

University at Albany

Sports Information Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times-Union

From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
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Date: 2-28-99 (Sunday)
Pages w/cover: 3

Comments: College Sports

ALBANY WINS WOMEN'S ECAC DIVISION II TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP

New Haven, Conn. -- Janna Johnston (Shenendehowa H.S.) set a school-record in the pentathlon and Andrea Viger (Granville Central H.S.) won the 5,000-meter run to lead Albany to the ECAC Division II women's indoor track and field championship on Sunday at Southern Connecticut State University's Moore Field House.

Johnston scored 3,452 points in the five-event pentathlon competition, and also was third in the high jump. Viger, a junior, went 18:04.53 to finish first in the 5,000 by nearly two seconds over Kutztown's Megan Seefeldt. The Great Danes outpointed runner-up Kutztown, 128 to 95.5., in the team standings.

Xiomara Davila Diaz captured an ECAC title in the 55-meter hurdles in 8.02 seconds, and placed second in the 400-dash. Tara Bialy was also a winner in the 55-dash (7.21).

In the men's competition, Albany was fourth overall behind ECAC champion Kutztown. Andy Rickert (Guilderland) took second in the 5,000 (15:32.43), while Rob Naughton (Guilderland) went 2:31.59 in the 1,000 to finish third. Albany's 800-meter relay was first across the line in 1:33.27, while Tony Davidson and Brendan Howell picked up a pair of second-place finishes in the 400 and 3,000, respectively.

-agate-

WOMEN - Team

Albany 128, Kutztown 95.5, East Stroudsburg 83, Massachusetts-Lowell 80, Shippensburg 77, Southern Connecticut State 49, Binghamton 37, New York Tech 36, C.W. Post 24, Millersville 13, Sacred Heart 10, Lock Haven 8.5, Stony Brook 5, Stonehill 2, West Chester 2, Bentley 1.

MEN - Team

Kutztown 145, Lock Haven 99, Shippensburg 93.5, Albany 62, Binghamton 49, Millersville 45.5, New York Tech 41, East Stroudsburg 31, Stony Brook 21, West Chester 19, C.W. Post 15, Sacred Heart 13, Mansfield 8, Bryant 6.

MORE

ALBANY WINS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL EXHIBITION (Boxscore Attached)

Albany, N.Y. -- Megan Buchanan scored 16 points to pace four players in double figures, as Albany posted a 60-41 women's basketball exhibition victory over Nor'Easter Storm on Sunday afternoon at the Recreation and Convocation Center. Albany, which finished the regular season with a 13-13 record, awaits the announcement of Monday's ECAC Division II tournament bids.

Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) and Alison Bowe each had 11 points for the Great Danes, while Melissa Schoonover recorded a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Kelly Hunt, a 6-foot-1 forward who played at Connecticut, led the Nor'Easter Storm with 15 points and 13 rebounds. Former Boston College standout Sally Madeira totaled 11 points and 14 rebounds for the AAU team.

SOFTBALL DROPS TWO IN FLORIDA

Fort Myers, Fla. -- Senior pitcher Emily Windle threw a complete-game victory and belted a pair of home runs to lead Capital to an 8-3 victory over Albany on Sunday at Lee County Sports Complex. Albany (1-3) also dropped a 10-2 decision to Alma (Mich.) College later in the day.

Windle, who went 3-for-3 at the plate, lined a two-run homer in both the first and fifth innings for Capital. Albany's Audrey White, a freshman infielder, had three singles and scored one run.

In the second game, Alma's Danielle Pease had two hits and drove in two runs, while teammate Heather Bruder added a pair of singles and scored twice.

-agate-

(Game 1)

Capital (Ohio)	5	1	0	0	-	8	14	2
Albany	1	0	0	2	0	3	8	2

Emily Windle and Lynsey Pyle.

Amy Hawk, Jessica Hansen (1) and Michelle Mausteller.

(Game 2)

Alma (Mich.)	1	2	0	3	-	10	10	5
Albany	2	0	0	0	-	2	2	5

Becky Pierce and Kathryn Nordin.

