/>

**b. High Tide; St. Simons Island, Ga.**

Army traveled deep into coastal Georgia to take on competition from around the country at High Tide this past spring break. With two houses secured along the beach and forty proud soldiers making the journey, what could possibly go wrong?

After two days of pool play, Army was 5-1. The hardest fought game in day 1 was against Millersville, a skilled and aggressive team with one particularly massive handler. With strong winds at gametime, Army played mostly zone, and forced enough errant throws to take a halftime lead. With soft-cap closing in, Millersville made a push to even the score, but the good guys held strong to take the last two points. The o-line handler core of Lock Whitney, Charlie McCallister, and Alex Strecker proved particularly dominant against a tough wind.

Army's only loss in pool play came against NYU at the end of day 2. NYU has given Amherst fits in the past, most notably when it defeated Army in 2011 in bracket play. Like in years past, NYU ("Purple Haze") made liberal use of the USAU rulebook, and found many ways to get the disc back after turnovers. Army found itself down 7-4 at half, but rallied back in the second half to make it close.

After losing once in the pool play, Amherst found itself with a tough draw on an extremely windy bracket day Thursday. Also problematic was the loss of junior captain Charlie McCallister, who injured his shoulder and ankle on a deep cut in which he was tripped by a clumsy, and probably terrified scrub defender. First on the march to the finals was SUNY Geneseo, which had been ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among DIII programs in the country before the game. In a game with a cross-wind, Army came down with an aggressive zone and forced critical turnovers early in the game. After jumping to a 4-0 lead, Amherst coasted to an easy win, 13-2, to move into the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, Amherst faced Princeton, a talented team that downed Army in pool play in 2012. This game featured a wind that was directly up/down, making it a game of who could score upwind first. At half, nobody accomplished that feat. But on the first point after intermission, Amherst's experienced popper core of John Yarchoan and Will Longabaugh found a way to pierce through the cup and the wind to score upwind. After that point, the gates opened, and Amherst scored upwind twice more, once on an impressive upwind huck from Will Longabaugh to senior cutter Stefan Breitling. Princeton also found a way to score upwind, keeping the game close. But Amherst proved too much in the end: 10-8, in a wind-shortened soft-capped game.

Onto the semifinals. Opponent: University of Minnesota Duluth ("Northern Lights"). At game time, we noticed that NYU had not made it into the semifinals on the other side of the bracket, so we all felt that this was the game to win. The game was close throughout, this time in a game with a cross-wind. Amherst pieced together several long zone offense points, but Duluth played the deep ball effectively, scoring several times on lengthy hucks against a tough wind. Army made a push in the

second half, getting the game to within one point. But in the end, the Northern lights moved onto the finals in a well-fought, and of course again hard-capped game: 10-8.

With that game, Army went home to reunite with Bubba, proud of its performance against several strong DI programs. Many drinks and good conversation were had on the beach as the team prepared to trek back into the arctic north.

### c. South New England DIII Conference Championships; Amherst, Ma.

This is the postseason. Out of the seven teams at the tournament, only two will advance to New England Regional Championships. Amherst has its hands full with six other teams: Clark, Worcester Polytech, Bryant, Westfield State, Holy Cross, and Hampshire. Seeded second going into the tournament, Army knew it had to take care of business at home in order to advance.

Saturday's first game was also Army's sloppiest. Against Worcester Polytech, Army had trouble stopping a team that put up tons of hucks to its two tall cutters. At halftime, Army switched from its traditional 1-3-3 zone and played a 1-2-4, with two defenders playing deep. The move proved critical, as Amherst put together a rally to take the game 13-10. The rest of Saturday's games proved gentle, as Army powered past Holy Cross (seeded 6<sup>th</sup>), and Clark (seeded 5<sup>th</sup>), and then defeated Hampshire on Sunday's first game of pool play.

Sunday's marquee game was Amherst vs. Bryant (seeded 4<sup>th</sup>). Bryant has given Amherst problems in the past; most notably in 2012, when the game went to universe. The first half of this game saw Bryant jump out to a 7-4 lead. Luck appeared staunchly on the side of Bryant, as the team recovered several macked discs and took advantage of several unusual miscues. Coach Bill Stewart ensured that calmer heads prevailed at halftime, and the soldiers from Amherst mounted a comeback as time dwindled in the second half. Down by one point with the hardcap on, the team had to win its last two points. The o-point going down wind proved no problem, as the team shredded past a tired zone. But the final point of the game proved epic, as Amherst's experienced line of Lock Whitney, John Yarchoan, Charlie McCallister, Stefan Breitling, Matt Debutts, Will Longabaugh, and Andrew Edelman struggled to convert on a few chances into the endzone upwind. Finally, the team broke through, and the good guys remained unbeaten in the tournament.

