

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
From: Brian DePasquale
Office: Athletic Media Relations
Phone: (518) 442-3072
E-Mail: bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu
Date: 12-31-03 (Wednesday)
Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Basketball

JANIS PIPIKIS WILL MISS THE REMAINDER OF THE 2003-04 SEASON

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany basketball center Janis Pipikis will miss the remainder of the season with a knee injury. MRI results showed today that Pipikis has torn both his anterior cruciate ligament and a medial collateral ligament in the right knee. He will have surgery within the next two weeks to correct the damage.

Pipikis, a 6-foot-8 senior from Ventspils, Latvia, suffered the injury in a morning practice on Dec. 27. He was averaging 5.6 points and 3.1 rebounds through the opening seven games. However, Pipikis had stepped up his performance during a recent four-game stretch, when he contributed nearly 10 points and five rebounds per contest. He scored a career-high 18 points against Sacred Heart on Dec. 20, and had 11 points in his team's 68-62 victory over Army earlier this month.

"I feel badly for Janis," said Albany coach Will Brown, whose top player Jamar Wilson had season-ending surgery on Monday to repair a fractured patella. "He was making great progress and had bought in to what we were trying to accomplish as a team. It's unfortunate because he was becoming a solid player at the America East level."

Albany (2-7) will begin America East Conference play this weekend. The Great Danes host UMBC on Friday, Jan. 2 at 7:00 p.m. and Boston University, a 61-60 winner over Michigan in its last outing, on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 1:00 p.m.

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To: Sports Department
From: Brian DePasquale
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Date: 12-30-03 (Tuesday)
Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Basketball

MEN – Wagner 69, Albany 59

Albany, N.Y. – **Courtney Pritchard** scored 15 of his 18 points in the second half, as Wagner rallied for its third straight win with a 69-59 non-league victory over Albany on Tuesday evening at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Wagner (3-6) trailed by as much as 21 points in the opening period, and still was behind 45-35 with 15:10 remaining. The Seahawks then reeled off 15 of the game's next 19 points to go ahead. Pritchard, a 6-foot senior, canned a pair of three-point field goals in the run, before his steal and layup gave his team a 50-49 advantage.

Albany (2-7) went back in front, 51-50, on a 17-foot baseline jumper by **Aquawasi St. Hillaire**, who finished with 13 points and seven rebounds. However, the Seahawks, who shot 57.1 percent from the field after halftime on 16-of-28 attempts, ran off nine unanswered points to take the lead for good. **DeEarnest McLemore** broke a 51-all tie with a three-pointer from left of the circle. Freshman forward **Durell Vinson**, who had eight points and six rebounds off bench, made a free throw to complete the decisive run with 4:41 to play.

The Great Danes stunned the visitors in the first half by making 13-of-24 field goals to begin the contest in jumping out to a 30-12 lead. Sophomore **Levi Levine**, who had 13 of his team-high 15 points in the opening period, and freshman guard **Jon Iati** (12 points, five assists) keyed the outburst. **Todd Martin's** three-pointer gave his team its biggest lead with 6:53 left in the period, before his club settled for a 36-24 halftime margin.

"That's the first time a team has played a triangle-and-two defense against us this year," said Albany coach **Will Brown**, whose team was held to 29-percent shooting in the final period. "They forced our other players to make plays. We played well and with energy at the start, but when we began to miss shots we hung our heads and were slow getting back in transition."

Wagner's **Nigel Wyatte**, a 6-foot-9 senior, had 11 points and seven rebounds, while **Sean Munson** was the third player in double figures with 10.

"They took Levi (Levine) and myself out of the game with their defense," offered Iati, who played all 40 minutes. "I had good looks in the second half, but I just didn't shoot well. Our defense just collapsed."

