

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
From: Gene Brtalik
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3359
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: gbbrtalik@uamail.albany.edu
Date: 2-27-03 (Thursday)
Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: College Sports (Baseball)

UALBANY PICKED TO FINISH SIXTH IN PRESEASON AMERICA EAST POLL

Boston, Mass. – The University at Albany has been picked to finish sixth in the America East Conference baseball preseason poll as announced on Thursday, Feb. 27 by the conference office. Defending America East champion Maine was chosen to repeat its title in voting by the head coaches, while Vermont with 2002 Player of the Year Jeff Barry was picked second.

The Great Danes went 20-30 and placed sixth with a conference record of 8-14 last year under third-year head coach Jon Mueller. Six starters and nine pitchers return from that squad.

Junior pitcher **Steve Emmerthal** was one of two UAlbany players to earn second team all-conference honors in 2002. Emmerthal led the team with a 6-1 mark, 2.38 ERA (second in the league) and 42 strikeouts in 56.2 innings of work. **Tony Vallone** (Greenwich Central), a sophomore outfielder, was also named to the second team after hitting a team-leading .351 with 39 hits and 24 runs scored.

Also returning for the Great Danes is junior righthander **Adam Kroft** (Shenendehowa) who went 4-6 last year with 53 K's and seven complete games. Sophomore **Dan Schoonmaker**, the team's leading RBI man in 2002 with 40, will again be called upon to drive in the Albany runs. Schoonmaker also led the team in extra-base hits with 20 (11 doubles, 3 triples, 6 home runs). **Joe Lamb**, who finished fifth on the team in hitting last year with a .284 average, will open the season as the starting shortstop.

Among the newcomers for Albany are: NJCAA Division III All-American **Brendan Chiavaro**, who batted .407 with four home runs and 52 RBIs for Dutchess Community College last season, **Jason Martin**, a second team NJCAA Division III All-American at Hudson Valley Community College, **Kurt Zimniewicz**, Alfred State's leading hitter a year ago, who will take over at second base for the departed Mike Grasso (11th-round draft pick of the Atlanta Braves) and freshman **Kyle Thomas**, a right-handed pitcher who was a pre-season All-American as a senior at Oneonta High School.

The top four teams in the conference advance to the America East Championship, May 22-24 at Centennial Field in Burlington, Vt., with the winner receiving an automatic NCAA berth. Albany begins its 2003 season on Sunday, March 2, when it takes on Virginia Commonwealth.

America East Conference Baseball Preseason Poll

1. Maine (6), 47; 2. Vermont (1), 41; 3. Northeastern 34; 4. Stony Brook 30; 5. Binghamton 18; 6. Albany 16; 7. Hartford 10.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization:
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-28-03 (Friday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Sports

TRACK'S PAUL ROCHE NAMED ECAC DIV. I FIELD ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Centerville, Mass. – University at Albany's **Paul Roche** (Niskayuna H.S.) has been named the ECAC Division I Indoor Track Field Athlete of the Week. Roche led the Great Danes to their first-ever America East Conference indoor track & field championship on Feb. 21-22. The senior captain was voted the meet's Most Outstanding Male Field Performer by winning three individual titles. Roche captured the pentathlon with 3,618 points and the long jump with a leap of 22-feet, 4.25-inches on the first day of competition. He added the 55-meter high hurdles title on the second day in a personal-best 7.60 seconds. Roche, who scored 33 points in the championship, also tied for fourth in the high jump (6-4).

SOFTBALL PICKED TO FINISH SIXTH IN PRESEASON AMERICA EAST POLL

Boston, Mass. – The University at Albany has been voted sixth in the America East Conference softball preseason poll, as announced on Friday, Feb. 28 by the conference office. Defending America East champion Boston U. was chosen to repeat its title by the head coaches, while Maine and Stony Brook tied for second.

The Great Danes went 30-20 and placed fourth with a conference record of 12-12 last year under head coach **Chris Cannata**. Six starters and two pitchers return from the squad that lost in the semifinals of the America East Conference Tournament.

Junior **Megan Craft** (South Glens Falls), a second team all-conference selection last season, was one of two Great Danes to earn all-league recognition a year ago. Craft led the team with 23 RBI and was second with six doubles, as she was a fixture in every lineup during the 2002 season.

Also returning for the Great Danes is sophomore pitcher **Kristin Couris**, who was second on the team with a 2.20 ERA. She also pitched nine complete games, including four shutouts. Senior tri-captain **Stacy Kowal** will again be a fixture behind the plate. Last year she threw out nine of a possible 21 base-stealers. **Liz Wieboldt**, **Jess Kostenblatt** and **Jen Nolette** (Columbia), the team's best returning hitters, will all be looking to ignite the Albany offense.

MORE

ALBANY SPORTS 2-2-2

Among the newcomers for Albany are: left-handed pitcher **Andrea Lindgren**, who transferred from Fullerton C.C. in California and went 20-2 with a 0.65 ERA for the Hornets last season, freshman **Katrina Dunning**, a three-time all-state infielder from Horseheads, N.Y., freshman **Maegan Larsen**, a second team all-state infielder from Carteret, N.J., and freshman **Alison Meacham**, an all-state catcher from Monroe, N.Y.

The top four teams in the conference advance to the America East Championship, May 8-10 at University Field in Stony Brook, N.Y., with the winner receiving an automatic NCAA berth. Albany begins its 2003 season on Sunday, March 2 with a 10-game Florida trip.

America East Conference Softball Preseason Poll

1. Boston U. (7) 49,
2. Maine 32,
2. Stony Brook 32,
4. Hartford 27,
5. Binghamton 25,
6. Albany 21,
7. Vermont 10.

Men's Basketball
Albany at Northeastern
Solomon Court (Boston, MA)
Feb. 26, 2003

Junior Sylbrin Robinson's ninth double-double of the season (14 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks) propelled Northeastern to a 69-54 America East victory over Albany at Solomon Court on Wednesday night.

With the win, NU improves to 15-13 overall and 8-7 in league action, while the Great Danes fall to 7-19 on the season and 3-12 in league play. The Huskies now have recorded their most wins since 1994-95 when they posted an 18-11 record and lost in the conference finals to former league opponent Drexel.

Javorie Wilson led NU with 17 points and freshman point guard Jose Juan Barea added 15 in his return to the lineup after a three-game absence due to an NCAA eligibility issue. Jesse Dunn also was back in action after sitting out since mid-January with a broken bone in his left arm.

Rhasheed Peterson scored a game-high and season-high 24 points to lead the Great Danes, who were without top scorer Jamar Wilson (strep throat) and his average of 19.2 points per game. Levi Levine netted 14 points for Albany.

NU had a 10-point lead at intermission and maintained the double-figure advantage in the second half, increasing the spread to 15 after a Barea layup made it 52-37 with 10:25 left. Albany responded with a 10-1 run as NU missed its next five shots with four turnovers to allow the Great Danes to cut the deficit to six, 53-47, with 6:27 showing. Albany got no closer though as NU scored seven straight points to create a comfortable 13-point lead, 60-47, with 3:01 left. Barea fed Robinson for a monstrous alley-oop dunk and then capped the run with a three-pointer.

After Albany neared within 10, 60-50, Robinson put an exclamation point on the win with an incredible one-handed alley-oop finish off a Barea pass with 2:02 to go. It was his third alley-oop dunk of the half from Barea and Robinson's fourth slam of the game. In all, NU outscored Albany 16-7 over the final 6:27 to secure the win.

In addition to Wilson sitting out, Albany's offense was plagued by second-leading scorer Antione Johnson's foul trouble. He picked up his second foul just 4:26 into the game and played just seven minutes in the first half. He picked up his fourth foul with 16:14 to play and finished with only 16 minutes of action for the night.

After the Huskies jumped out to a quick 14-7 advantage at the 13:34 mark, the Great Danes responded with a 7-0 surge to tie the game at 14-14 with 11:32 remaining in the half. Peterson scored all seven of the Great Danes' points in their early run.

With Albany leading 20-19 and 8:40 to go in the first frame of action, the Huskies reeled off a decisive 14-0 run. A pair of free throws by Wilson capped off the surge that gave the Huskies a 33-20 lead with 4:12 left. Northeastern's spurt was a team effort as five different players scored over the 4:28 span, however, the highlight of the run was a breakaway dunk by Robinson.

