

For Immediate Release
Thursday, August 5, 1999

Contact: 518-442-3072
Brian DePasquale or Josh White

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SQUAD TRAVELS TO ITALY Summer Trip To Prepare Program For Division I Transition

ALBANY, N.Y. -- The University at Albany women's basketball program will voyage to Rome, Italy next week as part of a summer Italian training session to help prepare the squad for their upcoming season. In the seven-day trip, Albany will face two European teams including Santa Marinella on Tuesday, Aug. 10 and Caserta on Friday, Aug. 13. The Great Danes are traveling overseas for the first time since 1994, a year before they made the transition to Division II.

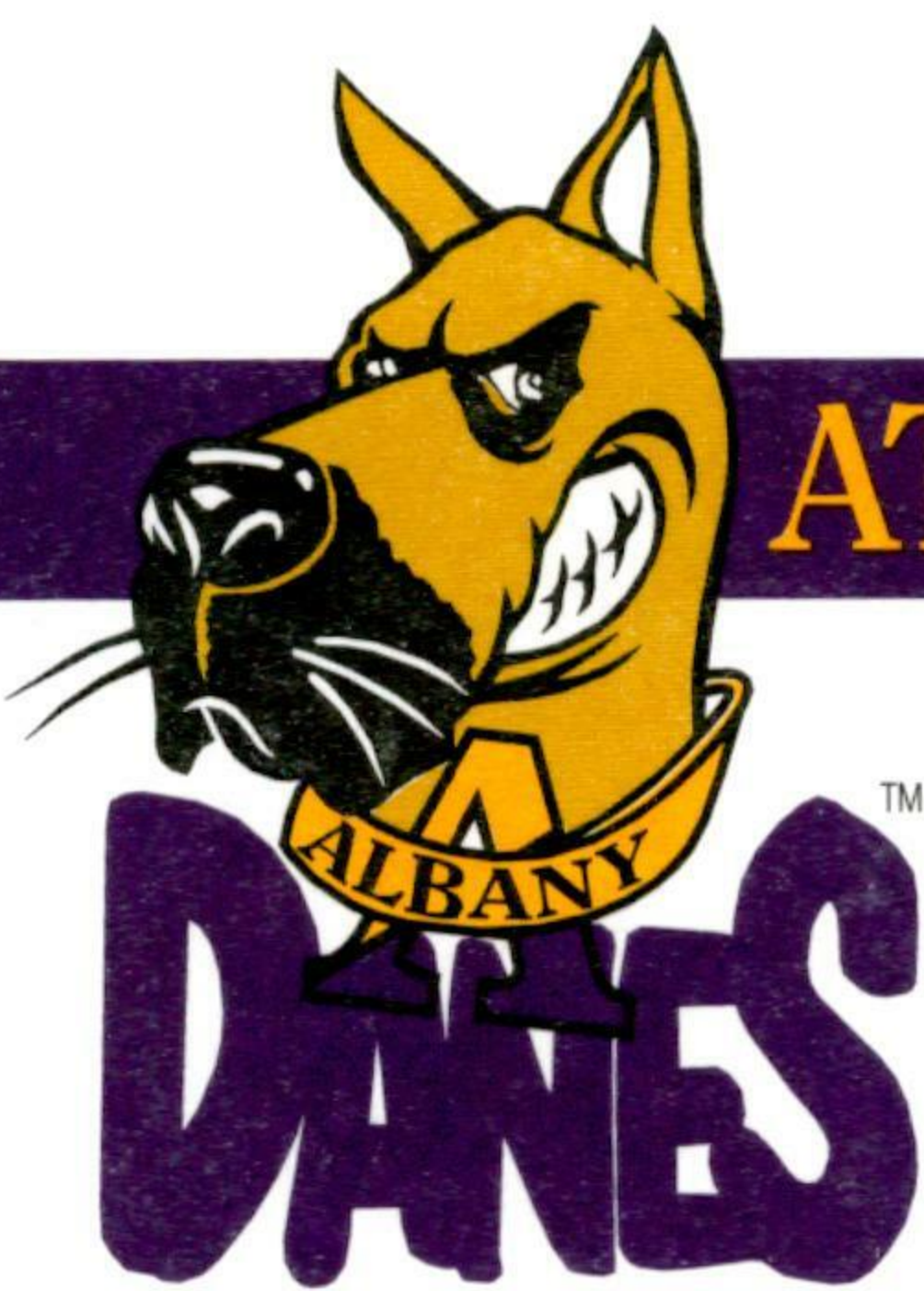
Albany moves its entire 19-sport intercollegiate athletics program for men and women to the NCAA Division I level, effective in 1999-2000. Head Coach **Mari Warner**, who is entering her 18th season at Albany, hopes the trip will be a positive experience and ready her program for the rigors of Division I competition.

