

Fumbling Danes Top RIT

by Ed Gibbons
Despite losing six of ten fumbles and suffering two interceptions, the Albany State Great Danes slipped and skidded to a 13-3 victory over RIT Saturday.

The Danes' usual potent rushing attack was stifled by the treacherous footing and a slippery football so they had more success in the air. Junior quarterback Brad Aldrich hit halfback Glenn Sowalskie with a four-yard touchdown pass, and later connected with split end Scott Lusher for a nine-yard pass that nailed down the victory.

The first ball exchange on a punt from RIT to Albany exemplified the theme of the game. A low, line-drive punt was sailing toward safety Ray Gay and as Gay tried to make a hoisting catch, it slipped away, and RIT recovered on Albany's 30-yard line. The Danes' defense prevented RIT from moving the ball, so RIT's Dick Craft booted a 21-yard field goal to give the Tigers a 3-0 lead.

Three points was all the Tigers could manage on the day as the sloppy playing conditions and Albany's impenetrable defense held

RIT to merely 74 total yards with only 12 of them on the ground. They also forced the Tigers to commit ten turnovers.

As the defense was holding its opponents, the Danes' offense was trying to conquer the weather. Their triple option offense was nullified by the mud, so they tried grinding out the yardage up the middle on quick passes.

That was more successful until the Danes were threatening to score, then a fumble or interception would put an end to the drive. "I thought that many of those times we were going to get in there, but because of the slippery ball something went wrong," said Aldrich.

Midway into the second quarter, however, the Danes got a break. As RIT punter Dan Hart tried to field a low snap from center, his knee hit the ground as he caught the ball, giving Albany the ball on the RIT 24. Three plays later, Aldrich hit Sowalskie to make it 6-3. Larry Leibowitz kicked the PAT giving Albany a 7-3 lead.

Early in the third period, the Danes managed a successful drive down to RIT's four-yard line. But a delay of game penalty moved the

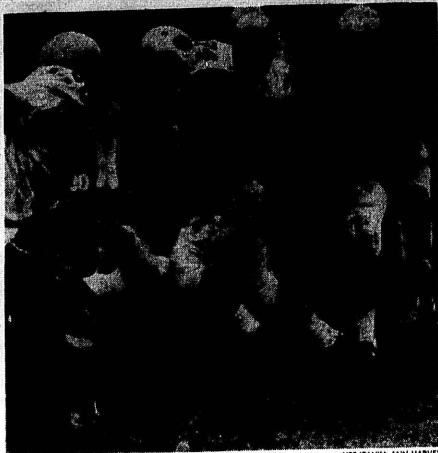
Danes back to the nine. Aldrich then zipped a pass up the middle to Lusher to make it 13-3. Terry Walsh's two-point conversion attempt was unsuccessful.

From then on, it was futility on offense for both teams. When RIT had possession, they tried to run, which was unsuccessful. Subsequently they tried to pass for yardage. That resulted in four Albany interceptions, one by defensive tackle Steve Shoen. Shoen also sacked RIT quarterback Jim Denk twice and recovered a fumble.

When Albany tried to move the ball it was on the ground as usual. But unlike the past two games, the offense couldn't run. They gained only 81 yards rushing, far short of their average of 274 yards a game.

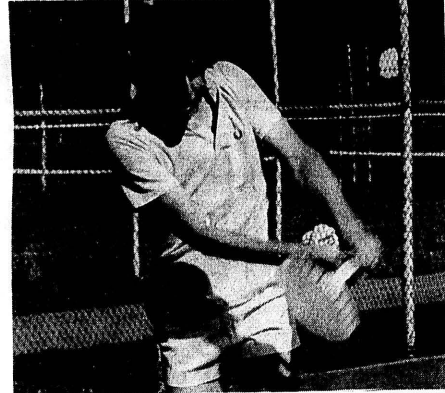
"Our running game was severely slowed down by the rain. We have a lot of fast backs, and they couldn't get going because of the sloppy field," said Aldrich.

The leading rusher of the game was the Danes' Sam Halston, who gained 34 yards on 11 carries. Aldrich completed three out of eight passes for 27 yards and two touchdowns.



Albany halfback Sam Halston (40) taking handoff from quarterback Fred Brewington (10) in recent Brockport contest. The Danes defeated RIT on Saturday, 13-3.