Kelly Poynton and Michelle Mausteller.

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Comments: College Sports

USA INDOOR TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

Atlanta, Ga. -- University at Albany's Samantha Cohen finished sixth in the women's 3,000-meter race walk at the USA Indoor Track & Field Championships on Saturday at the Georgia Dome.

Cohen, a national qualifier for the third straight year, was timed in 14:39.41. She placed fifth in this same event one year ago, and was 11th at the 1997 USA indoor meet. Joanne Dow, competing for Adidas, won the championship in 12:44.90, while Jill Zenner, of the Miami Valley Track Club, was second in 12:49.06.

ECAC DIVISION II INDOOR TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

New Haven, Conn. -- Andrea Viger (Granville Central H.S.) anchored the women's distance medley relay to a first-place finish to highlight Albany's performances on the first day of competition at the ECAC Division II indoor track and field championships on Saturday at Southern Connecticut State University's Moore Field House.

Viger ran the 1,600-meter anchor leg in five minutes and seven seconds, as the Albany relay shattered a 17-year-old school record. The Great Danes were first across the line in 12:23.58, which eclipsed the old mark by nearly 38 seconds. Erica Viger (1,200), Xiomara Davila Diaz (400) and Tamirah Haywood (800) were the relay's other members.

Three local athletes helped the men's distance medley relay place second at the ECAC meet. Ben Wright (Averill Park) ran the anchor leg for a relay which qualified for next week's IC4A championships with a time of 10:11.45. Todd Weiss (Shaker) was the lead-off runner, while Rob Naughtner (Guilderland) posted a 1:55 split over the third leg's 800 meters.

SOFTBALL OPENS SCHEDULE IN FLORIDA

Fort Myers, Fla. -- Jessica Hansen fired a four-hit shutout to lead Albany to a 6-0 victory over Mercyhurst in the team's season-opening game on Saturday at the Lee County Sports Complex. The Great Danes suffered a 12-2 setback to Saginaw Valley State later in the day.

*****MORE*****

Albany Sports 2-2-2-2

(Softball)

Hansen, a junior right-hander, allowed four singles while recording two strikeouts and two walks en route to her 20th career victory. Senior infielder Nancy Nicsevic (Columbia H.S.) went 3-for-3 at the plate with two runs scored, and lined a two-run double in the second inning. Freshman Audrey White doubled twice, and added one RBI.

In the second contest, Kathy Babcock had two doubles, scored twice and drove in two runs to lead Saginaw Valley State. Sheila Metro and Katie Clements also collected a pair of base hits in the Cardinals' 15-hit attack.

-agate-

(Game 1)

Albany	040	200	-	6	9	0
Mercyhurst	000	000	-	0	4	3

Jessica Hansen and Michelle Mausteller.

Karin Bender, Maureen Grady (4) and Dayna Shelkey.

(Game 2)

Albany	110	00	-	2	5	1
Saginaw Valley State	522	21	-	12	15	1

Amy Hawk and Michelle Mausteller.

Kelly Prill and Pam Frda.

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Sports Information Fax Cover Sheet

To: Rodger Wyland, Sports
Organization: WNYT-TV (13)

From: Brian DePasquale
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Date: 2-24-99 (Wednesday)
Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Basketball

WILL BRAND NAMED NECC ROOKIE OF THE YEAR Cetnar and Brand Chosen to All-Conference Team

New Haven, Conn. -- University at Albany's Will Brand has been selected as the 1999 New England Collegiate Conference Rookie of the Year in men's basketball as voted by the NECC's head coaches. Brand and Todd Cetnar (Amsterdam H.S.) were chosen to the all-conference second-team.

Brand, a 6-foot-4 forward from Richmond Heights, Ohio, ranked seventh among the conference's scoring leaders at 15.0 points per game, and was eighth in rebounding (6.5 pg). His season total of 406 points was the most by an Albany freshman since Gary Holway in 1955-56.

Brand, who scored in double figures in 22 of 27 games played, was chosen NECC Rookie of the Week on four occasions.