"This trip will give us an early baptism to Division I basketball," says Warner. "We are hoping for some difficult games that will improve our team in the long run. In addition, we get an early look at our squad and see how much work we have ahead of us in the coming months."

This year's squad returns eight letterwinners. Senior **Megan Buchanan** (15.2 ppg, 5.2 rpg), a second-team all-conference choice last winter, junior **Liz Tucker** (10.3 ppg, 6.7 rpg) and senior **Melissa Schoonover** (7.5 ppg, 5.9 rpg) were all regulars in the lineup. The Great Danes earned an ECAC post-season tournament berth in their last Division II campaign.

The squad will fly out of New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on Sunday and return to Albany on Aug. 15. The tour features planned trips to Tivoli Gardens, the Pantheon, the Colosseum, the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel and the city of Pompeii.





For Immediate Release
Friday, August 13, 1999

Contact: 518-442-3072
Brian DePasquale or Josh White

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY HITS FOOTBALL PRACTICE FIELD ON MONDAY Great Danes Prepare For Their First NCAA Division I-AA Campaign

ALBANY, N.Y. -- The University at Albany football team prepares for its inaugural season at the NCAA Division I-AA level with the first practices on Monday, August 16. Double sessions are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Newcomers report to campus on Sat., Aug. 14, while upperclassmen arrive the following day.

Albany moves to Division I-AA and the Northeast Conference in 1999. The Great Danes ended their brief run in Division II with a second consecutive Eastern Football Conference championship, an EFC Atlantic Division title, and a 10-1 record. **Bob Ford**, a two-time *Football Gazette* Division II non-scholarship national coach of the year, has guided Albany from the club level in the early 1970s to this point in the program's history. Ford has eight starters on offense and three regulars on defense returning.

Albany's multiple-formation offense returns a veteran cast. Seniors **Eric Williams** and **Michael Oliva** complement each other in a two-quarterback system. Williams passed for 1,339 yards and 14 touchdowns, while Oliva, the EFC championship MVP, added 10 TD passes. Tailback **Greg Garrett**, who has 2,233 career yards and 20 rushing TDs, has his sights set on becoming the school's all-time ground gainer. Right tackle **Jason Barra** (6-5, 275) and left guard **Billy Van Jura** (6-1, 280) each earned All-America recognition. All-ECAC tight end **Steve Checksfield** had 22 receptions for 432 yards and seven scores.

The Great Danes ranked among the national leaders in scoring defense (13.5 ppg) last year, but the unit was hit hard by graduation. **Mike Grever**, the '98 *Football Gazette* Linebacker of the Year, provides a key figure to build their 4-3-4 scheme around. Grever was the first UA defender to record 120-plus tackles in back-to-back seasons since 1982.

PRESEASON CAMP NOTES: Albany Football's Media Day is scheduled for Monday, August 30 at 11:30 a.m. in the Recreation and Convocation Center's Hall of Fame Room ... a barbecue-style lunch will be served ... the Great Danes will practice during double sessions on the intramural fields adjacent to the lighted varsity tennis courts (due west of University Field) ... the practice site change was made to accommodate Giants Training Camp ... Albany travels to Central Connecticut State for its Northeast Conference opener on Saturday, September 4 at 1:00 p.m. ... Northeast Conference football-playing members are Albany, Central Connecticut State, Monmouth, Robert Morris, Sacred Heart, St. Francis, Pa., Stony Brook, and Wagner... **WROW Radio (590 AM)** airs Albany football for the sixth consecutive season ... **Rodger Wyland**, the evening sports anchor at WNYT-TV (NBC-13), will serve as play-by-play announcer, while **Charlie Voelker** provides the commentary ... the University's athletic web site is www.albany.edu/sports/athletic.html ...