Great Dane Coach Bob Ford said, "The rain turned out to be the great equalizer. We couldn't use our backfield speed the way we like to. Our strategy was also changed. We couldn't do anything that we hoped to do, and the only thing that really worked for us was the quick pass. It



Danes' Paul Feldman completing stroke in Great Dane Classic, held last weekend. Albany finished in a tie for fourth with Springfield.

Clarke Wins Great Dane Tourney

by Eddie Emerman
It's always nice when a team can win its own tournament, especially if it's the first one ever. However, that wasn't the case for the Albany State tennis team as it finished in a tie for fourth place with Springfield College in the first annual Great Dane Tennis Classic this past weekend.

Clarke University of Massachusetts captured the tournament finishing with 30 points while the University of Rochester and Kutztown State (Pa.) tied for second with 16 points. The Danes and Springfield each had 14.

Singles competition hurt the Danes and their head coach Bob Lewis, was the first to agree. "We just didn't do a good job at singles,"

said Lewis.

The absence of Albany's number two player, Gary Block made the going tough for Albany. "Gary's absence weakened the whole team," said Lewis. "It forced us to move everyone one up on the ladder, and it messes up the doubles. It makes a big difference," added Lewis.

After the first two rounds of singles play, Albany was virtually out of the running for the title. Only number one singles player Paul Feldman and number five Andy Antoszyk advanced to the semi-final round giving Albany five point, good enough for fifth place.

In the semis, Antoszyk lost to Kutztown's Dave Trachman 6-3, 4-6, 6-2. Trachman eventually went on to win the number five title.

Feldman, the second seed in the tournament, defeated Siena's John Arciero 6-1, 6-4 to set up a finals match with Rochester's Bill Weiss, the top seeded player.

Feldman earned his way into the semis via a gutsy win over Howe Schultz, 6-2, 6-7, 6-4. In that match, Feldman hurt his back in the first set and was barely able to run for the ball. But Feldman held on for the win.

Coach Lewis left Feldman would have to "beat at his best" to beat Weiss. It was an excellent match but Feldman came up on the short end, losing 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Treading 4-1 in the third set, Feldman won the next two games and had three chances to make it 4-4 but couldn't as Weiss wouldn't give in.

Phil Ackerman was the only other Dane to win a singles match. Ackerman defeated Bob Dove of Salem State 2-6, 7-5, 7-6 but then lost to Clarke's Dave Zeid 6-2, 7-6.

Ackerman, who just returned after an injury, was happy with his play, despite the loss. "I'm very pleased with my play," said Ackerman. "It was a good workout for the SUNYAC's this weekend." Unfortunately for Ackerman he

Harriers Split; Record 7-2

by Rich Seligson
Running in a heavy downpour, and confronted by thick fog, the Albany State cross country squad split two dual meets on Saturday against Vermont and Williams.

The Danes trounced Vermont 15-41, but were edged out by Williams in an exciting finish, 26-29. "It truly was one of the most thrilling races I've ever seen," said Albany coach Robert Munsey. "It could have gone either way." Between Albany and Williams that is, as Vermont was uncompetitive throughout.

The matchup was set at a furious pace. Dane runners Bill Mathis and Brian Davis were 1-2 at the first of five miles on Vermont's course, clocking 4:56. Albany kept their team lead through the second mile, but trouble began at the three-mile mark.

Mathis and Davis were still ahead, but at the three-mile juncture they were unsure where to make a turn. Hampered by the fog and the poor markings of the course, they stopped

momentarily, and decided to go right. Unfortunately for them and their teammates, the left turn was the "right" one.

Although their route was shorter in distance, the Albany duo had lost their rhythm, and a few seconds as well. Being in front, where Mathis and Davis were, was where the fog played the most important factor, according to Munsey.

"We just couldn't see where to go," said the veteran coach.

With only one-fourth of a mile left in the race, Albany was ahead team-wise. But three harriers from Williams overtook Albany's Mark Lavan (ninth place) and Davis (tenth place), and squeaked out the victory.

One Albany runner did some catching up of his own, junior Fred Kitzrow. He finished third overall, behind winner Joe Kolb of Williams (26:32) and Mathis (26:36). "At the last half-mile mark, Fred poured it on," said Munsey. "Another 200 yards and he might have won the

thing."

Freshman Sean Reilly of the Danes came in fifth place. Reilly has run consistently all season, and has been the squad's second or third runner in every meet.

"Although he was passed, Lavan 'ran a great race,'" according to Munsey. The junior harrier is Albany's steadiest runner, and is "looking forward to a dry day," noted his coach.

