

# University at Albany

## Sports Information Fax Cover Sheet

**To:** Sports Department  
**Organization:** Daily Gazette

**From:** Brian DePasquale  
**Office:** Athletic Media Relations  
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**Date:** 12-29-98 (Tuesday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2

**Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)**

Capital Key Classic - Second Round Albany 89, Edinboro 86 (OT)  
Albany, N.Y. -- Kelly Paolino scored a season-high 19 points, including five in overtime, to lift Albany past Edinboro, 89-86, in the second round of the Capital Key Classic on Tuesday afternoon at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (5-5) plays in the tournament's championship at Pepsi Arena on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Edinboro, ranked 19<sup>th</sup> nationally in the latest USA Today/WBCA Division II poll, falls to 10-2.

The Great Danes, who won their fourth straight, built a 13-point lead in the first half on a driving layup by Liz Tucker, who had a season-best 16 points and added nine rebounds. Albany, which shot 53 percent in the opening period, increased its advantage to 63-46 with 13:49 remaining.

Edinboro, a 75-74 winner over Assumption in the first round, rallied in the stretch. After Paolino's two free throws gave Albany a 75-69 lead with 35.2 seconds left, Meghan Miller canned a three-point field goal and Jessica Rowe sank three foul shots after being fouled on a 3-point attempt. Paolino misfired at the buzzer, and the contest went to overtime.

In the extra period, the Fighting Scots took an 83-82 lead on a pair of free throws by Marin Hightower, who had 27 points and 12 rebounds. Tucker hit a follow shot in the lane, and Paolino converted a layup off her steal to give Albany the lead for good at 86-83 with 1:04 to play.

Paolino, a 5-foot-5 guard who added three assists and four steals, made two free throws to ice the verdict with 9.4 seconds remaining.

"It's nice to know we can win a game where the team comes together at crunch time," Albany coach Mari Warner said. "We pulled it out despite some mental lapses and missed opportunities. Their resolve in the overtime makes you start believing in your team as a coach."

Albany's Megan Buchanan scored in double figures for the seventh straight game with 14 points. Miller had 16 points for Edinboro, while Dana Polakowski came off the bench to add 14 points and 17 rebounds.

# **University at Albany**

## **Sports Information Fax Cover Sheet**

**To:** Sports Department  
**Organization:** Albany Times-Union

**From:** Brian DePasquale  
**Office:** Athletic Media Relations  
**Phone:** (518) 442-3072  
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**E-Mail:** [brd80@popppa.fab.albany.edu](mailto:brd80@popppa.fab.albany.edu)

**Date:** 12-28-98 (Monday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Sports

### **CALIANDRO ON AP LITTLE ALL-AMERICA FOOTBALL TEAM**

University at Albany's Matt Caliandro has been named to the The Associated Press' Little All-America Football Team. Caliandro, a 6-foot-5, 250-pound defensive end, was a third-team selection on a squad comprised from players in Division II and III and the NAIA.

Caliandro, who earlier this month was voted first-team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association, had 60 tackles and a team-leading 7.0 sacks as a senior, and made his second appearance on the All-ECAC-North unit. He will play in the Snow Bowl, a Division II all-star game, on January 9 in Fargo, North Dakota, and is considered a National Football League prospect. Albany captured its second consecutive Eastern Football Conference championship this fall.

### **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL RETURNS TO ACTION ON TUESDAY**

The Great Danes, off since Dec. 12, return to the floor in the second round of the Capital Key Classic on Tuesday at the Recreation and Convocation Center. Albany (4-5) meets Edinboro, ranked 19<sup>th</sup> nationally in the latest USA Today/WBCA Division II poll, at 2:00 p.m. Edinboro (10-1) edged Assumption, 75-74, in the opening round this afternoon.

Megan Buchanan, a two-time ECAC-North player of the week this season, leads Albany in scoring at 14.3 points per game. Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) adds 11.0 points, 3.4 assists and 2.3 steals.

### **ALBANY TRACK TEAM SETS TWO SCHOOL RECORDS**

Tamirah Haywood's 800-meter anchor leg helped Albany set a school record and win the women's sprint medley relay at the Chase Christmas Festival. The Great Danes' relay unit, comprised of Haywood, Oneika Randall, Xiomara Davila Diaz and Tammy Freeman, posted a time of 4:16.83. Greg Miller (Albany H.S.) broke his own school standard in the 60-meter dash, when he went across the tape in 7.04.

Samantha Cohen went 14:29.48 in the 3,000-racewalk, and qualified for USATF nationals in the Georgia Dome on Feb. 26-27. Matt Sala (Shenendehowa) was second in the pole vault (13-0), while Davila Diaz placed fourth in the 400 (57.80).