The Great Danes managed to cut the Huskies' lead to 10, 36-26, at intermission. Wilson and Peterson were the half's leading scorers with 11 apiece to lead their respective schools.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-24-03 (Monday)

Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: Basketball

UALBANY'S JAMAR WILSON NAMED AMERICA EAST ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Boston, Mass. – University at Albany's **Jamar Wilson** has been chosen as the America East Conference Rookie of the Week in men's basketball, as announced today by the conference office. Wilson earned the weekly award for the fifth time this season.

Wilson, a freshman from Bronx, N.Y., averaged 20.0 points, 4.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists in two games last week. He shot 50 percent (14-28) from the field and 90.9 percent (10-11) from the foul line. The 6-foot-1 guard totaled 20 points, six rebounds and five assists versus Hartford on Feb. 22, and scored 20 on 8-of-13 shooting against Binghamton two days earlier.

Wilson, who was the league's player of the week last Monday, has a 20-game, double-figure, scoring streak. He has tallied 20-plus points 12 times this season, including 30 or more in four contests.

Wilson, who needs 17 points to break the school's single-season freshman mark, is second in scoring (19.2 ppg), second in free throw percentage (.812), third in field goal percentage (.494) and eighth in assists (3.2 pg) among the America East leaders.

University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-22-03 (Saturday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Sports

UALBANY WINS AMERICA EAST CONFERENCE MEN'S INDOOR TRACK TITLE

Boston, Mass. – University at Albany's **Paul Roche** (Niskayuna) won the 55-meter high hurdles, his third individual event of the meet, to lead his team to the men's championship at the 15th annual America East Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships on Saturday at Boston University Track and Tennis Center.

The Great Danes, who won their first-ever America East title in a team sport, scored 148.25 points, and were well ahead of Boston U. (124) and three-time defending champion Northeastern (119.50).

Roche, a senior captain, sprinted a personal-best 7.60 seconds to win the 55-hurdles and tied for fourth in the high jump (6-4). Roche, who won the pentathlon and long jump on Friday, was named the Field Event Athlete of the Meet.

Kristof Molnar was a winner in the 1,000-meter run, as he posted an IC4A-qualifying time of 2:29.11. Molnar also anchored the 4x800 relay to a second-place finish in a school-record 7:44.53. **Naron Stewart** repeated as the America East indoor high jump champion, as cleared the bar at 6-feet, 10.25 inches.

Freshman **Ed Hilts** (Schenectady) surprised the field by winning the 55-meter dash, as he out-leaned New Hampshire's Ronald Harvey at the tape in 6.58 seconds. **Aggrey Morris** was second in the 400-meter dash, and was clocked in a school-record 47.74. **Galen Gomes** (Shaker) also turned in a second-place effort in the triple jump (46-6).

"I thought we had a shot, but I never believed we would have it wrapped up by the time we got to the relays (the last events)," said Albany coach **Roberto Vives**, whose team finished second to Northeastern in last year's championship. "It was a total team effort. Confidence and conditioning were the reasons Paul Roche was able to score in four events. He did his homework and worked hard in the preseason."

In the women's meet, the Great Danes ended up in third with 76 points behind Northeastern (163) and Boston U. (114). **Teresa Covert**, who was second in the long jump on the first day, won the 55-meter hurdles in 8.07 seconds and took fifth in the 200-dash in 25.54.

MORE

ALBANY TRACK 2-2-2

Jennifer Aubin (Saratoga Springs) placed second in the triple jump with a mark of 38-feet, 6-inches. **Alexis Bowens**, **Dinnah Decatus**, and **Zerlinda Martinez** each recorded a fifth-place showing in the shot put, 800 and 1,000 events. Bowens, a outside hitter on the UAlbany volleyball team, threw 40-feet, 3.25-inches. **Nicole Susser** (Colonie Central) was sixth in the mile run with a time of 5:08.01.

America East Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships

(Final Scores)

MEN – 1. Albany 148.25, 2. Boston U. 124, 3. Northeastern 119.50, 4. New Hampshire 94, 5. Maine 55, 6. Binghamton 38.25, 7. Stony Brook 38.

WOMEN – 1. Northeastern 163, 2. Boston U. 114, 3. Albany 76, 4. Stony Brook 64, 5. New Hampshire 63.50, 6. (tie) Maine and Vermont 60, 8. Binghamton 19.50.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Daily Gazette
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-22-03 (Saturday)

Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Basketball

WOMEN -- Hartford 65, Albany 56 (OT)

West Hartford, Conn. – Senior guard **Dorcas Miller** came off the bench to score a season-high 18 points, including five in overtime, as Hartford posted a 65-56 America East Conference victory over Albany on Saturday afternoon at the Chase Family Arena.

Miller hit a three-point field goal, her fourth of the game, from left of the key to give Hartford a 57-54 lead with 3:10 remaining in the extra period. Hartford (6-16, AE 4-7) then scored eight of the game's final 10 points, as **Jennifer Gale** hit a hook shot in the lane and the Hawks sank all six of their free throw attempts in the final minutes.

Albany (9-15, AE 3-10) tied the contest in regulation when **Sarah Sweetland** sank a pair of foul shots with 5.3 seconds remaining. Her free throws ended an 11-4 run as the Great Danes rallied in the stretch. With Hartford leading 48-41 with 4:30 to play, senior guard **Jess McGinlay** hit a jumper from the left of the paint to start the game-tying spurt. **Danielle Hutcheson**, a 6-foot-4 center who finished with 11 points, gave her team the lead with 1:04 left on two free throws.

Hartford's **Erika Messam**, who had 13 points, scored on back-to-back layups to put the Hawks ahead, 52-50, with 26 seconds remaining. Sweetland's free throws sent Albany into overtime for the first time since January 2002.

The Great Danes, who lost for the third straight time and saw their conference postseason tournament chances severely crippled, trailed 20-15 with 5:39 to go in the first half as Miller converted two free throws. **Alicia Learn**, a sophomore forward who made her first career start and scored a career-high 13 points, tallied six of the her team's next 12 points as UAlbany went into the half with a 27-25 lead.

McGinlay, who was scoring at 15.6 clip entering the contest, was limited to seven points. Hartford's **Angie Pezzetta**, the top point-getter for the Hawks with a 10.8 scoring average, was held scoreless.

-30-

NO BOX SCORE AVAILABLE DUE TO COMPUTER PROBLEMS AT HARTFORD

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Glens Falls Post-Star
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-22-03 (Saturday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Basketball

MEN – Hartford 67, Albany 53

Albany, N.Y. – **Pierre Johnson** had 18 points and 10 rebounds to lead Hartford to a 67-53 America East Conference victory over Albany on Saturday afternoon at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Hartford (13-12, AE 8-6) led 29-26 early in the second half, but then broke the game open with 10 unanswered points. **Junior Amos**, a 6-foot-7 senior who had 15 points on 6-of-11 shooting, hit a jump hook on the right baseline and two free throws in that run. **Jerell Parker** completed that outburst when he scored in the lane off of Amous' feed.

Albany (7-18, AE 3-11) was still in the hunt at 45-34, after freshman **Levi Levine**, who had 12 points and nine rebounds, sank a pair of foul shots. But the Hawks, who shot 53.3 percent from the field on 16-of-30 attempts in the second half, came back with six of the game's next eight points. Amous hit a turnaround shot and scored on a goaltending call, before Johnson converted in the lane for a 53-36 advantage with 7:11 remaining.

"We don't have the personalities to grind it out right now," said Albany coach Will Brown, whose team has dropped six of its last eight contests. "We are a finesse team and won't win a lot of games shooting the kind of percentage we did. Hartford passed the ball well, and did a good job against our double-team in the post."

The contest had four lead changes and four ties over the opening 10 minutes of play. However, the Hawks, who moved into a tie for third place in the conference standings used a 15-4 run to open up a 12-point margin. **Ryan Stys** and **Wayne McClinton** hit back-to-back three-point field goals in that period. Hartford settled for a 29-21 halftime lead.