Cetnar, a junior point guard, was fourth among NECC's top scorers at 16.1 points per game. He was also ranked in the conference's top 10 in free throw percentage (.833), assists (3.9 pg) and steals (1.7 pg). Cetnar's 418 points this season were the highest total by a Great Dane guard in 11 years.

BUCHANAN AND PAOLINO EARN ALL-CONFERENCE ACCOLADES

New Haven, Conn. -- Albany's Megan Buchanan has been chosen to the All-New England Collegiate Conference second-team in women's basketball. Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) was tabbed as an honorable mention selection by the conference's coaches.

Buchanan, a 5-foot-11 junior, led the Great Danes in scoring (15.0 ppg), and averaged 5.0 rebounds. She reached double figures 17 times this season, and netted a career-high 33, the second-best single-game total in Albany annals, against Bridgeport in January.

Paolino, a senior guard, received All-NECC recognition for the second straight year. She averaged 13.9 points, 3.6 assists, 3.8 rebounds and 3.0 steals, and became the fourth player in the program's history to reach the 1,000-point mark for a career.

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Date: 2-22-99 (Monday)
Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Sports (Boxscore Attached)

(Women's Basketball)
Albany 93, Southern Vermont 42

Albany, N.Y. -- Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) scored 24 points, and became the fourth player in school history to reach the 1,000-career mark in leading Albany to a 93-42 non-conference victory over Southern Vermont on Monday at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany qualified for ECAC Division II post-season consideration by evening its overall record at 13-13. ECAC tournament bids are announced on March 1. Southern Vermont fell to 10-14.

"It was a great way to end my career ... a real storybook ending," said Paolino, who tallied her 1,000th point on a free throw with 10:06 remaining in the second half. "I knew at the beginning of the year it was going to be close. This win keeps us alive for the postseason."

Paolino, who has 1,002 career points, trails all-time scorer Rainny Lesane (1,481), Samantha Ginsberg (1,232) and Lynda Nealis (1,071) on the school's chart. The senior point guard tallied 17 first-half points, as the Great Danes raced to a 49-25 halftime lead.

Liz Tucker posted her third double-double this season with 15 points and 10 rebounds, while Melissa Schoonover added 12.

Gina Bianchino (Bishop Maginn) led Southern Vermont with 17 points and seven rebounds, while Kathleen Shephard (Greenwich Central) scored 10.

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Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports

WILL BRAND NAMED ECAC-NORTH ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Centerville, Mass. -- University at Albany's Will Brand has been selected the ECAC-North Division II Rookie of the Week (Feb. 14-20) in men's basketball. Brand, a 6-foot-4 freshman, averaged 15.0 points and 7.0 rebounds in two games.

Brand had 19 points and nine rebounds against Binghamton, and added 11 points versus Stony Brook on Saturday.

Brand's 406 points is the highest single-season total by a Albany freshman since Gary Holway in 1955-56. He has scored in double figures on 22 occasions.

KELLY PAOLINO NAMED TO ECAC DIVISION II HONOR ROLL

Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) was named to the 10-player ECAC Division II Honor Roll in women's basketball for the third time this season. The senior point guard averaged 25.5 points, 4.5 rebounds and 4.0 steals in two games last week.

She scored a career-high 28 against 19th-ranked Binghamton on Feb. 17, and netted 23 in Saturday's 67-60 victory over Stony Brook.

Paolino needs 22 points on Monday against Southern Vermont (7:00 p.m) to become the fourth player in school history to reach the 1,000-career mark.

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Comments: College Track

New Haven, Conn. -- Xiomara Davila Diaz was a double-winner in the 55-meter dash and 55-hurdles to lead Albany to its second straight New England Collegiate Conference women's indoor track & field championship on Saturday evening at Southern Connecticut State University's Moore Field House.

Diaz, who was named the athlete of the meet, went 7.16 in the 55-dash, and was clocked in 8.11 in the hurdles. Albany outpointed Massachusetts-Lowell, 184-165, to capture the team title. The Great Danes had six individual winners and won the 4x400 relay.