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**Date:** 12-17-98 (Thursday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2

**Comments:** Local Sports

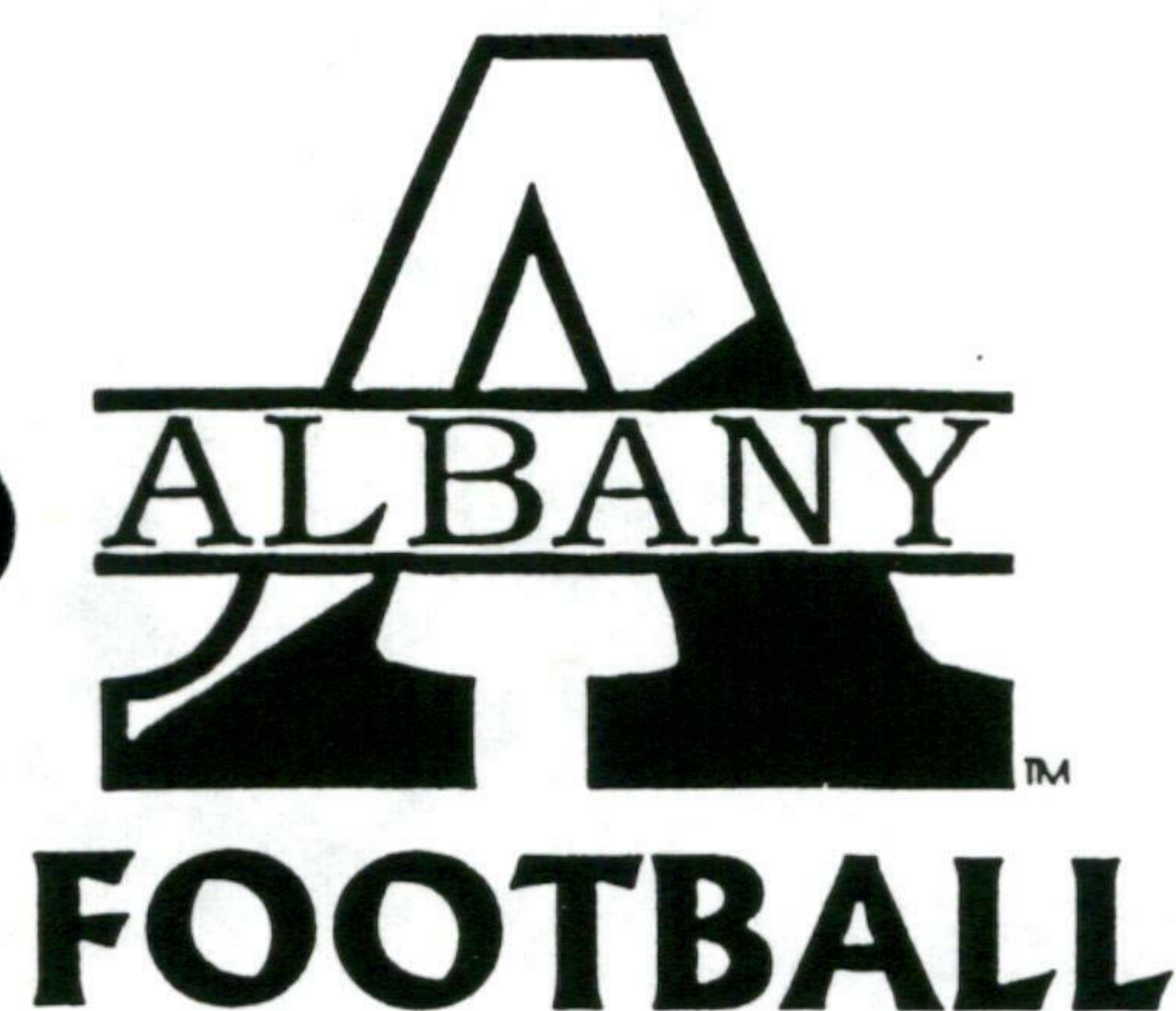
### **CAPITAL DISTRICT FOOTBALL SEMINAR DATES ANNOUNCED**

The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Capital District Football Seminar will be conducted on the University at Albany's campus with six two-hour lectures scheduled on consecutive Thursdays from January 28 through March 4 at 7:00 p.m. The clinic will be held in the Recreation and Convocation Center's Hall of Fame Room.

Scheduled speakers include John Matsko and Denny Marcin, the New York Giants' offensive and defensive line coaches, Dave Clawson, who recently became the head football coach at Fordham University, and Troy High School head coach Jack Burger.