Thanks to its dominance during pool play, Army got a straight entrance into the championship game against the team with the second best record, Clark. A win against Clark would punch a ticket for the team to....Amherst.

The first half of the championship game featured strong play from the large sophomore class, including Andrew Edelman, Eric Steinbrook, Juleon Robinson, Allen Kreig, and others. With Amherst well in control at halftime, Clark decided to throw in the towel: the team decided that its best chance to advance to Regionals involved resting its best players for the backdoor game. With a 13-2 smacking, Amherst advanced as the one seed.

The tournament information and game information can be found here!:  
<http://scores.usultimate.org/scores/#college-open/tournament/12627>

## DIII New England Regional Championships Preview

Amherst will need to play its best ultimate in order to travel to DIII Nationals for the first time in several years. Although seeding for the tournament has not yet been completed, the team's strongest competition includes Middlebury, Bowdoin, Bentley, Brandeis, and Wentworth. There are four bids to Nationals out of our region, so the team will need to play close to flawless against a field with good parity from top (arguably, Middlebury) to bottom (arguably, Bryant).

Unlike in previous years, the team is getting healthy at just the right time. Minor injuries have plagued the team's top players for parts of the entire season, but now handlers Alex Strecker (knee), Lock Whitney (head, hips), Charlie McCallister (shoulder), Giaco Corsiglia (Mono) are close full health. Cutter John Yarchoan (hamstring) is also healthy, and Kevin Hoobstraiten (hips) is almost there as well. There have been no ACL tears or major fractures this year!

Regionals will be played at Amherst College this year, and the team has put lots of energy into making the event run smoothly. Spin Ultimate will be selling T-shirts at the tournament, and the proceeds will go to us (it's a bit of a financial gamble, since we paid for the upfront costs). Observers will also be present at the tournament. The team has also advertised the event to local businesses in Amherst, and there is a buzz about the tournament. In short, this is going to be the prime time for Amherst College ultimate as it tries to do something it has not done in several years.

Several alumni are also making the trip. Ryan Drost '11 will be live-tweeting the event (@AmherstUltimate), and word on the street is that Ezra Van Negri '12 will also be in attendance. Got plans April 27-28? No? You know where to go. We'll put you up Saturday night too!



## Roster

Captains: John Yarchoan '13, Lock Whitney '13, Alex Strecker '13, Charlie McCalister '14

Party Captains: Fred Shipler '13, Dan Adler '14

Coaches: Bill Stewart (a-side), Joe Bobman '12 (b-side)

Treasurer: Giaco Corsiglia '15

### A-side:

Lock Whitney '13 (handler)  
 Charlie ("Bird") McCalister '14 (handler)  
 John ("Koko") Sataloff '14 (handler)  
 Giaco Corsiglia '15 (handler)  
 Eric Steinbrook '15 (handler)  
 Andrew Edelman '15 (handler)

John ("JY") Yarchoan '13 (flex)  
 Matt ("Deez Butts") DeButts '14 (flex)  
 Allan Kreig '15 (flex)  
 Daniel ("Grand Slam") Webber '14 (flex)  
 Seth Heller '14 (flex)  
 Rainer Lempert '15 (flex)

Stefan ("Brolly") Breitling '13 (cutter)  
 Varun Ivegar '14 (cutter)  
 Juleon Robinson '15 (cutter)  
 Fred Shipley '13 (cutter)  
 Kevin Hoobstraiten '15 (cutter)  
 Will Longabaugh '14 (cutter)  
 Charlie ("Cray") Ray '15 (cutter)  
 Mike Milov '15 (cutter)  
 Daniel ("Dadler") Adler '14 (cutter)  
 Laurence Pevsner '15 (cutter)

### B-side:

Alexus Strong  
 Anders Lindgren  
 Andrew Chang  
 Alex Titlebaum  
 Hannes Buck  
 Ned Kleiner  
 Matt GoodSmith  
 Mapate diop  
 Manuel Morales  
 Noah Lerner  
 Pepper Dee  
 Owen Marschall  
 Petey Suechting  
 Robert Gaffey  
 Robert Kermes  
 Bob Neel  
 Ryland Webb  
 Shelton Cochran  
 Trevor Smith