Andrea and Erica Viger, twin sisters from Granville High School, were victorious in the 1,000-meter event and mile run, respectively. Andrea posted a time of 5:15.77 in the 1,000, while Erica went 3:12.48 in the mile. Tamirah Haywood set a meet record in the 500 (1:19.75).

Four local athletes won individual events in the men's championship, but Albany was runner-up to Southern Connecticut State, 180-142.

Greg Miller (Albany H.S.) was first in 55-meter dash (6.46), while Ben Wright (Averill Park) took the mile run (4:22.08). Todd Weiss (Shaker) finished first across the line in the 3,000 (9:01.40), and Andy Rickert (Guilderland) was a winner in the 5,000 (15:33.39).

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Date: 2-20-99 (Saturday)
Pages w/cover: 4

Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)

MEN

Stony Brook 59, Albany 48

Albany, N.Y. -- Freshman forward Achilles Klepkos scored 21 points to lead Stony Brook to a 59-48 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Albany on Saturday at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Stony Brook (11-15, NECC 10-7) broke a 30-30 deadlock early in the second half with seven straight points. Klepkos, a 6-foot-8 freshman, hit consecutive baskets to end that spurt.

Todd Cetnar, who had 12 points, canned a three-point field goal to get Albany (14-13, NECC 9-9) within 49-46 with 3:06 remaining. But Klepkos was fouled as he scored on the left baseline, and this three-point play pulled his club away. Guard Steve Pratta canned 4-of-4 free throw attempts in the final minute to hold the lead.

"They outplayed us all the way around," said Albany guard Bob Markel, who was making his final home appearance. "We just did not click tonight, and it was partly because of their defense. On offense, we were not able to get many good looks at the basket."

Matthew Haggarty had 13 points for the Great Danes, who were limited to 33-percent shooting. Stony Brook's Chris Balliro had 10 points and 10 rebounds off the bench for Seawolves, who also defeated Albany, 65-63, one week ago on Long Island.

WOMEN

Albany 67, Stony Brook 60

Albany, N.Y. -- Senior guard Kelly Paolino scored 15 of her game-high 23 points in the second half to lead Albany past Stony Brook, 67-60, in a New England Collegiate Conference contest at the Recreation and Convocation Center on Saturday.

Albany (12-13, NECC 9-9), which dropped a 58-49 decision to Stony Brook one week ago, forced 15 first-half turnovers in taking a 35-28 halftime lead. The Great Danes extended their advantage to 40-30 early in the final period on a turnaround jumper in the lane by Melissa Schoonover, who had 11 points and seven rebounds.

Stony Brook (8-18, NECC 7-11) rallied to grab a 51-50 lead with 5:08 remaining, on a three-point play by Jill George. The Great Danes regrouped nine consecutive points to go in front for good at 59-51.

Jackie Daigneault, who had 21 points, and senior Mary Schelp, both hit 3-pointers in the final 1:14 to close within six points. However, Paolino and Alison Bowe converted free throws to seal the verdict.

Junior Megan Buchanan was the third Albany player in double figures with 15 points. Lauren Ruane had 10 points for the Seawolves.

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Date: 2-17-99 (Wednesday)
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Comments: College Sports (Boxscore Attached)

MEN

Binghamton 72, Albany 70

Vestal, N.Y. -- Brian McCulley came off the bench to score 14 points and Binghamton held off Albany, 72-70, in the Colonials regular-season finale Wednesday at West Gymnasium.

Petr Burda, who had 14 points, missed a six-foot jumper in the lane at the buzzer which would have forced overtime. Albany (14-12, NECC 9-8) trailed 69-60 with 5:31 remaining, but closed within 71-70 on Matthew Haggarty's right baseline drive.

Binghamton's Chris Ballerini split a pair of free throws with 10 seconds left to give his club a slim two point lead.

Binghamton (13-13, NECC 8-10), which won for the 11th time at home this season, reversed a 40-39 halftime deficit with 11 straight points to open the final period. Nick Neumann, a 7-foot freshman, who had 14 points and eight rebounds, keyed that outburst.

Will Brand led the Great Danes with 19 points and nine rebounds, while Todd Cetnar (Amsterdam H.S.) and Haggarty scored 18 and 15, respectively.