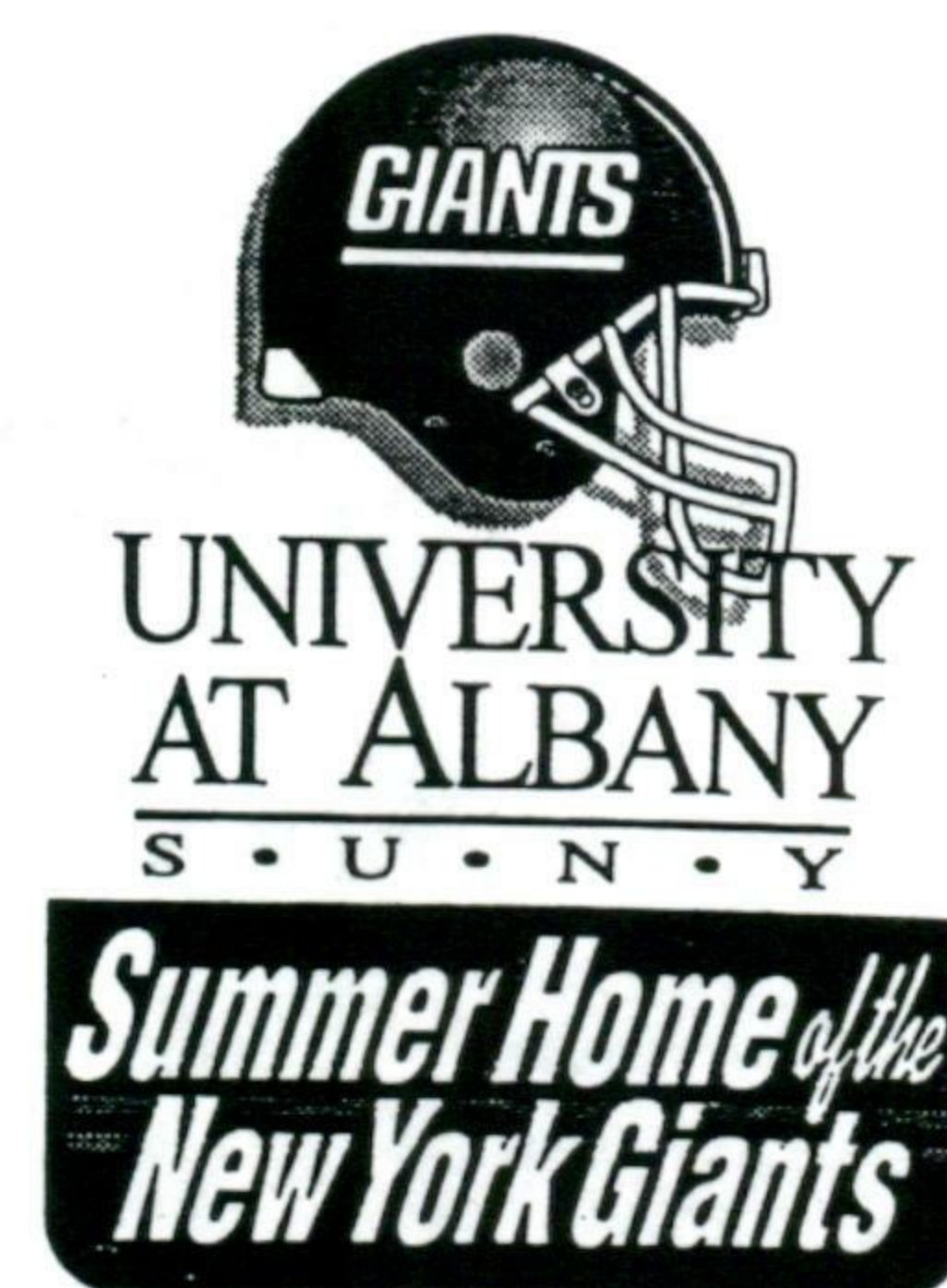
The clinics are designed to assist local coaches at the college, high school and youth levels. The fee is \$35.00 per coach or \$150.00 for a staff of five or more. Contact the University at Albany football office at (518) 442-3052 for additional information.

(SCHEDULE ATTACHED)



## CAPITAL DISTRICT FOOTBALL SEMINAR

28th Year of the Capital District's BEST Football Clinic!!