The outcome of the Albany-Williams contest could have gone either way. The Danes took charge from the start, and continued to run well. And maybe if their leading runners would have been able to see in front of them, their record would now be 8-1, instead of 7-2.

Munsey summed up the race perfectly. "It was a helluva meet under hilly circumstances."

Albany today Cortland upset the Danes last fall, and the home team is looking to avenge that defeat this afternoon.

Court Finds Benecke Not Guilty

by Francesca Cohn and Jonathan Hodges
Former Class of '78 President Marc Benecke was found not guilty of third degree grand larceny yesterday in an eight hour trial at the Albany County Courthouse. Benecke was suspended from SUNYA in November 1976 for the alleged theft of \$3000 from the Class of '78 while he served as president.

In a trial presided over by Albany County Judge John Clynne, a jury of twelve listened to testimony concerning one specific incident: the alleged embezzling of \$1022.60 raised by the Class of '78 for Telethon '75. Benecke was indicted by a grand jury on April 28 on the basis of this incident.

The indictment cited one count of third degree grand larceny, a class-E felony in which the amount of money or property stolen exceeds \$250 but not more than \$1500.

The prosecution demonstrated that Benecke had deposited \$1022.60 in four installments into the Campus Center safe between 10 p.m. on Nov. 22 and 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 23 of 1975.

According to prosecution witness Scott Birge, a former Campus Center grad assistant, Benecke had personally handed him the monies and had signed four separate deposit slips. Birge then placed the monies into a slot in the wall of the safe,

which could only be opened by the Campus Center director or her two assistants.

It was on these deposit slips that the prosecution based its case. Each of the four slips contains three names: the depositor, Marc Benecke; the receiver, Scott Birge; the person authorized to collect the monies, Marc Benecke.

It was at this point that the prosecution's case began to fall apart. While they were able to prove that Benecke had indeed deposited the monies, that he was the only one authorized to pick up the monies and that the monies had disappeared, they were unable to prove that Benecke himself had picked up the monies.

A handwriting analysis of the signature on the withdrawal authorization slip failed to prove conclusively that it was Benecke that withdrew the monies. According to the analysis report, Benecke's signature contained too few identifying traits to base a decision upon.

The prosecution tried to plug this hole in their case by describing the Campus Center safe withdrawal procedure in detail. The major point brought out in witness testimony, and reiterated during the summation, was that unless the person requesting the money (and only Benecke was



Former Class of '78 President Marc Benecke (right) at his appearance in Albany County Court yesterday. Benecke was found not guilty of third degree grand larceny charges.

authorized to do so) was known by the cashier, he would have had to produce an ID card.

Benecke defense attorney Raymond Fischer countered by saying that if Benecke had in fact picked up the monies, there would have been some record or witnesses to the event.

Both attorneys fenced with the fact that Benecke had admitted the theft of \$3000 to school officials. While the prosecution did call a witness, SUNYA Student Activities Director Pat Buchhalter, to relate the incidents surrounding the admission of theft, they did not press the subject due to the circumstantial nature of the evidence.

Clad in corduroy pants, tie, sweater and sports jacket, Benecke remained calm throughout the trial, even joking at times with reporters during the two and a half hours it took for the jury to reach a verdict.

As the situation stands, Benecke is not legally required to pay restitution to the Class of '78 as he had previously agreed to before the

indictment. Benecke had paid back \$400 when he was notified that the district attorney's office was going to press criminal charges. Benecke then ceased further payment.

According to Class of '78 president Gary Bennett, there are still some avenues of recourse to explore. Bennett said that the Class "plans to take civil action against

Benecke as soon as we get a lawyer."

In addition, the Class will also ask Dean for Student Affairs Neil Brown to consider changing Benecke's suspension to a dismissal. This would make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for Benecke to return to SUNYA, and would hamper attempts to transfer to another school.

Benecke Saga Chronology

The not guilty verdict of Marc Benecke on the charge of Third degree grand larceny yesterday by 12 jurors at Albany County Court was the culmination of a story that broke last September and stayed in the news throughout the year. In that time, the case involved SUNYA administrators, University Police, Class of '78 Officials, the Albany County District Attorney's office and even the "Batman and Robin" New York City Police team of the late 1960's. The following is a chronology of events in the Marc Benecke saga:

March 13, 1975: Class of '78 holds a party at Dutch Quad; owes \$702.53.

April 24: Class of '78 holds party on Dutch Quad; owes \$458.71.

Sept. 20: Class of '78 holds party in Campus Center Ballroom; owes \$1,410.