"We knew they [Binghamton] would jump on Todd for the last shot, and we hoped to get Will the ball in the lane," Albany coach Scott Hicks said. "It ended up in Burda's hands and he had a wide open look at the basket. Binghamton got good production off their bench, but I still thought we showed tremendous poise to stay in the game."

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Comments: College Sports (Boxscore Attached)

WOMEN

Binghamton 70, Albany 61

Vestal, N.Y. -- Bess Greenberg scored 16 points and set the school's single-season scoring record to lead Binghamton, ranked 19th nationally, to a 70-61 New England Collegiate Conference on Wednesday evening at West Gymnasium.

Binghamton (23-3, NECC 15-3) earned at least a share of the conference's regular season title by jumping out to a 22-8 lead in the opening nine minutes. The Colonials extended their margin to 49-32 early in the second half, as Leah Truncale tallied 12 of her 16 points in the stanza.

Albany (11-13, NECC 8-9) rallied to within six points on four occasions in the final seven minutes behind the play of senior point guard Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.), who had 17 of her career-high 28 points after halftime. Megan Buchanan, who had 18 points in her first start since Feb. 3, hit a three-point field goal to close the gap to 67-61 in the last minute. Greenberg, a sophomore guard, hit four free throws in the stretch to seal the verdict.

Karen McClelland scored all 14 of her points in the first half, while Sarah Cartmill was the fourth Binghamton player in double figures with 12.

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Date: 2-15-99 (Monday)
Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports

Will Brand Selected NECC Rookie of the Week in Basketball

New Haven, Conn. -- University at Albany's Will Brand has been chosen as the New England Collegiate Conference Rookie of the Week (Feb. 8-14) in men's basketball. Brand, who earned the award for the fourth time this season, averaged 16.0 points, 6.3 rebounds and 2.7 assists, and shot 53 percent from the field in three games last week.

Brand, a 6-foot-4 freshman, turned in his best effort in an 80-65 victory over first-place New Hampshire College, when he scored 24 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Brand, who has started all 25 games this season, is averaging 15.0 points and 6.5 rebounds for Albany (14-11, NECC 9-7).

Bob Ford Will Receive Division II's Top Coach Award at Meadowlands on Tuesday

Centerville, Mass. -- Albany's Bob Ford will receive the Gordon White-Herschel Nissenson Division II Coach of the Year by the Metropolitan New York Football Writers Association at the Eastern College Football Awards Banquet on Tuesday evening at the Meadowlands' Pegasus Restaurant in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Ford has previously won the Football Gazette national Division II non-scholarship and Eastern Football Conference coach-of-the-year awards for 1998. Ford, who has a 158-100 record in 26 varsity seasons, guided Albany to its second consecutive EFC championship and a 10-1 record last fall.

Other coaches to be honored at the awards banquet include Virginia's George Welsh (I-A), Mark Whipple of Massachusetts (I-AA) and Tufts' Bill Samko (III).

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Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)

MEN

Stony Brook 65, Albany 62³

Stony Brook, N.Y. -- Mike Sales had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Steve Pratta scored 16 points, all in the second half, as Stony Brook rallied in the final period for a 65-63 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Albany on Saturday at USB Sports Complex.

Stony Brook (10-14, NECC 9-6) took over sole possession of third place in the conference standings after trailing 51-41 with 9:22 remaining. The Seawolves regrouped with 14 unanswered points, while Albany (14-11, NECC 9-7) went scoreless for nearly six minutes.

Chris Balliro, who had 12 points off the bench, put his team ahead on a jumper from the right baseline, and Josh Little converted a layup off a steal to push the lead to 55-51 with 4:47 left. Stony Brook scored their final eight points from the foul line to hold the lead down the stretch.

Todd Cetnar led the Great Danes with a career-high 30 points, including 7-of-12 three-point attempts. Will Brand had 11 points and seven rebounds for Albany, while Matthew Haggarty added 10 points.

"We didn't execute well," said Albany head coach Scott Hicks, whose team had won 10 of its previous 12 starts. "On offense we settled for the 3-point shot way too often. Stony Brook did a good job of getting to the free throw line in the second half."