<u>Date</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1/28/99	Dave Cohen Linebacker Coach University of Delaware	The Delaware Package
2/4/99	Jack Burger Head Football Coach Troy High School	Playing Defense the Trojan Way
2/11/99	Denny Marcini Defensive Line Coach New York Giants	Defensive Line Techniques Run/Pass and Line Games
2/18/99	Joe Gilbert Offensive Coordinator University of Maine	Maine's Screens and Draws
2/25/99	John Matsko Offensive Line Coach New York Giants	Offensive Line Play Pass Protection
3/4/99	Dave Clawson Offensive Coordinator Villanova University	The Pass Game made Simple

### LOCATION:

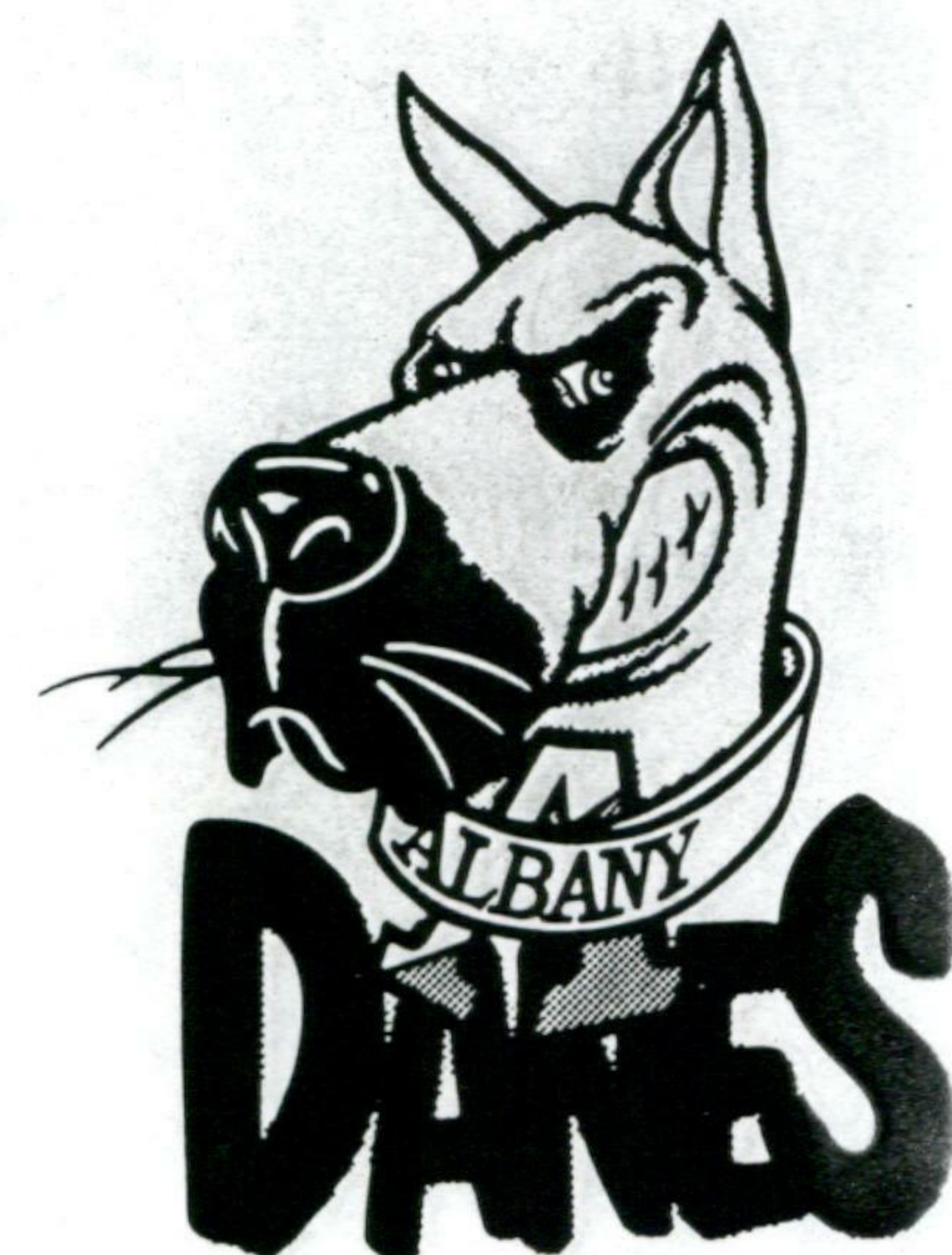
University at Albany  
Recreation and Convention Center - (RACC) - Hall of Fame Room  
**- See directions on back of page.**

### CLINIC FEE:

\$35.00 per coach or \$150.00 for a staff of five or more.  
See enclosure for staff and individual clinic registration or pay at the door.

### QUESTIONS:

Please call our office (518) - 442 - 3052.



**ALL CLINICS WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 PM**

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**Date:** 12-15-98 (Tuesday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Sports

### **MEGAN BUCHANAN NAMED NECC PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

Rindge, N.H. -- University at Albany's Megan Buchanan has been selected as the New England Collegiate Conference Player of the Week (Dec. 7-13) in women's basketball. Buchanan, who was chosen as the ECAC-North's top player on Sunday, averaged 25.5 points and shot 61 percent from the field in a pair of Great Dane victories.