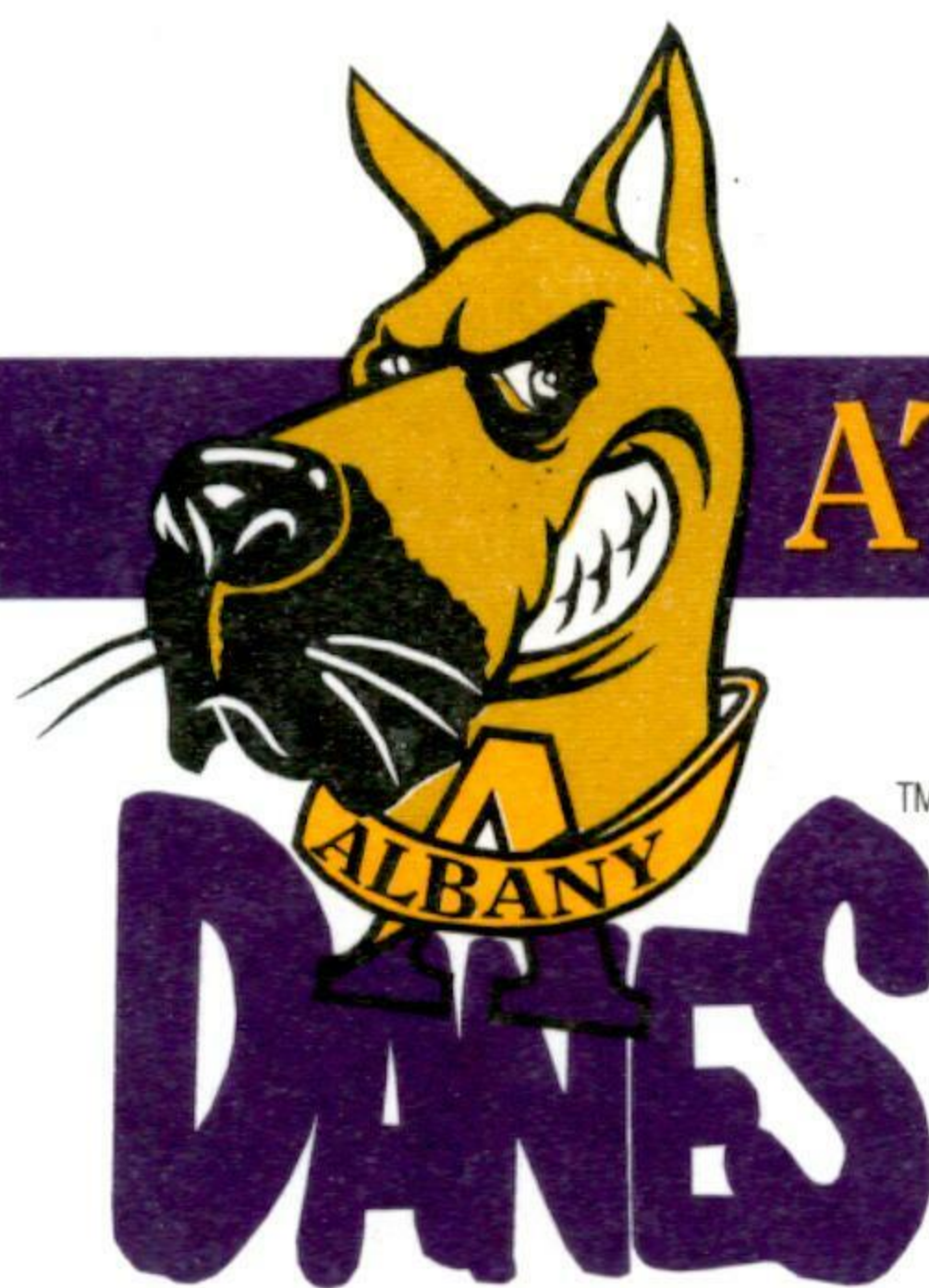
1999 SCHEDULE: Sept. 4, at Central Connecticut State*, 1:00; Sept. 11, at Monmouth*, 1:00; Sept. 18, Rowan#, 6:00; Sept. 25, Open Date; Oct. 2, **Stony Brook*** (HOF), 1:00; Oct. 9, at Wagner, 1:00; Oct. 16, at Massachusetts-Lowell, 1:00; Oct. 23, at St. Francis, Pa.*, 1:00; Oct. 30, **Robert Morris***, 2:00 (HC); Nov. 6, **Sacred Heart***, 1:00.