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Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)

WOMEN

Stony Brook 58, Albany 49

Stony Brook, N.Y. -- Mary Schelp scored 13 points and Stony Brook defeated Albany for the first time in New England Collegiate Conference play, 58-49, at USB Sports Complex.

Albany (12-11, NECC 8-8) trailed 27-17 at halftime, but then scored 12 straight points to open the second half. Megan Buchanan, who missed her last two starts with facial injuries, tallied 11 of her game-high 19 points in that stretch. Buchanan's three-pointer gave the Great Danes a 29-27 lead.

Stony Brook (7-17, NECC 6-10) responded with seven consecutive points to go ahead for good. Ruane converted a 3-point play when she was fouled on a driving layup to put her team in front. Ruane, a junior guard, scored 10 of her 11 points in the final period. The Seawolves built their lead to as much as 12, at 45-33, with 8:12 remaining.

Liz Tucker was the only other Albany player in double figures with 11, as the Great Danes suffered through 23 percent shooting in the first half. Cortney Ray, a 6-foot-3 freshman, added 11 points for the Seawolves.

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Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)

MEN

Albany 80, New Hampshire College 65

Manchester, N.H. -- Freshman Will Brand had 24 points as Albany knocked off first-place New Hampshire College, 80-65, in a New England Collegiate Conference contest on Wednesday at NHC Fieldhouse.

Albany (14-10, NECC 9-6), which has won 10 of its last 12 starts, never trailed in the contest, and led 48-47 with 13:59 remaining. The Great Danes then went on a 12-2 run to take control. Brand scored six in that stretch and hit a shot on the left baseline for a 60-49 lead with 8:13 left.

New Hampshire (15-8, NECC 11-4) closed within 62-47 on a three-point field goal by Bobby Miller, who had 13 points. Brand was fouled as he scored in the lane on his team's next possession, and his 3-point play kept Albany's lead safe.

Dave Schloss, a 6-foot-11 center, tied a season-high with 16 points, including 12 in the second half. Matthew Haggarty was the third Albany player in double figures with 14.

"Our defense was tremendous, and all of our players did an excellent job," Albany coach Scott Hicks said. "They couldn't guard Brand or Schloss in the lane, and our guards sacrificed their scoring to get them the ball. We have a young team that is learning how to win."

Tarik Sheppard had 13 points for the Penmen, while leading scorer Orlando Ranson added 12.

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Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)

WOMEN

Albany 58, New Hampshire College 41

Manchester, N.H. -- Sophomore Liz Tucker scored 19 points and had 11 rebounds to lead Albany to a 58-41 New England Collegiate Conference victory over winless New Hampshire College on Wednesday evening at NHC Fieldhouse.

Tucker, who played scholastically in the state of New Hampshire, buried two 3-point field goals as Albany (11-11, NECC 8-7) began the game with an 11-0 run.

New Hampshire (0-23, NECC 0-15) closed within 27-22 early in the second half on two free throws by Tynae Gaston, who led the Penwomen with 10 points and nine rebounds. The Great Danes responded with nine of the game's next 11 points to pull away. Kelly Paolino (8 points, 7 assists) converted two layups off steals in that decisive stretch.

Lauren O'Brien (Averill Park H.S.) came off the bench to score a career-high 13 points, including four 3-pointers. Tucker's scoring total was her highest since Dec. 30. Kristy Woodill, the conference's fifth leading scorer at 15.4 points per game, was held to nine points.

Albany's leading scorer Megan Buchanan missed her second straight start with facial injuries suffered in a Feb. 5 practice. However, she is expected to play on Saturday at Stony Brook.

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Date: 2-8-99 (Monday)
Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)

MEN

Albany 90, St. Joseph (Vt.) 55

Albany, N.Y. -- Freshman Mike Everett scored a career-high 19 points off the bench to pace four players in double figures, as Albany posted its seventh straight victory at home with a 90-55 non-conference win over St. Joseph (Vt.) on Monday at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (13-10) led 22-13 in the first half, but then reeled off 18 unanswered points to take command. Will Brand, a 6-foot-4 freshman, scored seven of his 13 points in that outburst. Everett canned a three-point field goal, and converted a layup after Bob Markel's steal to end the scoring spree.