Buchanan, a 5-foot-11 junior, scored a career-high 28 points and tied the seventh highest single-game total in UA history on Dec. 9 in a 74-69 victory at Massachusetts-Lowell. Albany (4-5, NECC 3-1) won for the first time in five trips to Costello Gymnasium. Buchanan tallied 18 of her game-high 23 points in the first half in last Saturday's victory over New Haven.

The Great Danes return to action in the Capital Key Classic on Dec. 29.

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**Date:** 12-13-98 (Sunday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Sports

### **MEGAN BUCHANAN NAMED ECAC-NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

Centerville, Mass. -- University at Albany's Megan Buchanan has been selected as the ECAC-North Division II Player of the Week (Dec. 5-12) in women's basketball. Buchanan, who earned the award for the second straight week, averaged 25.5 points and shot 61 percent (19-of-31) from the field in a pair of Great Dane victories.

Buchanan, a 5-foot-11 junior, scored a career-high 28 points and tied the seventh highest single-game total in UA history on Dec. 9 in a 74-69 victory at Massachusetts-Lowell. Albany (4-5, NECC 3-1) won for the first time in five trips to Costello Gymnasium. Buchanan tallied 18 of her game-high 23 points in the first half in last Saturday's 78-58 triumph against New Haven.

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Albany's Will Brand was named to the 10-player ECAC Division II Honor Roll in men's basketball. Brand, a 6-foot-4 freshman, averaged 18.0 points and 7.0 rebounds in two games. He scored 20-plus for the third time this season with a 21-point effort in last Saturday's 74-73 overtime victory against New Haven. Brand leads Albany (4-6, NECC 2-2) in scoring this season at 15.3 points per game.

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To: Sports Department  
Company: Albany Times-Union

From: Brian DePasquale  
Company: Assistant A.D./Media Relations  
Office Phone: (518) 442-3072  
Fax: (518) 442-3139

Date: 12-12-98 (Saturday)  
Pages including this  
cover page: 2

Comments: College Basketball

(Women)  
Albany 78, New Haven 58

Albany, N.Y. -- Megan Buchanan scored a game-high 23 points, and reached double figures for the sixth straight game to lead Albany to a 78-58 New England Collegiate Conference victory over New Haven on Saturday at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (4-5, NECC 3-1) used an 11-1 run in the opening period to jump out to an early 26-7 advantage. Buchanan, who had 18 points in the first half, scored seven straight points in that run. Albany's defense held New Haven to 7-for-23 shooting from the field in taking a 49-27 lead at the break. The Great Danes point total was the most in a half this season.

New Haven (5-5, NECC 1-3) got within 13 points at 12:33 in the second half on a shot in the lane by Christine Huber. But Liz Tucker, who finished with 13 points and eight rebounds, drilled a 3-pointer from the right side to extend the margin back to 58-42.

Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) had 13 points, three assists, and four steals, while junior center Melissa Schoonover added 13 points and four blocked shots for Albany. Kate Simmons led New Haven with 14 points and Huber added 12.

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**Date:** 12-10-98 (Thursday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2

**Comments:** College Sports

### **GREVER & CALIANDRO LEAD GROUP OF SIX ALBANY PLAYERS ON ALL-ECAC TEAM**

Centerville, Mass. -- Senior defensive end Matt Caliandro and junior linebacker Mike Grever lead a group of six University at Albany football players who were named to the 1998 ECAC-North Division II All-Star Team, as presented by Spalding Sports Worldwide. Albany and New Haven were the most represented teams on the 30-member all-star unit.

Caliandro, an AFCA first-team All-American, and Grever, an All-Northeast Region defender, are making their second straight appearance on the All-ECAC-North squad. Caliandro had 60 tackles and a team-leading 7.0 sacks, and will play in the 1999 Snow Bowl Division II All-Star contest. Grever is the first Albany player since 1982 to record 120-plus tackles in back-to-back seasons. He registered 129 total hits for a defense which is ranked among the top 10 nationally in scoring (13.5 ppg) and pass efficiency against (93.0 rating).

Troy Rhett and Jason Barra, a pair of All-Eastern Football Conference selections, were also chosen. Rhett, a senior cornerback, led the Great Danes with five interceptions, and had 33 tackles and 10 pass break-ups. Barra, a 6-foot-5, 280-pound offensive tackle, blocked for an offense which averaged 32.8 points and 330 total yards per game.

Senior place-kicker Deron Regev and sophomore tight end Steve Checksfield were voted to the All-ECAC team for the first time. Regev, who finished third on the school's all-time scoring list with 155 points, booted 7-of-10 field goals and 32-of-36 extra-point attempts. Checksfield had 22 receptions for 432 yards and seven touchdowns, including two scoring catches in his team's 25-24 EFC championship victory against American International on Nov. 21.