Albany freshman **Jamar Wilson** led all scorers with 14 of his game-high 20 points in the second half. Wilson, a 6-foot-1 guard, added six rebounds and five assists. But his team managed just 35.7-percent shooting against Hartford's full-court, trapping pressure. The Hawks have won four of five meetings over the last two seasons.

"We knew they would press and trap," said Albany point guard **Earv Opong**, one of our seniors playing at home for the last time. "We only play a few guys, so that leads to a lot of minutes and we get tired."

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-21-03 (Friday)

Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports

ROCHE WINS TWO EVENTS ON FIRST DAY AT AMERICA EAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Boston, Mass. – University at Albany's **Paul Roche** (Niskayuna) was a double-winner in the pentathlon and long jump on the first day of competition at the 15th annual America East Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships on Friday evening at the Boston University Track and Tennis Center. The Great Danes have a slight lead over three-time defending champion Northeastern.

Roche posted a first-place finish in the pentathlon with 3,618 points, while New Hampshire Craig Lange was second with 3,402. Roche won the 55-meter high hurdles, long jump and shot put in the five-event competition, and was second in the high jump. In addition, the senior also captured the long jump with a leap of 22-feet, 4.25-inches, and qualified for Saturday's 55-hurdles final in 7.72 seconds.

Shaun Empie (Scotia-Glenville) placed second in the pole vault, as he cleared the bar at 15-feet, 3-inches. **Fred Frese** (Scotia-Glenville), a starting cornerback on the UAlbany football team, tied for sixth at 14-3.25. **Andy Allstadt** was sixth in the 5,000 with a time of 15:00.05.

In the women's meet, **Teresa Covert** finished second in the long jump with a mark of 18-feet, 6-inches. She also qualified for the finals in the 55-hurdles (7.95) and 200-meter dash (25.35). The Great Danes are fourth in the team standings, while Northeastern has a six-point lead over Boston U heading into the final day.

UAlbany's **Trista Neinast** ran 18:09.45 to take fifth in the 5,000, while **Cherice' Vanderhall** was sixth in the 20-pound weight throw with a toss of 48-3.25.

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America East Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships
(First Day Scores)

MEN – 1. Albany 45.25, 2. Northeastern 37.50, 3. New Hampshire 33, 4. Boston U. 32, 5. Binghamton 19.50, 6. Stony Brook 16, 7. Maine 3.

WOMEN – 1. Northeastern 46, 2. Boston U. 40, 3. Vermont 36, 4. Albany 26, 5. Maine 20, 6. Stony Brook 10, 7. New Hampshire 6, 8. Binghamton 2.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: The Saratogian
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-20-03 (Thursday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Sports

MEN – Binghamton 76, Albany 59

Albany, N.Y. – **Nick Billings** had 19 points and 10 rebounds, as Binghamton pulled away in the second half for a 76-59 America East Conference victory over Albany on Thursday evening at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Binghamton (13-11, AE 8-6) snapped a 41-all tie with 14 of the game's next 19 points. **Sebastian Hermenier**, who had 12 points off the bench, followed his own miss in the lane to give his team the lead for good. **Anthony Green** nailed two three-point field goals in that stretch, including a long-range jumper in transition for a 55-46 advantage with 13:40 remaining.

Albany (7-17, AE 3-10) was coming off its first back-to-back wins of the season, and closed to within 55-51 on two free throws by **Levi Levine** and **Antione Johnson's** 3-pointer. But the Bearcats, who shot 55.2 percent in the final period on 16-of-29 attempts, answered with a 15-4 run to take firm control.

Billings, a 7-foot sophomore who also had four blocked shots, and **Jeffrey St. Fort** both went to work with six points apiece in that span. Billings converted a turnaround on the right baseline and hit a slam dunk to ignite the outburst.

"I thought they took it to another level in the second half," said Albany coach Will Brown, whose team was held to 25 percent from the field after the intermission on 7-of-28 shooting. "They did a great job defensively and were physical on the perimeter and inside. We didn't match their toughness and made poor decisions offensively."

The contest featured eight ties and six lead changes through the early part the second half. The Great Danes held a 37-34 lead following a back-door layup by freshman guard **Jamar Wilson**, who had 13 of his game-high 20 points in the period. But Green drilled a 22-foot, three-pointer from the top of the arc to draw his team even at halftime.

St. Fort, a 6-foot-6 senior, had 16 points and was the fourth player in double figures for the Bearcats, who moved into sole possession of third place in the conference standings. Albany's Johnson and Levine had 17 and 15 points, respectively.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072 **Fax:** (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-19-03 (Wednesday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Sports

WOMEN – Binghamton 50, Albany 42

Vestal, N.Y. – **Kristin Hibler** had 12 points and 11 rebounds, as Binghamton rallied for a 50-42 America East Conference victory over Albany on Wednesday evening at West Gymnasium.

Albany (9-14, AE 3-9) led 40-32 with 7:29 remaining, but Binghamton (8-14, AE 4-8) answered with 11 consecutive points. Freshman guard **Jennifer Blues** banked in a three-point field goal from the right wing to begin that run. Hibler, who recorded her first career double-double, scored in the paint to close the gap to 40-39, and then gave her team the lead for good with a 6-foot jumper in the lane.

The Bearcats' **Leala Wegwerth** hit a pair of free throws to finish off that outburst, before **Danielle Hutcheson** scored on the left baseline to get her team within 43-42. **Kate Townley** then scored six of her nine points over the last 39 seconds to seal the outcome. She hit a foul-line jumper and sank four free throws in that span.

"It was a big relief to get a win tonight," said Hibler, whose team dropped the first meeting with Albany, 75-62, on Jan. 22. "It would be hard to make the (conference) tournament without this win, especially with a lot of away games coming up. We stayed calm and did what we needed to do."

Binghamton built a 17-10 lead with 8:07 left in the opening half. However, the Great Danes, who employed full-court defensive pressure, responded with a 14-4 run to end the period. **Sarah Sweetland** had five of her team-high 14 points in that stretch, before **Kathryn Hemlock** put her team ahead with a three-pointer in transition. Albany took a 24-21 lead to the locker room.

Hutcheson, a 6-foot-4 center, helped the Great Danes construct an eight-point lead on two occasions in the second half. She had 10 points and 10 rebounds to record her 10th double-double of the season.

"We just made poor decisions down the stretch, and had key turnovers at the wrong times," said Albany coach Trina Patterson, whose team had its second-worst shooting game of the season at 29.4 percent and was out-battled on the boards, 41-28. "We haven't been out-rebounded like this in a long time and that was one of our keys to a victory. After last Saturday's one-point loss, I don't think we bounced back like we should have. The weight of that game seemed to be on our minds."

Rachel Laws had nine points and seven rebounds for the Bearcats, who halted a six-game losing streak. Albany's **Jess McGinlay**, one of the conference's top scorers at 16.1 per game, was held to three points.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-19-03 (Wednesday)

Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports

UALBANY VOTED THIRD IN AMERICA EAST WOMEN'S LACROSSE POLL

Boston, Mass. – The University at Albany has been picked to finished third in the America East Conference women's lacrosse preseason poll, as announced today by the conference office. Defending America East champion Boston University was chosen to repeat its title in voting by the head coaches, while New Hampshire, last year's regular-season winner, was tabbed second.

The Great Danes went 6-10 overall and placed third in the conference standings with a 2-2 mark last season under first-year head coach **Dennis Short**. Albany reached the league's postseason tournament as No. 3 seed before losing to Boston U. in the semifinal round. Eight starters return from that squad.

Senior attack **Andrea Esposito** (Saratoga Springs H.S.) earned first-team All-America East honors in 2002. Esposito, who scored 42 points (21 goals, 21 assists), led the league and was 28th nationally in assists. **Maria Ferrucci**, a senior midfielder, ranked fourth in goals and sixth in scoring among the conference leaders, plus was 21st in Division I in ground balls at 3.5 per game. Ferrucci, who had 35 goals and 10 assists last year, is third on the school's all-time scoring list with 142 points.

The Great Danes have three other returning players who registered 20 or more points last season. **Alexis DiDomenico**, a junior attacker, totaled 31 goals and six assists. **Erin Pemrick** (Saratoga Springs) had a career-best season with 19 goals and four assists, while **Jenn Rajczak** (Scotia-Glenville) was named to the America East all-rookie team with 12 goals and eight assists.