Todd Cetnar (Amsterdam H.S.) netted 13 of his 16 points in the opening period, and extended his double-figure scoring streak to 19 straight.

"This was a nice opportunity to play our younger players, who have not received big minutes in our recent conference games," said Albany coach Scott Hicks, whose team has won nine of its last 11 starts. "Mike Everett did a great job against their 2-3 zone, and Dave Schloss asserted himself in the lane."

Schloss, a 6-foot-11 center, recorded his third double-double this season with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Meanwhile, Albany's defense has limited the opposition to less than 65 points in nine of their last 10 games.

Kabray Rockwood tallied 18 of his 21 points in the second half, and added 11 rebounds for St. Joseph (6-13), an NAIA school in Rutland, Vermont. Ralph Quigley scored 13.

University at Albany

Sports Information Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Organization: Albany Times-Union

From: Brian DePasquale
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Phone: (518) 442-3072
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Date: 2-6-99 (Saturday)
Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)

MEN

Albany 70, Sacred Heart 55

Albany, N.Y. -- Freshman Will Brand scored 15 of his career-high 26 points in the first half, as Albany posted a 70-55 New England Collegiate Conference victory on Saturday evening at the Recreation and Convocation Center. The season's largest crowd of 2,635 turned out on Big Purple Growl, the University's winter homecoming.

Albany (12-10, NECC 8-6) moved into third place in the conference standings with a decisive 13-4 run to end the opening period. Leading 23-19, the Great Danes ripped off six straight to push their lead to double figures. Matthew Haggarty's 3-point field goal gave his club a 29-19 cushion.

Brand, who added 10 rebounds to record his second double-double this season, scored his team's final seven points before intermission. The 6-foot-4 forward canned a three-pointer for a 35-23 lead.

Albany's advantage grew to 20 points early in the second half, as Brand hit a 10-foot baseline jumper. Sacred Heart (8-14, NECC 7-6), which shot 28 percent from the field, including 2-of-18 from behind the arc, never got closer than nine the rest of the way.

"Our defense held in check a talented team," said Albany coach Scott Hicks, whose club has limited the opposition to less than 65 points in eight of their last nine contests. "Brand had a night where he scored inside and outside, and (Todd) Cetnar showed courage since he has not played or practiced in four days."

Cetnar, a junior guard who returned to lineup following a bout with a flu virus, finished with 16 points and five assists. Mindaugas Lydeka, a 6-foot-9 center, had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Pioneers, while leading-scorer John Randazzo netted 12.

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Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)

WOMEN

Albany 64, Sacred Heart 62

Albany, N.Y. -- Senior guard Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) scored 14 of her 21 points in the second half, including the game-winner with four seconds remaining, to lead Albany to a 64-62 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Sacred Heart on Saturday at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Sacred Heart (12-11, NECC 9-5) tied the game at 62 apiece with 26 seconds left when Heather Yablonski, who had 10 of her 11 points in the final period, split a pair of free throws. After a timeout, Paolino drove the lane and was fouled as she hit a turnaround jumper for a 64-62 advantage. Paolino missed the subsequent free throw, but the Pioneers failed to get a shot off before time expired.

The Great Danes, who shot 54 percent from the floor, trailed 43-38 with 13:42 left in the contest. Albany (10-11, NECC 7-7) hit three consecutive 3-point field goals to take a 47-45 lead. The teams traded baskets before Alison Bowe, who had 10 points, scored six of her team's next eight points on two straight long-range jumpers to push the lead to 60-55.

"We finally put our offense and our defense together," said Albany head coach Mari Warner, whose team ended a four-game losing skid. "We kept our composure when things got tough and we never backed down. This win is a great lift for our team."

Liz Tucker was the third Great Dane in double figures with 17 points. Sacred Heart was led by Jessica Bresnahan's 13 points, while Heather Coonradt had 12.