**EASTERN COLLEGE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  
1998 DIVISION II NORTH FOOTBALL ALL-STARS**  
*Presented by Spalding Sports Worldwide*

**OFFENSE**

<b>Quarterback:</b>	Ted Larkin	Sophomore	Bentley
<b>Running backs:</b>	Kevin Gailliard	Junior	American Int'l.
	Rashaan Dumas*	Junior	Southern Conn. State
<b>Wide Receivers:</b>	Dan Grant	Junior	American Int'l.
	Mark DeBrito	Junior	Bentley
<b>Tight End:</b>	Steve Checksfield	Sophomore	Albany
<b>Offensive Line:</b>	Ray Shuster*	Senior	American Int'l.
	Jason Barra	Junior	Albany
	Walter Kinsey	Junior	Bentley
	Craig Capone	Sophomore	New Haven
	Brian Bigham	Sophomore	Southern Conn. State.

**DEFENSE**

<b>Defensive Line:</b>	Matt Caliandro*	Senior	Albany
	Ben Nassar*	Senior	Bentley
	Robert Slattery	Junior	Merrimack
	Marshall Maxwell	Senior	New Haven
<b>Linebackers:</b>	Dave Zanin	Sophomore	American Int'l.
	Mike Grever*	Junior	Albany
	Jim Festa	Junior	Merrimack
	Billy Arline	Senior	New Haven
	Steve Cedor	Sophomore	New Haven
	Rhondell Sawyer	Senior	Southern Conn. State
	Bob Mazaroski	Senior	Stony Brook
<b>Defensive Backs:</b>	Troy Rhett	Senior	Albany
	Eric Williams	Freshman	LIU/C. W. Post
	Greg Kouloheras	Senior	Mass.-Lowell
	Troy Appling*	Junior	New Haven
	Gabe Rodriguez	Senior	Stony Brook

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

<b>Place kicker:</b>	Deron Regev	Senior	Albany
<b>Return Specialist:</b>	Jim Kennedy	Junior	LIU/C. W. Post
<b>Punter:</b>	John Thomas	Junior	New Haven

**Player of the Year:** Kevin Gailliard, AIC  
**Co-Rookies of the Year:** Eddie Torrico, Mass.-Lowell and Lucas Niskanen, Stony Brook

\*denotes 1997 ECAC Division II North All-Star

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**Date:** 12-9-98 (Wednesday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 4

**Comments:** College Basketball

(Women)  
Albany 74, Massachusetts-Lowell 69

Lowell, Mass. -- Megan Buchanan scored a career-high 28 points and Albany shot a season-best 51-percent from the field en route to a 74-69 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Massachusetts-Lowell on Wednesday evening.

Albany (3-5, NECC 2-1) won for the first time in five trips to Costello Gymnasium, and had lost seven of the previous eight meetings with the two-time defending conference champions.

The Great Danes made nine of the opening 13 shots in grabbing a 21-8 advantage. Mass.-Lowell (3-4, NECC 2-1) responded with 12 straight points to get back into the contest. But Buchanan's three-pointer with three seconds left in the period gave her club a 33-28 halftime lead.

"Our whole offense is starting to wake up," said Buchanan. "We got some high-low looks, took our time, and the shots started to fall. We knew our history here, but we started from the tip and got running right away."

Buchanan, who canned 10-of-17 shots from the field, scored six points in the opening five minutes of the second half to push her club out to a 34-24 advantage. The River Hawks closed within 60-56 on a pair of free throws by Jessica Bruce, who had 15 points and 12 rebounds. Buchanan hit another 3-pointer and freshman Cara Caffell made two free throws to move their team out to a nine point cushion.

Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) had eight of her 12 points in the second half. Aliya Cox had a team-high 16 points to lead three other players in double figures.

\*\*\*more\*\*\*

## **Albany Sports 2-2-2**

**(Men)**

**Massachusetts-Lowell 58, Albany 54**

**Lowell, Mass. -- Brian Bettano hit the go-ahead basket on a three-pointer from the top of the key with 46 seconds left and Massachusetts-Lowell went on to post a 58-54 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Albany on Wednesday at Costello Gymnasium.**

**The game went back and forth the entire way. Albany (3-6, 1-2), ran off five straight points to take a 52-48 lead. The River Hawks went back in front 53-52 on a fast break layup by Casey Cowburn. Albany regained the lead on a pair of free throws by Will Brand, who had 15 points, with 1:03 left.**

**Reggie Evans, one of four Mass.-Lowell players in double figures with 10, sealed the win when he sank two foul shots with four seconds to play.**

**Todd Cetnar (Amsterdam H.S.) led all scorers with 13 of his 18 points in the second half. Bettano and Eyal Leib each paced the River Hawks with 11. Mass.-Lowell improved to 4-4 and 2-1 in the NECC.**

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**Date:** 12-9-98 (Wednesday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2

**Comments:** College Football

### **MATT CALIANDRO NAMED TO AFCA ALL-AMERICA FOOTBALL TEAM**

Waco, Texas -- University at Albany's Matt Caliandro has been chosen to the 1998 Burger King Division II Coaches' All-America Team as announced today by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).