Theresa Masse, a second-team all-conference midfielder and **Amanda Heller** will lead an Albany on defense that needs to find a goalkeeper in the preseason. Masse had 10 goals and three assists, plus was second on the team in ground balls (52). Heller, who had six goals and four assists, led the Great Danes in turnovers caused with 32.

The top four teams in the conference will advance to the America East Championship on May 1 and 3, with the winner of the tournament receiving an automatic NCAA berth. The Great Danes open their schedule on Saturday, March 1 versus Ohio University in Philadelphia, Pa.

America East Women's Lacrosse Preseason Poll

1. Boston U. (4), 34; 2. New Hampshire (2), 32; 3. Albany 21; 4. Vermont 19; 5. Stony Brook 12, 6. Binghamton 8.



WOMEN'S LACROSSE

10 High Street, Suite 860
Boston, MA 02110
Phone 617/695-6369
Fax 617/695-6385

www.americaeast.com

February 19, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Matt Bourque

Boston University is the Choice of Women's Lacrosse Coaches

BOSTON— Defending America East champion Boston University has been chosen to repeat as conference champion in a vote of the women's lacrosse coaches. The Terriers received four of a possible six first-place votes and 34 points overall. University of New Hampshire, the regular-season champion last year, was chosen second with two first-place votes and 32 points overall.

University at Albany received 21 points to finish third. University of Vermont (19), Stony Brook University (12) and Binghamton University (8) rounded out the poll.

The top four teams in the conference will advance to the America East Championship May 1-3 at the home field of the No. 1 seed. The winner of the tournament receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

Boston University (8-11, 3-1 America East) returns offensive punch in junior attack Kelly Trahon, a first-team all-conference selection last season, and sophomore attack Alyssa Trudel, a second-team choice. Trudel is the second-leading returning scorer after scoring 33 goals and adding 20 assists in 17 games. Trahon scored 15 goals and added 22 assists a season ago. Second-team all-conference defenders Liz Eberhart and Sasha Lang also return. Second-year head coach Liza Shoemaker must replace four-time all-conference choice Kristin Abruzzese and two-time all-conference selection Ericka Hergenroeder in the midfield, as well as three-time all-conference defender Gabby Juocys and three-time all-conference goalkeeper Brooke Barrett (8-10, 9.82, .497).

New Hampshire (12-6, 4-0) boasts the reigning America East Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year in senior midfielder Jessie Groszkowski and sophomore attack Jess Burnap. Groszkowski led America East in both goals and scoring and set school records in both categories with 60 goals and 8 assists for 68 points in 18 games (3.78 points per game). Burnap scored 28 goals and added 7 assists a season ago. Senior defender Jen Smith, a second-team all-conference choice in 2002, and senior Danielle Martin, a first-team selection after finishing second in the nation in goal against average (7.02), anchor the defense. Reigning America East Coach of the Year Sandy Bridgeman hopes to return the Wildcats to the national poll after being ranked in the Top 20 last season for the first time since 1992.

Albany (6-10, 2-2) returns first-team all-conference attack Andrea Esposito, who scored 21 goals and added a like number of assists last season. Second-team all-conference midfielders Maria Ferrucci, who led the Great Danes in scoring (35 goals, 10 assists) and led America East with 56 ground balls, and Theresa Masse are also back for head coach Dennis Short.

Vermont (7-8, 1-3) looks to return to the America East Championship, after making its first appearance in the tournament since 1996 last season. Junior midfielder Molly Sheehan, who scored 22 goals and had 3 assists, and sophomore attack Mackenzie Dean, who had 14 goals and 9 assists, were both second-team all-conference choices last season. Catamount head coach Kissy Rowley must replace graduated Courtney LaMere, who led the team in scoring in each of the last four years. LaMere was a first-team all-conference selection last season after scoring 38 goals and adding 12 assists in 15 games.

Stony Brook begins its first season of play. Head coach Danie Caro was hired on July 1, 2001 and has been recruiting players for the program since that time.

Binghamton (1-11, 0-4) enters its second season as a varsity program. Sophomore midfielder Erin Wall was an all-rookie selection a year ago. Head coach Susan Frost is in her second season guiding the Bearcats.

2003 Preseason Poll

1.	Boston U. (4)	34
2.	New Hampshire (2)	32
3.	Albany	21
4.	Vermont	19
5.	Stony Brook	12
6.	Binghamton	8

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

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Comments: College Sports

UALBANY VOTED PRESEASON CHOICE TO WIN MEN'S LACROSSE TITLE

Boston, Mass. – Defending America East Conference regular-season men's lacrosse champion University at Albany has been selected to win the 2003 conference title in voting by the head coaches, as announced today by the league office. Albany received five of a possible six first-place votes.

The Great Danes, who went 5-0 in conference regular-season play last year, posted a 9-7 overall record and reached the America East tournament championship. Albany's six-win improvement from the previous season was the best one-year turnaround in the program's history.

Scott Marr, the 2002 America East coach of the year, has nine starters returning, including goalkeeper **Kevin Rae**, the conference's top rookie as a freshman. Rae ranked third nationally in save percentage (.630) and 15th in goals against average at 8.42 per game.

Sophomore attack **Luke Daquino**, a second-team all-league selection, was third among the conference scoring leaders with 28 goals and 27 assists. His 55 points were the highest total by an Albany player since 1993. **Chris Driscoll** (30 goals, 8 assists) and **Michael Solazzo** (23 goals, 11 assists) were also 30-plus point scorers.

Jon Smith, another second-team All-America East pick, tallied 15 goals and nine assists from his midfield position, while tri-captain **Alan Beach** led the team with 61 ground balls. Seniors **Luke Smith** and **Emil Bove** are members of a defensive unit that was eighth in Division I in goals allowed at 8.06 per game.

The top four teams in the conference will advance to the America East Championship on April 30 and May 3, with the winner of the tournament receiving an automatic NCAA berth. The Great Danes open their schedule on Saturday, March 1 against Providence in Amherst, Mass. The non-conference slate features three nationally-ranked teams in Johns Hopkins (#3), Massachusetts (#8) and Yale (#18).

Local high school products on the team are: **Lee Busino** (Niskayuna), **Christopher Preble** (Shenendehowa) and **John Eleby** (Ichabod Crane).

America East Men's Lacrosse Preseason Poll

1. Albany (5), 35; 2. Stony Brook, 24; 3. Quinnipiac (1), 22; 4. Vermont, 21; 5. Hartford 14, 6. Binghamton 10.



MEN'S LACROSSE

10 High Street, Suite 860
Boston, MA 02110
Phone 617/695-6369
Fax 617/695-6365

www.americaeast.com

February 18, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Matt Bourque

Albany Chosen in Men's Lacrosse Coaches' Poll

BOSTON— Defending America East regular season champion University at Albany has been chosen by a vote of the men's lacrosse coaches as the preseason favorite to win the conference this season. The Great Danes received five of a possible six first-place votes and 35 points overall. Stony Brook University, which defeated Albany, 8-6, in the America East Championship last spring and earned the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship, was chosen second with 24 points.

Quinnipiac University received a first-place vote and 22 points overall to finish third. University of Vermont (22), University of Hartford (14) and Binghamton University (10) rounded out the poll.

The top four teams in the conference will advance to the America East Championship April 30 and May 3, with the winner of the tournament receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

Albany (9-7 overall, 5-0 America East) returns America East Rookie of the Year and second-team all-conference goalkeeper Kevin Rae, who was 9-7 with an 8.42 goals against average and a conference-leading .630 save percentage last season. Sophomore attackman Luke Daquino is the top returning scorer in America East after scoring 28 goals and adding 27 assists for 55 points in 16 games a season ago (3.44 per game). Daquino and senior midfielder Jon Smith were both second-team all-conference choices last year for head coach Scott Marr, who was the America East Coach of the Year in 2002.

Stony Brook (10-7, 3-2) surrendered 8.16 goals per game last year, second in America East. The Seawolves' defense should be strong again this season with the return of senior Eric Hatkewitz, a first-team all-conference choice, and sophomore Kyle Pearl, a second-team all-conference selection.