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BIG PURPLE GROWL SET FOR SATURDAY

The second annual Big Purple Growl, the University at Albany's winter homecoming celebration, is scheduled for Saturday, February 6. The men's and women's basketball teams host Sacred Heart in a New England Collegiate Conference doubleheader, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Earlier in the day, the men's and women's alumni games will be contested.

The Big Purple Growl includes a Ferocious Feast in University Gym. The Feast features a buffet, a live disc jockey, door prizes, and the Family Fun Zone. The University's 1998 championship teams - football, cross country and track & field - will be honored in a special halftime ceremony. The award winning Amsterdam High School marching band will also perform.

The cost of the Ferocious Feast is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Basketball game tickets are \$3 for adults and children, while Albany Alumni Association members are free. Contact 518-442-3080 for more information.

Big Purple Growl

1:00, Women's Alumni Game (RACC)
2:30, Men's Alumni Game (RACC)
4:00 - 6:30, Ferocious Feast (University Gym)
5:30 - Growl Activities (RACC Lobby)
5:30 - Women's Basketball vs. Sacred Heart
7:30 - Men's Basketball vs. Sacred Heart

LOCALS WILL COMPETE AT MILLROSE GAMES

University at Albany's Ben Wright (Averill Park H.S.) will compete in the college mile run at the 92nd annual Chase Millrose Games in Madison Square Garden on Friday evening. Wright, a junior, earned an invitation based on his performance in last weekend's Terrier Classic, when he ran a personal-best 4:13.70.

Rob Naughtner (Guilderland) and Josh Jones (Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake) will run the first and third legs on Albany's 4x800-meter relay. Xiomara Davila Diaz, an NCAA Division II All-American, is anchoring the women's 4x400 relay unit.

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Date: 2-3-99 (Wednesday)
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Comments: College Basketball (Boxscore Attached)

MEN

Franklin Pierce 56, Albany 53

Rindge, N.H. -- Donald Edge scored 19 points, including five in the last three minutes of play, to lead Franklin Pierce to a 56-53 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Albany on Wednesday at FPC Fieldhouse.

Albany (11-10, NECC 7-6), which was playing without leading scorer Todd Cetnar due to a flu virus, trailed 45-30 with 11:52 remaining. The Great Danes got back into the contest with 11 straight points, including three 3-point field goals by Petr Burda, who finished with 13 points. Franklin Pierce (14-8, NECC 10-4) re-established its lead at 55-49 when Edge was fouled on a turnaround bank shot.

Burda, who did all of his scoring in the second half, canned another 3-pointer to slice the lead in half and then was fouled on another long-range attempt with 10.7 seconds left. Burda made one-of-three free throw attempts, before Will Brand missed a follow shot on Burda's last foul shot with nine seconds to go.

Donald Johnson, who had 15 points, split a pair of free throws, and Albany failed to get a good look at the basket on its final possession.

"We played exceptionally hard, considering we were without Cetnar, and Brand missed a good part of the game with an ankle injury," Albany coach Scott Hicks said. "I was encouraged that we didn't back down. Our press was good to us, and we had our chances at the end."

Matthew Haggarty finished with 11 points, while Brand added eight points and a career-high 13 rebounds.

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WOMEN

Franklin Pierce 59, Albany 38

Rindge, N.H. -- Kari Hunt scored 14 of her 20 points in the second half and Franklin Pierce posted its sixth straight win with a 59-38 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Albany on Wednesday evening at FPC Fieldhouse.

Franklin Pierce (18-3, NECC 12-2), which has also won 12 of its last 13, built a 26-18 lead on a basket by Claudia Copeland, who had 16 points. Albany (9-11, NECC 6-7) closed within 26-23 on Alison Bowe's free throw with nine seconds remaining in the period.

Franklin Pierce held onto its first place standings in the conference by opening the second half with a 12-4 run. Hunt and Copeland each had five points in the decisive outburst.

Debbie Stiles, a 6-foot senior, was the third Raven in double figures with 13. The Great Danes, who suffered its fourth straight setback, was led by Liz Tucker's nine points.