Oct. 31: Class of '78 holds Halloween party in Campus Center Ballroom; owes \$1,816.17.

Sept. 20, 1976: Class of '78 informed

Prosecuting Attorney Higgins at the Albany County Courthouse yesterday, there for the trial of Marc Benecke.

that they owe UAS \$4,387.74 after accounts at the end of the fiscal year ending June, 1976, were revealed. Class of '78 President Marc Benecke says that "excessive spending over the past two years" was the cause for the debts.

Sept. 21: Benecke relinquishes all spending power at a class council meeting. A watchdog Finance Committee is also formed to oversee class expenditures.

Sept. 24: The Finance committee plans two payments exceeding \$2000 from the Class of '78 to UAS. The committee, headed by then Director of Student Activities Pat Buchhalter, broke down the debts into four parties held by the class.

October 7: Benecke is referred to Student Judicial System. This referral, according to Dean for Student Affairs Neil Brown, stems from the investigation of fiscal transactions of the Class.

Oct. 20: Benecke signs contract with the class of '78 agreeing to pay \$3000 to the Class "as restitution for his

actions while President." Under the agreement, Benecke would pay the Class of 1978 \$200 per month from Jan., 1977 to March 1978, a 15 month span. If one payment is missed, according to the agreement, the entire balance would be due immediately. It is also reported that Benecke had held a financial post in the Moynihan for Senate effort. According to a high level worker in the Moynihan organization, Benecke handled accounts for the Moynihan Citizen's Committee.

October 29: Benecke is given a 15 month disciplinary suspension for the theft of \$3000 from the Class of '78. The suspension is ordered by Brown and is "dependent upon adherence to the plan of full restitution to which Mr. Benecke has agreed." If Benecke would miss a restitution payment, readmission to SUNYA would be ruled out.

November 5: Benecke appeals suspension. The appeal is sent to the Student Affairs Council of the University Senate.

November 8: The Student Affairs Council refuses to hear Benecke's appeal. The vote is seven to one against hearing the appeal.

Mid November: The Albany Times Union informs Albany County District Attorney Sol Greenberg of

DOB to Decide on Environmental Studies

by M.J. Memmott
A letter being sent today from the Division of Budget to SUNYA will determine if an institute on the environment will be established at SUNYA this semester. It was learned yesterday.

The letter could lead to the release of approximately \$89,000 within a few weeks, which would establish research facilities on the environment at SUNYA for the first time since the Environmental Studies Program was cut in 1976.

The letter, a source said, is the result of the DOB's review of SUNYA's application for funds which were put in the State's Supplemental Budget by the Legislature last spring. In its application, SUNYA outlined a plan

for budgeting the environmental funds this year, and made a projection on the next two years.

The DOB has now finished reviewing that application, the source said. Today's letter is asking SUNYA if DOB's interpretation of what the plans are is the same as SUNYA intended. If SUNYA says it is, then the funds will be released within the next two weeks.

Vice President for Academic Affairs David Martin has not received official notification that a letter is on the way. "If it's true, it sounds great," he said. "We would respond as quickly as we could and start hiring people."

Vice President for Research Louis Salkever also has received no official work from DOB. He said, "When

the funds are cleared, DOB will issue a certificate."

As soon as the funds are officially released, plans will be put in action to organize an "institute on the environment" according to Martin. A description of positions available will be released and hiring will begin. "It will take some time to get people aboard," observed Martin.

Professor Louis Ismay, currently acting as an advisor to students interested in Environmental Studies, was very optimistic about the possibility of getting funding from the state soon. He did observe, however, that there is the possibility that SUNYA may turn down DOB's interpretation of the project as related in the forthcoming letter. The DOB may have interpreted

SUNYA's plans differently than they were intended, he said, and if the difference is too large, the University may decline to accept the interpretation.

More review would then be necessary, with meetings between SUNYA and DOB to hammer out the differences. Such a process could delay the releasing of funds indefinitely, the source said.

If the \$89,000 is released in the next two weeks, research facilities will begin to be organized, Martin said. He added that the money would also be used for providing assistance to communities with environmental impact studies, and to publish an environmental newsletter.

INDEX	
ASpects.....	1a-8a
Brains.....	8a
Classified.....	12
Editorial.....	9
Letters.....	8-9
Movie Timetable.....	8a
News.....	1-7
Newsbriefs.....	2
Preview.....	13
Puzzle.....	8a
Sports.....	14-15
Zodiac News.....	7