Quinnipiac (6-7, 2-3) scored 10.38 goals per game last season but must replace graduated Mike Baglio (40 goals) and Joe Baglio (22 goals). Senior John Giordano (19 goals, 14 assists) looks to pick up the offensive slack for the Bobcats while senior T.J. Barnett (6-7, 8.48, .573) anchors the defense.

Vermont (5-9, 1-4) will be looking to make the America East Championship after missing the field in 2002. Each of the top seven scorers return from a season ago, including junior attackman Phil Knight (32 goals, 6 assists), a second-team all-conference selection, and classmate Mark Prior (25 goals, 5 assists).

Hartford (9-7, 4-1), which has qualified for two of the three previous America East Championships, must replace graduated America East Player of the Year Brian LeMastro, who led the conference in scoring with 50 goals and 27 assists for 77 points. In addition, all-conference midfielder Tyler Francey and two-time all-conference defender Tony Senia have graduated. Senior Travis Eckler, a second-team all-conference choice in 2002, is second among returning scorers in America East after registering 29 goals and 25 assists last year. Senior Rorke Greene (9-7, 6.67, .603) and classmate Eugene Fusco anchor the Hawks' defense.

Binghamton (1-8, 0-5) begins its second year as a varsity program and head coach Ed Stephenson has signed 24 newcomers, including five high school all-Americans. The Bearcats return just four players from last season's inaugural team.

2003 Preseason Poll

1. Albany (5)	35
2. Stony Brook	24
3. Quinnipiac (1)	22
4. Vermont	21
5. Hartford	14
6. Binghamton	10

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Daily Gazette
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-17-03 (Monday)

Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Basketball

UALBANY'S WILSON AND LEVINE EARN AMERICA EAST WEEKLY AWARDS

Boston, Mass. – University at Albany's **Jamar Wilson** has been named the America East Conference Player of the Week in men's basketball, as announced today by the conference office. Wilson's teammate **Levi Levine** was chosen as the league's rookie of the week.

Wilson, a 6-foot-1 freshman who has already earned the America East's rookie-of-the-week award four times this year, averaged 34.5 points and 8.0 rebounds in two conference victories last week. He shot 73.3 percent from the field (22-30) and 85.7 percent from the line (24-28).

Wilson tallied a career-high 39 points, on 14-of-17 shooting, and grabbed 10 rebounds in Sunday's 87-79 victory at New Hampshire. His point total was one off the school's single-game record, as Gary Holway scored 40 against Utica on Feb. 27, 1957. Wilson also shattered the UAlbany freshman record, previously held by Barry Cavanaugh who had 36 versus Hamilton in 1976.

A Bronx, N.Y. native, Wilson also had 30 points, including 19 in the second half, in an 82-74 win over Stony Brook on Feb. 14. He has reached the 20-point mark on 10 occasions this season, including 30 or more four times. Wilson, who is second in the conference in scoring at 19.2 per game, has an 18-game, double-figure scoring streak.

Levine, a 6-foot-6 freshman from New York City, averaged 12.0 points and 7.0 rebounds in two games last week. He was also named the America East rookie of the Week on Dec. 15.

Levine had 11 of his 14 points in the final period, and added seven rebounds in the win at New Hampshire. The Great Danes snapped a nine-game road skid in conference play in that contest. He totaled 10 points, seven rebounds and four assists vs. Stony Brook. Levine ranks ninth among the A-East leaders in both scoring (13.0 ppg) and rebounding (6.0 pg).

An University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
From: Gene Brtalik
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3359
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: gbbrtalik@uamail.albany.edu
Date: 2-16-03 (Sunday)
Pages w/cover: 2
Comments: College Sports (Men's Basketball)

Albany 87, New Hampshire 79

Durham, N.H. – Freshman **Jamar Wilson** scored a career-high 39 points, one off the school's single-game record, as Albany posted back-to-back victories for the first time this season with an 87-79 win over New Hampshire on Sunday afternoon at Lundholm Gymnasium.

New Hampshire (4-20, AE 2-11) reversed a 51-44 deficit with 16 of the game's next 18 points. **Ben Sturgill**, who had 15 points off the bench, put his team ahead with a turnaround in the lane. **Ronnie Dennis** and **Marcus Bullock** hit consecutive three-pointers for 60-53 lead with 9:19 remaining.

Albany (7-16, AE 3-9), answered with 10 straight points. Wilson, a 6-foot-1 guard, scored seven in that stretch. He gave his club a 63-60 lead, when he converted a three-point play while being fouled on a bank shot.

The Great Danes, who ended a seven-game road-losing streak, were still in a tight game at 71 apiece with five minutes left. But Wilson hit a fastbreak layup and Levi Levine made four consecutive free throws, as Albany railed off six unanswered points.

Bullock, a 6-foot junior, who totaled nine points and seven assists, sank a pair of free throws to close the gap to 82-79 with 1:19 to play. However, Wilson, who also established Albany's freshman scoring mark, connected on a driving layup, and **Earv Opong** split two foul shots to seal the outcome.

"We got a good effort from a lot of people," said Albany coach **Will Brown**, whose team shot 50 percent from the field for just the fourth time this year. "Jamar Wilson showed that he is not only the best freshman in the conference but also one of the top players. He didn't force action, he attacked the angles, and did his scoring within the flow of the game."

Kyle Peterson led the Wildcats with 19 points, while Jeff Senulis added 16 points and 14 rebounds. Albany's Levine had 14 points, while **Rhasheed Peterson** scored 13.

"I feel more comfortable than earlier in the year," commented Wilson, who made 14 –of-17 from the field, 11-of-14 from the line, and grabbed 10 rebounds. "Last Friday's win over Stony Brook gave us confidence, and I feel we are starting to develop team chemistry."

University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
From: Gene Brtalik
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3359
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: gbrtalik@uamail.albany.edu
Date: 2-16-03 (Sunday)
Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: **College Sports (Indoor Track)**

New York, N.Y. – Albany junior **Teresa Covert** qualified for the ECAC Championships in March in both the long jump and 60-meter hurdles at the Collegiate Invitational at the New York City Armory this weekend.

Covert, a transfer from Temple University, finished second in the finals of the 60-meter hurdles in a time of 8.56, just eight-hundredths of a second behind **Natilee Dawkins** of Gardner Webb. Covert's time was also just behind the school record of 8.47 set by **Ellakisha Williamson** in 1998. During day one of the Invitational, the Clifton Park, N.Y. native, finished 10th in the long jump, but had an ECAC-qualifying jump of 18-feet, 9-inches.

Kristof Molnar, the reigning America East Conference Indoor 800-meter champion, captured first in a field of 56 runners in the 800-meter event at a clip of 1:52.62. The Albany sophomore is also the school-record holder in the event at 1:50.3, which was set earlier this year at the Terrier Invitational.

In the high jump event, **Naron Stewart**, who holds the school record at 6-feet, 11-inches, tied for second as he cleared 6-feet, 9-inches.

Albany senior **Paul Roche**, a favorite to win the Pentathlon at next week's America East Championships, finished eighth in both the long jump and 60-meter hurdles events. Roche notched a season-best 22-feet, 4.5-inches in the long jump and crossed in the tape in 8.36 in the finals of the 60-meter hurdles.

Other highlights for the Albany track and field team included: **Shaun Empie** clearing 14-feet, 11 inches in the pole vault to place 10th, **Meghan Howell** capturing 11th in the 3,000-meter race in a time of 10:16.85 and **Kamar Elliott** recording a triple-jump distance of 44-feet, 10.25-inches to finish 13th in that event.

Next week the Great Danes travel to Boston, Mass. to compete in the America East Indoor Championships. Last season, the Albany men finished second while the women placed eighth.

An University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
From: Gene Brtalik
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3359
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: gbrtalik@uamail.albany.edu
Date: 2-15-03 (Saturday)
Pages w/cover: 2
Comments: **College Sports (Women's Basketball)**

New Hampshire 62, Albany 61

Albany, N.Y. – **Colleen Mullen** hit a driving baseline runner with 0.6 seconds left as New Hampshire overcame an 11-point deficit to defeat Albany, 62-61, in an America East Conference contest on Saturday afternoon at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Mullen, a senior guard, took the inbounds pass and went the length of the floor, utilizing a key screen from **Geneva Livingston**, hitting her game-winning shot on the left baseline over the outstretched arm of **Danielle Hutcheson**.