A 6-foot-5, 250-pound defensive end, Caliandro is the second player in school history to be selected to the AFCA All-America squad. Scott Turrin, an offensive tackle, was named as a Division III All-American in 1992 and 1994.

Caliandro, who will play in the 1999 Snow Bowl as a member of the East All-Stars on Jan. 9 in Fargo, N.D., recorded 60 tackles with six pass break-ups, one interception, and one fumble recovery. He led the Great Danes in sacks with 7.0 for minus-41 yards.

Caliandro helped Albany post a 10-1 record and capture its second consecutive Eastern Football Conference championship. He finished his career with 185 tackles and 16.0 sacks.

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**Date:** 12-7-98 (Monday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Sports

### **MIKE GREVER NAMED TO DAKTRONICS ALL-NORTHEAST REGION TEAM**

Millersville, Pa. -- University at Albany's Mike Grever has been chosen to the 1998 Daktronics, Inc. Division II All-Northeast Region Football Team, as voted by the sports information directors of the NCAA Division II member institutions.

Grever, a second-team selection, led the Great Danes in tackles with 129, and had 10 or more hits in nine of 11 starts this season. A two-time All-Eastern Football Conference linebacker, Grever added three interceptions, six pass break-ups, and had eight tackles for a loss.

Grever, a junior, is the first Albany defender since 1982 to record 120-plus tackles in back-to-back seasons. He ranks fifth on the school's career list with 263 hits.

Grever posted a team-leading 16 tackles in Albany's EFC championship victory over American International on Nov. 21. The Great Danes, who finished 10-1 overall, rank among the nation's leaders in scoring defense (13.5 ppg) and pass efficiency against (93.0 rating).

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**Date:** 12-6-98 (Sunday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Sports

### **MEGAN BUCHANAN NAMED ECAC-NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

Centerville, Mass. -- University at Albany's Megan Buchanan has been selected as the ECAC-North Division II Player of the Week (Nov. 30 - Dec. 5) in women's basketball.

Buchanan averaged 14.5 points and 6.5 rebounds in two games. She scored 13 of her season-high 18 points in the second half in Saturday's 52-35 victory at Southern Connecticut State, and helped end Albany's five-game losing streak. The 5-foot-11 junior forward has scored in double figures in four straight contests, and is averaging 11.1 points this season.

### **ALBANY MEN & WOMEN WIN TRACK MEET AT COLGATE**

Hamilton, N.Y. -- Ben Wright (Averill Park H.S.) was a double-winner in the one-mile and 3,000-meter events, as Albany won a quadrangular meet at Colgate University's Charles H. Sanford Field House.

Wright, a junior, was first across the tape in the mile (4:18.88), and later won the 3,000 in 9:01.42. Greg Miller (Albany H.S.) sprinted 6.58 seconds to win the 55-meter dash, while John Morris captured the high jump (6'8"). The Great Danes totaled 188 points to easily outdistance Buffalo (133). Colgate had 129 points, and Canisius had 128.

In the women's competition, Tara Bialy and Oneika Randall each won two events, as Albany narrowly defeated Colgate and Buffalo. The Great Danes, who scored 154, were just three points ahead of the two Division I programs. Canisius was fourth with 79.

Bialy placed first in the 55-dash (7.42) and 55-hurdles (8.47). Randall won the 200 (26.33) and 400 (59.57).

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**Date:** 12-5-98 (Saturday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 4

**Comments:** College Sports

### **WOMEN**

**Albany 52, Southern Connecticut State 35**

New Haven, Conn. -- Junior forward Megan Buchanan scored 18 points and Melissa Schoonover added 11 points and nine rebounds, as Albany ended a five-game losing streak, and cruised to a 52-35 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Southern Connecticut State Saturday afternoon at Moore Fieldhouse.

Albany (2-5, NECC 1-1) led 18-17 with four minutes left in the first period and reeled off the last 10 points of the half. Liz Tucker scored all five of her points in that run. Albany's stifling defense held SCSU to 23-percent shooting (12-for-52) in the game, including 3-for-16 from three-point range.

"We played exceptional on defense," said Albany coach Mari Warner. "We got consistency for 40 minutes and are now sticking to a basic package that is simple".