*Northeast Conference Opponent
(HOF) - Hall of Fame Day

#Fireworks Night
(HC) - Homecoming/Family Weekend

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For Immediate Release
Monday, August 23, 1999

Contact: Brian DePasquale
(518) 442-3072

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY NAMES JOSH WHITE ASSISTANT SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR AND BRAD WILSON SPORTS INFORMATION INTERN

ALBANY, N.Y. -- University at Albany Interim Director of Athletics Gail Cummings-Danson announced today the hiring of **Josh White** as assistant sports information director and **Brad Wilson** as sports information intern.

A native of Voorheesville, N.Y., White spent the last three years as a student assistant in the West Virginia University sports communications office. He was the public relations liaison for soccer, tennis, swimming, track and field, and gymnastics. White also had game-day duties with football and men's basketball, served as a *Mountaineer Illustrated* feature writer, and contributed to several sport media guides, some of which were cited by the College Sports Information Directors of America for excellence. His event management experience includes the 1999 NCAA Division I Gymnastics Regional.

White, 22, was a two-time recipient of the Allen W. Babcock Endowed Scholarship for athletic media relations, and recently earned his undergraduate degree in public relations with a minor in political science. He originally attended SUNY-Oswego, where he was a staff columnist for the *Oswegonian*, a *WTOP-TV* sports anchor, and public address announcer for basketball.

Wilson, who hails from Clifton Park, N.Y., and is a Shenendehowa High School graduate, was a sports information intern at Springfield College for the 1998-99 academic year. He edited and designed home event publications, served as a media relations liaison, and updated the school's web site for a 24-sport intercollegiate athletics program.

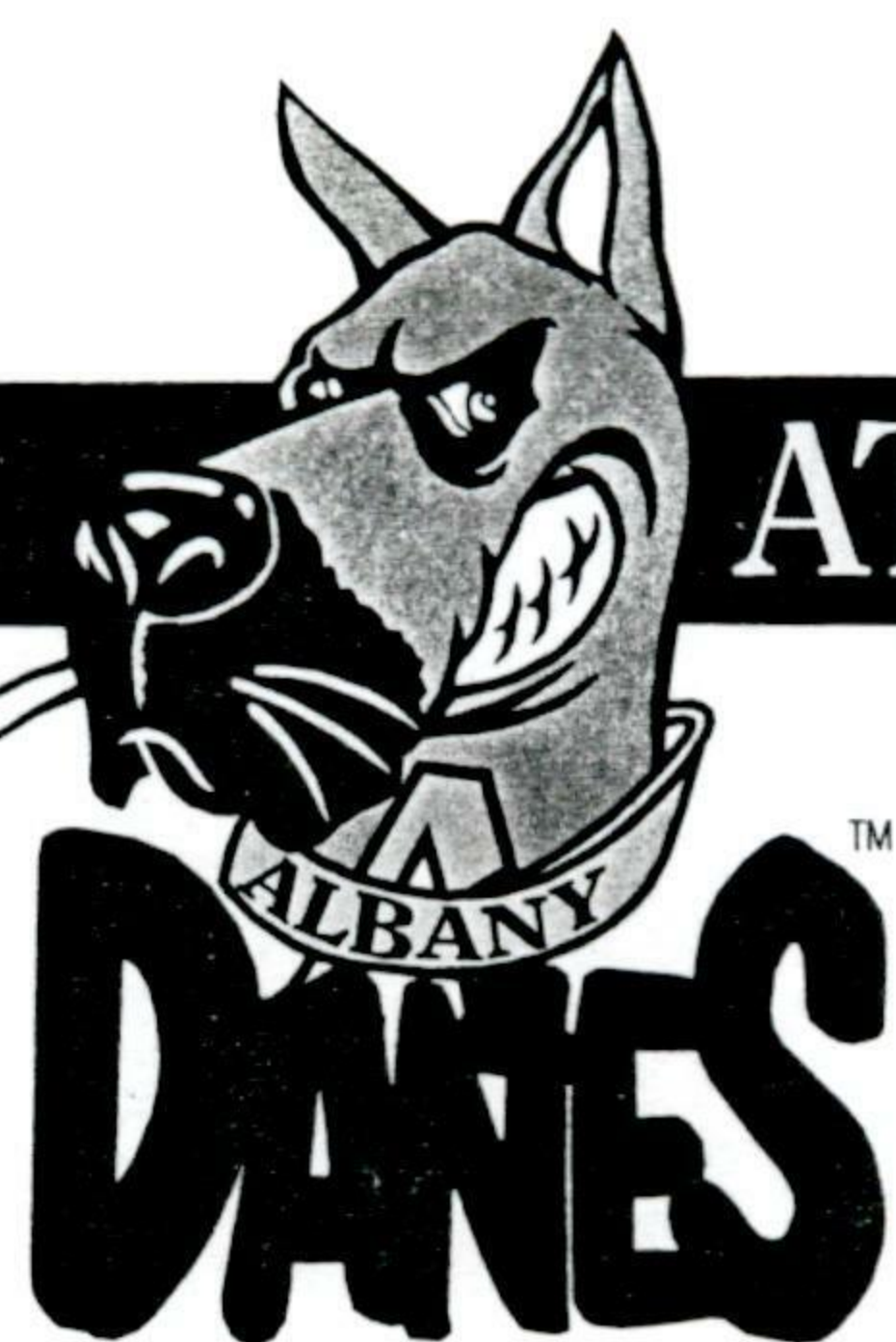
Wilson, 23, received a B.S. in media studies from Sacred Heart University, where he was a four-year starter in lacrosse and a member of the 1996 ECAC Division II championship team. During his undergraduate career, he served internships with *the Albany Times-Union* and *WNYT-TV* sports departments. In addition, Wilson was an associate editor and sports editor for the campus newspaper, *The Spectrum*.

FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY: Albany's Football Media Day is scheduled for Monday, August 30 at 11:30 a.m. in the Recreation and Convocation Center's Hall of Fame Room ... a barbecue-style lunch will be served ... coaches and selected players will be available for interviews ... RSVP with Assistant Athletics Director for Media Relations Brian DePasquale, at 518-442-3072 ... the Great Danes are in their second week of two-a-day workouts ... the two-hour practice sessions are normally scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ... Albany travels to Central Connecticut State for its NCAA Division I-AA opener on Saturday, September 4 at 1:00 p.m. ...



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 31, 1999

Contact: 518-442-3072
Brian DePasquale



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY OFFICIALLY RECLASSIFIED AS A DIVISION I-AA INSTITUTION BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

ALBANY, N.Y. -- The elevation of the University at Albany's intercollegiate athletics program for men and women to Division I will become effective on Wednesday, September 1 after the NCAA Executive Committee approved the school's petition for change of division membership. University President **Karen R. Hitchcock** has been notified that the institution meets all provisions, and is now reclassified as Division I-AA.

Albany will compete as a Division I independent during the upgrade's early stages, and continues to seek conference affiliation for 18 of 19 sports. Football is playing at the I-AA level, and is a member of the Northeast Conference. The University made the transition to Division II and joined the New England Collegiate Conference in 1995. Albany competed in Division III prior to that move and at the college division level before the NCAA restructured in 1972.

"During this six-year process, there has been a tremendous commitment and dedication shown by the University's administration and athletic staff," said Interim Director of Athletics **Gail Cummings-Danson**. "Although we have arrived, there is still much to accomplish. Our immediate goals are conference affiliation and resource development."

On the University's first day as a Division I member, women's soccer opens its schedule at home against Massachusetts, while women's field hockey and men's soccer travels to Syracuse and Northeastern, respectively. The Albany football team begins its I-AA schedule at Central Connecticut State in the Northeast Conference opener for both squads on Saturday, September 4.

The University at Albany, founded in 1844 as the state's first school for the training of teachers and the oldest chartered public institution of higher education in New York, is today designated as a University Center of the State University of New York. The University is ranked 17th in research and scholarship among the nation's top public universities. Approximately 17,000 students are enrolled in eight degree-granting schools and colleges offering 220 academic programs from the bachelor's degree through the doctorate.

NCAA Division I Timetable

- May 14, 1996 - The University announces a move to Division II for the 1995-96 academic year, and becomes a member of the New England Collegiate Conference.
- Jan. 22, 1997 - The Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Board (IAAB) recommends the University upgrade its athletic program to Division I.
- Feb. 19, 1997 - University students vote by a heavy majority in a non-binding referendum to raise the mandatory student athletic fee to support a Division I upgrade.
- Mar. 14, 1997 - The University Senate's Educational Policy Council unanimously agrees to bring a bill to the senate floor recommending approval of the move to Division I.
- April 7, 1997 - The University Senate, a group made up of faculty, staff and students, votes 30-10 to elevate the athletics program to the Division I level.
- May 5, 1997 - President Karen R. Hitchcock announces the University's athletic program will move to the NCAA Division I level in the 1999-2000 academic year.
- Sept. 1, 1999 - Albany is officially reclassified by the NCAA as a Division I-AA institution.

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