Albany (9-13, AE 3-8) took a 61-60 lead with 1:04 remaining as **Kathryn Hemlock**, who scored 10 points, hit a 15-foot jumper from the right side. After a defensive stop, the Great Danes had the ball with 42 seconds left, but Hemlock's three-pointer, with the shot clock running down, fell short and the Wildcats took over with 8.8 seconds left.

The Great Danes built a 41-30 lead early in the second half, as **Jess McGinlay**, who tallied 14 of her 16 points in the period, canned a 3-pointer from right of circle. New Hampshire (9-13, AE 4-7) still trailed 48-38 midway through the stanza, but then went on a 13-3 run to draw even at 51 apiece. Mullen scored seven points during that stretch, going 4-for-4 from the free throw line and connecting on a three-point field goal.

The game was tied for the seventh time at 56-all, before the Wildcats jumped ahead 60-56 with 3:40 to play. **Maren Matthias**, a 6-foot-3 junior who scored a game-high 19 points, scored on a follow shot in the lane. The Great Danes battled back to regain the lead on a three-pointer by **Sarah Sweetland** and Hemlock's jumper.

"This was our toughest loss of the season, because of how important this game was for us," said Albany coach **Trina Patterson**, whose team outrebounded New Hampshire 44-36. "The game was like the first round of a tournament because we knew we had to win. We made some key defensive mistakes at the end of the game and we have to hope that our players rebound for our next contest."

Mullen and Livingston each had 12 points for the Wildcats, who trailed 32-28 at halftime. Albany's Sweetland finished with 13 points, as her team managed just 36.5-percent shooting against UNH's zone defense.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-14-03 (Friday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Basketball

MEN – Albany 82, Stony Brook 74

Albany, N.Y. – Freshman **Jamar Wilson** had 19 of his career-high 30 points in the second half, as Albany snapped a four-game losing streak with an 82-74 America East Conference victory over Stony Brook on Friday evening at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (6-16, AE 2-9) led most of the way in also breaking a seven-game skid in conference play. The Great Danes, who posted a 31-28 halftime lead, went on a 10-2 run early in the final period. **Antione Johnson** and Wilson did all of the damage in that stretch. Johnson, a senior guard, canned a pair of three-point field goals, including one from the top of the arc that gave his club a 44-32 advantage with 15:14 remaining.

Stony Brook (12-11, AE 6-6) rallied with 11 of the game's next 13 points. **D.J. Munir**, a 6-foot-3 junior who tallied 30 points on 10-of-20 shooting, hit a three-pointer and a turnaround on the left baseline during that period. **Bobby Santiago's** driving layup closed the gap to 46-43 three minutes later.

The Seawolves, who had won seven of their last eight games entering the contest, still trailed 51-48, when Johnson answered with his fourth 3-pointer from right of the key. Albany maintained at least a five-point margin until less than six minutes remaining. **Rhasheed Peterson**, who totaled 13 points and seven rebounds, buried a three-point shot from the right corner, before Wilson scored on a follow shot in the lane for a 71-61 lead with 4:43 to play.

Stony Brook was coming off a win over conference-leader Boston University in their last outing three days ago and would make a late run in the final minute. **Mike Orfini**, who had 11 points and a team-high seven rebounds, nailed a long-range jumper from the right wing to slice the deficit to 78-74. However, Wilson and **Levi Levine**, the fourth Albany player in double figures with 10 points, each sank two free throws in the last 15 seconds to seal the verdict.

"I am proud of our guys because that is the hottest team in our league right now," said Albany coach Will Brown, who got some needed help from his bench as sophomore Chris Wyatt had four points and three rebounds. "We found a way to win; it was probably our best start-to-finish effort in an America East game this year. This way good for our psyche and I am anxious to see how we respond on the road."

Johnson, who played all 40 minutes in the backcourt, finished with 18 points. Levine, a 6-foot-6 freshman added seven rebounds and four assists to his scoring total for the Great Danes, who made 21 of 25 free throws.

"It feels good to get a win," said Wyatt, who was scoreless in a combined eight minutes over his last two contests off the bench. "We are at the bottom of the pack, so we need to keep winning and take one game at a time."

University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-9-03 (Sunday)

Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports (Track & Field)

UALBANY ATHLETES QUALIFY FOR IC4A MEET AT SYRACUSE INVITATIONAL

Syracuse, N.Y. – University at Albany's **Aggrey Morris** and **Kristof Molnar** won the 500- and 1,000-meter events with IC4A-qualifying times at the Syracuse Invitational on Sunday afternoon at Manley Field House. UAlbany had four men's individual winners and three women's champions at the meet.

Morris, who anchored the 4x400 relay to victory at the 96th Millrose Games last Friday, was first across the line in the 500-meter dash in 1:05.08, and was 18-hundredths of a second better than Syracuse's Christopher Telesford. Molnar, who like Morris qualified for the IC4A championships in March, won the 1,000 in 2:28.38 to beat Josh Mc Dougal by nearly four seconds.

Andy Allstadt captured the 3,000 in 8:46.86, as he edged teammate **Robbie Freeman**. Freshman **Nelson English** (Guilderland H.S.) sprinted 35.22 seconds to win the 300-meter dash. **Kamar Elliott**, a starting cornerback on the Albany football team, tied for second in the 55-high hurdles with a time of 7.79 seconds and was third in the triple jump (46-10.25). **Shaun Empie** (Scotia-Glenville) was second in the pole vault, as he cleared the bar in a personal-best 15-feet, 3-inches.

In the women's meet, **Megan Howell** posted a first-place finish in the mile run, and then ran the 1,600-meter leg on the winning distance medley relay. Howell was clocked in 5:10.15, as she won the mile by five seconds over Syracuse's Christine Ramsey. She teamed with **Diane Matthews**, **Nicole Susser** (Colonie Central) and **Zerlinda Martinez** for a time of 12:30.15 in the relay.

Temple transfer **Teresa Covert** was first in the 55-meter high hurdles in 7.96 seconds and tied for second in the long jump with a mark of 18-feet, 8-inches. **Trista Neinast** became UAlbany's third women's champion by running the 3,000 in 10:37.58. **Cherice' Vanderhall** garnered a pair of third-place showings in the 20-pound weight throw (45-2.25) and shot put (39-7.25).

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Student Press
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-8-03 (Saturday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Basketball

MEN – Maine 82, Albany 71

Albany, N.Y. – **Clayton Brown** had 17 points and 13 rebounds off the bench, as Maine pulled away midway through the second half to post an 82-71 America East Conference victory over Albany before 3,961 fans, the largest crowd of the year, on Saturday evening at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Maine (11-12, AE 6-5) led 54-53, but then ripped off 11 straight points to take control. **Rickey White**, a 6-foot-4 senior who had 16 points and nine rebounds, started that decisive run with a bank shot from right of the lane and a 14-foot jumper. The outburst ended when White fed **Derrick Jackson** on a fastbreak layup and **Ludmil Hadjisotirov** canned a three-point field goal for a 65-53 lead with 7:26 remaining.

The Black Bears, who recorded their third consecutive victory, pushed out to a 14-point advantage after **Thomas Hill** hit another three-pointer. Albany (5-16, AE 1-9) mustered a comeback bid, and closed within 71-66 on Rhasheed Peterson's bank shot with 2:27 to play. But **Kevin Reed**, a freshman guard who had 14 points, nailed a 3-pointer from the left wing, to end the home team's rally.

The Great Danes, whose losing streak was extended to four games, made eight 3-point shots in the opening period to build a 37-30 margin. **Antione Johnson and Levi Levine**, who had 12 of his 15 points in the first half, nailed consecutive long-range jumpers. The Black Bears rallied with nine consecutive points to take a 39-37 lead at the break. White had two baskets in that stretch, before **Eric Dobson** sank a three-pointer from the right side.