The Great Danes, with a 37-27 advantage in the second half, held SCSU scoreless for seven minutes. During that time, Buchanan scored nine straight points, including a 3-pointer with 4:52 left for a 47-27 lead.

SCSU (5-1, NECC 1-1) recorded the lowest point total by an opponent since Albany defeated Eastern Connecticut 54-33 on Dec. 3, 1994.

Kim Bowen led the Owls with eight points, while leading-scorer Kristen Breen, who entered the contest with a 16.8 points per game average, was held to just seven.

### **MEN**

**Albany 73, Southern Connecticut State 69**

New Haven, Conn. -- Todd Cetnar scored a career-high 26 points and Albany tied a school-record with 15 three-point field goals to rally in the second half for a 73-69 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Southern Connecticut State on Saturday at Moore Fieldhouse.

\*\*\*more\*\*\*

## Albany Sports 2-2-2

Albany (3-5, NECC 1-1) won for the first time in four trips to Moore Fieldhouse since becoming a member of the NECC in 1994.

SCSU (2-4, NECC 1-1) led 29-16 in the first half after a baseline jumper by Eric Moore, who had 12 of his team-high 20 points in the period. The Owls still led 40-31 early in the final period when Albany went on a 9-2 run to get back into the contest. Mike Everett's 3-pointer closed the gap to 42-40 and eventually the Great Danes would take their first lead at 51-50 with 9:27 left on Dave Schloss' follow shot in the lane. SCSU went back on top 56-54 on a jumper by David Grenade, who had 12 points. But then Albany responded with eight straight points to take the lead for good.

"Early on they killed us on the boards, but we did a good job of battling back," Cetnar said. "Our big guys didn't give them second shots and boxed out in the second half."

Still leading 70-65, the Owls made it a one possession game as Moore hit a jumper and T.J. Trimboli converted a lay-up off his steal in the last minute. Centar slammed the door with 11.6 seconds remaining when he canned his seventh 3-pointer of the game from the right wing. The six-foot guard from Amsterdam added four rebounds, three assists, and three steals in the contest.

Cetnar added, "I had a good feel throughout the whole game. It's important that Coach has confidence in me and gives me the green light."

Matthew Haggarty was the only other Albany player in double figures with 17. Trimboli had 15 for SCSU, while Grenade added 12.



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## Sports Information Fax Cover Sheet

**To:** Sports Department  
**Organization:** Daily Gazette

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**Date:** 12-2-98 (Wednesday)  
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**Comments:** College Basketball

### **MEN**

**Franklin Pierce 68, Albany 55**

Albany, N.Y. -- Alfonso Payne scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half to lead Franklin Pierce past Albany, 68-55, in the New England Collegiate Conference opener for both teams on Wednesday at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Franklin Pierce (4-2, NECC 1-0), last year's conference regular-season champion, used a 12-2 run in the first half to move out to a 23-10 advantage. Zvonko Ilic, a 6-foot-5 forward, and Kwam Rucker each buried three-point field goals in that stretch. Meanwhile, the Great Danes shot a season-worst 26 percent from the field in the first half, and were just 5-of-33 from 3-point range on the night.

Albany (2-5, NECC 0-1) eventually trailed 33-23 at halftime, but then closed within 53-49 with 4:29 remaining. Freshman Will Brand, who had 10 of his 14 points in the final period, hit a turnaround from left of the lane to close the gap.

Payne, who canned 3-of-5 long-range jumpers, sank a 21-footer on his team's next possession, and then made a driving left-hander with 2:47 left to help the Ravens move out to a nine-point cushion. The 6-foot-2 sophomore also converted five free throws down the stretch.

Sophomore center Donald Edge had 14 points and six rebounds for Franklin Pierce. Todd Cetnar (Amsterdam H.S.) scored 14 for the Great Danes, while freshman Dave Schloss added 10.

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# University at Albany

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(Women)

Franklin Pierce 66, Albany 48

Albany, N.Y. -- Senior center Debbie Stiles scored 20 points to pace four players in double figures as Franklin Pierce posted a 66-48 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Albany on Wednesday evening at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

The Ravens (4-1, NECC 1-0) used an 8-0 run in the opening period to jump out to a 29-17 halftime lead. Albany was held under 20 points in the first stanza for the third time this season.

Albany (1-5, NECC 0-1) closed within 36-30 at 15:43 in the second half on a 14-foot jumper by Liz Tucker. However, Claudia Copeland, who had 16 points and 11 rebounds, scored seven straight points to push the lead back to double digits. Forward Kari Hunt also recorded a double-double for Franklin Pierce with 11 points and 13 boards.

The Great Danes were led by Megan Buchanan's 11 points, while Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) and Tucker each had eight.