"Rickey White is a spark plug was us," Maine coach **John Giannini** commented. "He makes big plays, he's always talking; he just does a lot of things for us. This was a hard fought win in a good atmosphere to play with the crowd."

Justin Rowe, a 7-foot center, was the fourth Maine player in double figures with 13 points. The Black Bears shot 53.8 percent from the field in a contest that featured 13 lead changes and seven ties over the opening 30 minutes. Freshman guard **Jamar Wilson** and Johnson led the Great Danes with 19 points apiece. Peterson finished with 14 points and eight rebounds.

"They are just bigger and stronger, and their size wore us down," Albany coach **Will Brown** said. "They are 10-11 deep (in their rotation) and we've got guys playing heavy minutes. They got too many easy baskets."

An University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
From: Gene Brtalik
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3359
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: gbbrtalik@uamail.albany.edu
Date: 2-8-03 (Saturday)
Pages w/cover: 2
Comments: **College Sports (Women's Basketball)**

Maine 72, Albany 48

Albany, N.Y. – Junior **Melissa Heon** scored a season-high 22 points as Maine remained undefeated in the America East Conference with a 72-48 victory over Albany on Saturday evening in front of 1,542 fans at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Maine (16-4, AE 9-0), which has won 12 straight, led 11-8 with 14:40 remaining in the first half before Heon's jumper sparked a 25-7 run to give the Black Bears a 36-15 advantage with 3:00 left before intermission. Heon, who was perfect from the floor on 7-of-7 shooting and 4-of-4 from the line, tallied six of her 11 first-half markers during that spurt.

Albany (8-12, AE 2-7), which has lost three straight, closed the gap to 36-19, as **Danielle Hutcheson**, who led the team with 16 points, connected on a jumper and a pair of free throws on back-to-back possessions. **Monica Peterson**, who had eight points and 10 rebounds, made a lay up with two seconds left to give Maine a 38-19 halftime lead.

The Black Bears, who received two votes in the latest ESPN/USA TODAY Coaches' Poll, came out of the intermission scoring 12 of the first 14 points. **Heather Ernest**, who leads the conference in scoring and rebounding, scored eight of her 18 markers during that span to give Maine a 50-21 lead with 15:55 remaining.

The Great Danes, which shot a season-low 24.1 percent, cut the deficit to 62-39 with 6:12 to go, tallying nine of the next 11 points. Freshman **Jen Schumacher**, who had a career-high nine points and three rebounds, tallied the last bucket in that spurt on a one-handed jumper in the lane.

"Maine is an established team and they played like it tonight," said head coach **Trina Patterson**, whose team was held to its second-lowest point total of the year. "I think we came out a little flat tonight, because Maine is not 24 points better than us. I am looking to move up the mountain and get this team ready for the America East Tournament."

Jess McGinlay, who tallied 14 points, was the only other player in double figures.

University at Albany

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Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

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Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Track & Field

UALBANY WINS 4x400 RELAY AT 96th ANNUAL VERIZON MILLROSE GAMES

New York, N.Y. – **Aggrey Morris** anchored the men's 4x400-meter relay to victory in highlighting the University at Albany's performances at the 96th annual Verizon Millrose Games on Friday evening at Madison Square Garden.

The Great Danes were first across the finish line in 3:28.30, and were more than four seconds ahead of second-place Monmouth. Morris teamed with **Stephen Evans**, **Joel Vazquez** (Amsterdam H.S.) and **Jesse Bennett**. The relay qualified earlier this winter for the IC4A championships in March and will compete at the America East Conference championships on Feb. 21-22.

In addition, the UAlbany women were third in the 4x400 relay with a time of 4:01.81. The squad of **Tracy Estriplet**, **Teresa Covert**, **Rebecca Vannoy** and **Dinnah Decatus** placed behind Monmouth and Lehman College. In the men's 4x800 relay, the Great Danes were clocked in a season-best time of 7:52.11 and were third after the New York Athletic Club and Seton Hall. **Kristof Molnar**, the defending America East indoor 800-meter champion, led a group that included **Sam Gonzalez** (Fonda-Fultonville), **Gered Burns** and **Rich Villanueva**.

-agate-

96th Annual Verizon Millrose Games

Men's 4x400 Relay

1. Albany (Stephen Evans, Joel Vazquez, Jesse Bennett, Aggrey Morris), 3:28.30; 2. Monmouth, 3:32.61; 3. Colgate 3:32.66; 4. Wheaton, 3:33.29; 5. C.W. Post, 3:35.60; 6. Long Island, DNF.

Women's 4x400 Relay

1. Monmouth, 3:58.29; 2. Lehman, 3:58.40; 3. Albany (Tracy Estriplet, Teresa Covert, Rebecca Vannoy, Dinnah Decatus), 4:01.81; 4. Stony Brook, 4:02.86; 5. Colgate, 4:08.31; 6. Lehigh, 4:08.73; 7. Wagner, 4:17.49.

Men's 4x800 Relay

1. New York Athletic Club, 7:47.21; 2. Seton Hall, 7:49.61, 3. Albany (Sam Gonzalez, Gered Burns, Kristof Molnar, Rich Villanueva), 7:52.11; 4. British Columbia, 7:56.22; 5. Greater Boston Track Club, 7:58.54; 6. Manhattan, 8:06.00; 7. Southern Connecticut State, 8:07.96; 8. Boston College, 8:14.60; 9. C.W. Post, 8:27.07.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-6-03 (Thursday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Sports

WOMEN – Boston University 60, Albany 55

Albany, N.Y. – **Katie Meinhardt** scored the go-ahead basket with 20 seconds remaining, as Boston University rallied for a 60-55 America East Conference victory over Albany on Thursday evening at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Boston U. (8-11, AE 5-3) trailed 44-31 midway through the second half, but then regrouped with 12 unanswered points. Meinhardt, who had 12 of her team-high 18 points after halftime, buried two three-point field goals in that stretch. **Alison Argentieri** sank two foul shots to finish off that run.

Albany (8-11, AE 2-6) still led 46-43, when **Danielle Hutcheson**, a 6-foot-4 center who had 17 points and eight rebounds, hit a jumper from right of the lane. But the Terriers followed with 10 straight points. **Marisa Moseley** gave her team the lead with a free throw, before **Katie Terhune** hit a baseline jumper for a 53-46 cushion with 3:54 left.

The Great Danes, who led by 14 on two occasions in the opening period, came back with nine of the game's next 10 points to go ahead 55-54 with 1:01 remaining. Senior guard **Jess McGinlay**, who scored 17 points, including the 1,000th of her career, canned a pair of foul shots to put her team ahead.

Argentieri would then split two free throws on Boston U.'s next possession to tie the contest at 55 apiece, before Hutcheson missed a turnaround jumper in the lane. Meinhardt, a 5-foot-9 freshman, then was fouled as she hit a 14-foot jumper on the right baseline. Her conventional three-point play gave the Terriers a 58-55 lead. Norris, who totaled 10 points, four rebounds and six steals, then blocked McGinlay's three-point attempt to seal the verdict with 3.8 second to play.

"We were sloppy and careless, and we gave them opportunities," said Albany coach Trina Patterson, whose team committed a season-high 29 turnovers. "They came after us in the second half and played hard. But we beat ourselves, and it's unfortunate that we gave them a gift tonight."

Albany built a 35-21 halftime lead, but squandered that advantage by making 5-of-22 from the field after the break. Meanwhile, the Terriers heated up in the second half with 52.2-percent shooting. Terhune, the conference's third-leading scorer with a 17.4 average coming into the game, was the third Boston U. player in double figures with 10 points.

An University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
From: Gene Brtalik
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3359
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: gbrtalik@uamail.albany.edu
Date: 2-3-03 (Wednesday)
Pages w/cover: 2
Comments: College Sports (Men's Basketball)

Boston U. 78, Albany 50

Boston, Mass. -- **Rashad Bell** had 16 points and 11 rebounds to pace four players in double figures, as Boston University posted a 78-50 America East Conference victory over Albany on Wednesday evening at Case Gymnasium.

Boston U. (13-7, 8-1) used a pair of 10-2 runs in the opening 10 minutes to build a 24-12 lead. **Kevin Fitzgerald** and **Paul Seymour** hit back-to-back three-point field goals to end the first outburst. **Chaz Carr** scored off his steal and sank two free throws to finish off the second spurt.

The Terriers, who have won seven of their last eight starts, led by as much as 15 points in the period. Bell, a 6-foot-8 sophomore who had 12 first-half markers, converted a follow shot in the lane for a 34-19 lead with 5:45 left in the stanza. Boston U. settled for a 38-26 halftime advantage.

Albany (5-15, 1-8) struggled against the conference's top defensive unit in losing for the eighth straight time on the road. The Great Danes shot a season-low 29.1 percent, including 6-of-28 attempts in the final period. The Terriers, who own first place in the America East standings, employed a combination of full-court pressure and aggressive zone defense.

"Our jumpshots were short, and they defended the paint well," said Albany coach **Will Brown**, whose team also suffered its sixth-straight league loss. "They did a good job with their 10-man rotation. They exposed our weaknesses, plus took away penetration and helped each other on defense."

Billy Collins, had 15 points for the Terriers, while **Ryan Butt** added 12. Albany's **Jamar Wilson**, a 6-foot-1 freshman, led all scorers with 21.

University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-3-03 (Monday)

Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports

UALBANY TRACK TEAMS WIN LEHIGH'S JOHN COVERT CLASSIC

Bethlehem, Pa. – University at Albany's **Teresa Covert** won the 200-meter dash and was a member of the winning 4x400 relay in leading her team to victory at Lehigh University's John Covert Classic. **Kristof Molnar** was victorious in the mile run and helped the 4x800 relay to a first-place finish, as UAlbany also captured the men's team title.

Covert, a junior who transferred from Temple, qualified for the ECAC championships in March by winning the 200-dash in 25.07 seconds at Rauch Field House. She teamed with **Rebecca Vannoy**, **Dinnah Decatus** and **Tracy Estriplet** to win the 4x400 relay in 4:03.71. Estriplet also won the 400-meter dash in 1:01.57.

Albany had five other individual champions in outscoring second-place Lehigh, 176.5 to 117. **Jennifer Aubin** (Saratoga Springs) won the triple jump with a leap of 38-feet, and was third in the long jump (17-8.25). Other winners were **Anna Kay Campbell** (60-meter dash), **Zerlinda Martinez** (mile), **Meghan Howell** (3,000) and **Trista Neinast** (5,000).

In the men's competition, the Great Danes won by a comfortable margin over runner-up Lehigh. Molnar broke the tape in the mile with a time of 4:24.35, and then was grouped with **Gered Burns**, **Isaiah Cherry** and **Rich Villanueva** in winning the 4x800 relay in 8:01.58. **Aggrey Morris** was clocked in 1:05.19 in capturing the 500-meter dash. Morris also ran with **Stephen Evans**, **Jesse Bennett** and **Noel Campbell** on the first-place 4x400 relay (3:23.79).

Shaun Empie (Scotia-Glenville) led a group of four other UAlbany competitors who won individual events. Empie, a pole vaulter, cleared the bar at a personal-best height of 14-feet, 11-inches. **Paul Roche** (Niskayuna) won the 60-hurdles in 8:28 seconds, while **Naron Stewart** took the high jump with a mark of 6-4. **Andy Allstadt** cruised to victory in the 5,000 with a time of 15:11.75, and was second in the 3,000 (9:00.10).

-agate-

Lehigh University John Covert Classic

MEN – 1. Albany 200, 2. Lehigh 103, 3. Rider 77, 4. Towson 70, 5. LaSalle 67, 6. Sacred Heart 16.

WOMEN – 1. Albany 176.5, 2. Lehigh 117, 3. LaSalle 99, 4. Sacred Heart 51, 5. Towson 37.5, 6. Rider 30.

University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
Organization: The Saratogian
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-2-03 (Sunday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Sports

MEN – Northeastern 89, Albany 80 (OT)

Albany, N.Y. – **Cornellius Wright** scored five of his career-high 24 points in overtime, as Northeastern posted its fourth straight win with an 89-80 America East Conference victory over Albany on Sunday afternoon at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (5-14, AE 1-7) reversed a 72-71 deficit in regulation, when **Jamar Wilson** hit a driving layup and **Earv Opong** made a 19-foot jumper. **Antione Johnson**, who led the Great Danes with 23 points, had a chance to pad his team's three-point margin, but missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw opportunity.

Northeastern (12-10, AE 5-4) tied the contest at 74 apiece on its next possession, when freshman guard **Jose Juan Barea** made a three-point field goal from the top of the circle with 20 seconds left. Barea had nine points and eight assists. Johnson looked to redeem himself and break his team's four-game conference losing streak, but missed a 16-foot jumper with two seconds to play.

In the overtime, the Huskies, who have won five of their last six starts, took control with the opening six points of the period. **Aaron Davis**, who had 14 points off the bench, hit a 19-footer from the right corner, before **Derrell Keys** made a bank shot after a steal. Wright, a 6-foot-6 junior who added 10 rebounds, finished off that decisive run with a follow shot in the lane.

"We should have won the game," said Johnson, who had 17 second-half points. "The ball just spun out on the free throw. We broke down at the beginning of overtime and gave up some easy baskets."

Northeastern led 42-41 at halftime in a contest that featured 23 lead changes and seven ties. Later Wright and Davis each scored offensive rebound baskets to build a 67-64 advantage. However, Albany came right back on Johnson's jumper and **Levi Levine's** 8-foot shot in the lane to set up the seesaw end of regulation.

"(Jose Juan) Barea made a big shot off the dribble," Albany coach Will Brown commented. "We felt sorry for ourselves the first two minutes of overtime that we didn't win in regulation. We just didn't do the things we needed to do to win the game."

The Huskies' **Javorie Wilson** led all scorers with 25 points and 10 rebounds, while Keys added 10. Albany's Wilson finished with 20 points, while classmate Levine totaled 16 points, 12 rebounds and six assists.

University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times Union
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu

Date: 2-1-03 (Saturday)

Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Sports

WOMEN – NORTHEASTERN 72, ALBANY 59

Boston, Mass. – Freshman **Maralene Zwarich** came off the bench to score 16 of her 21 points in the first half, as Northeastern held off Albany, 72-59, in an America East Conference contest on Saturday afternoon at Solomon Court.

Northeastern (7-12, AE 5-3) reversed an early 13-9 deficit with eight unanswered points. **Katrina Anderson** converted in the lane to give her team the lead for good, before **Lori Newsome** split a pair of free throws for a 17-13 advantage.

The Huskies, who are riding a four-game win streak, still led 33-28 late in the first half. Zwarich, a 6-foot guard, then tallied her team's final six points of the period. She made four free throws and connected on a back-door layup in that stretch. Northeastern built a 39-29 cushion at the intermission.

Zwarich, who made 6-of-9 from the field and 9-of-10 from the line, and added six rebounds, pushed her team's margin to 17 points with 16:28 remaining. Her steal and layup gave Northeastern a commanding 49-32 lead.

Albany (8-10, AE 2-5) would regroup behind the work of junior guard **Sarah Sweetland**, who scored all nine of her points in a run that closed the gap to 49-41 two minutes later. Sweetland made a pair of three-point field goals and a conventional three-point play in that spurt.

The Great Danes, who had won back-to-back in the conference for the first time entering the contest, later trimmed the deficit to 58-55 after reserve guard **Chris Gray** sank two foul shots with 7:53 left. But Northeastern ended the comeback attempt with 11 of the game's next 13 points. **Joi Jefferson** nailed a 3-pointer to push lead back to double figures, before **Michelle Decerbo**, who scored 15, finished off the spurt with a layup for a 69-57 lead.

"We didn't protect the basket and gave up too many second-chance points," said Albany coach Trina Patterson, whose team also struggled on offense with 32-percent shooting and 20 turnovers. "We wanted to build a fence around the basket and stop penetration. We had a below average day on defense, but (Maralene) Zwarich's play was outstanding."

Kathryn Hemlock led the Great Danes with 15 points, while **Danielle Hutcheson** and **Jess McGinlay** each scored 12 apiece. **Francesca Vanin** totaled 11 points for the Huskies, who moved into second place in the conference standings behind league-leader Maine.