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Date: 12-29-03 (Monday)
Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: **College Sports (Women's Basketball)**

Pepperdine 70, Albany 49

Miami, Fla. -- Tournament MVP **Shandrika Lee** scored a season-high 28 points on 11-of-23 shooting from the floor and knocked down five 3-pointers to lead Pepperdine to a 70-49 victory over Albany in the Sun and Fun/Herald Classic championship game on Monday, December 29 at the Golden Panther Arena.

Pepperdine (5-6), who was an NCAA Tournament participant last season, trailed 28-22 at halftime but opened the second half with a 6-0 run to pull within, 30-28, on Lee's conventional three-point play. The Waves took their first lead of the contest on Lee's 3-pointer at the top of the key to make it 35-34 with 14:03 left in the second period.

Pepperdine, who shot 52.6% in the second half, took control of the contest and never looked back as they built on their lead as they scored 15 unanswered points with four minutes remaining. Junior **Shannon Mayberry**, who scored 10 of her 12 points in the second half, tallied four points in that span, while Lee added eight with six points coming from long range.

Albany (3-6), who held a 43-41 rebounding advantage, closed out the first half on a 5-0 spurt on junior **Maree Jones'** layup with 40 seconds left to carry the lead into halftime.

The Great Danes held their largest lead of eight with 11:07 remaining in the first period as Jones, who tallied nine points and grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds, knocked down a 3-pointer at the top of the key to make it 19-11.

"We played well for 30 minutes," said Albany head coach **Trina Patterson**, "the last ten minutes of the game destroyed us. We have to get better at handling full-court presses."

"We're happy to be the runner-up and Dani being named all-tournament," stated coach Patterson.

Sophomore **Becky Ayres** led Albany in scoring with a career-high 24 points as she was perfect from the charity stripe knocking down all ten attempts. Junior **Danielle Hutcheson**, who was named to the all-tournament team, added six points with nine rebounds.

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Comments: College Sports

JON IATI NAMED AMERICA EAST CO-ROOKIE OF THE WEEK IN BASKETBALL

Boston, Mass. – University at Albany's Jon Iati has been selected as the America East Conference Co-Rookie of the Week in men's basketball, as announced today by the conference office. Iati, who earned the weekly award for the third time this season, shared the honor with Stony Brook's Mitchell Beauford.

Iati, a 5-foot-9 freshman, averaged 15.0 points and 5.5 assists in two games last week. He scored a team-high 15 points and added five assists while playing all 45 minutes in a 63-55 overtime win over Lehigh on Dec. 22. He had 15 points and a career-high six assists in Sunday's loss at Massachusetts.

Iati is sixth among the America East scoring leaders at 14.8 points per game. He is tied for first in three-point field goals made (3.0 pg) and is fifth in assists (3.4 pg).

Basketball Notes: Sophomore guard **Jamar Wilson** had successful surgery this morning to repair a fractured patella in his right knee ... **Dr. Max Alley** performed the one-hour procedure which removed the bone fragment ... Wilson's rehabilitation period will last from six to eight weeks ... Senior center **Janis Pipikis** will miss at least the next three games after suffering a knee injury (MCL sprain) in practice on Dec. 27 ... Pipikis is scheduled to have an MRI on Tuesday afternoon ... the Great Danes will play their final non-league game of the season against Wagner on Tuesday, Dec. 30 ... Tip-off is 7:00 p.m. at the RACC ... Former Siena head coach **Mike Deane** is in his first season at Wagner ... Deane, who has a 345-226 career record, led Siena to its first postseason appearance with an NIT berth in 1988 before making the NCAA field one year later ...

VICTOR CAMACHO NAMED TO DIVISION I-AA ADA ACADEMIC FOOTBALL TEAM

Cleveland, Ohio – University at Albany's Victor Camacho has been chosen to the Division I-AA Athletic Directors Association Academic All-Star Team. Camacho, one of 31 football players selected, has a 3.79 cumulative grade point average in business administration/finance with a minor in sociology.

Camacho, a senior inside linebacker, led the Great Danes with 94 tackles, and added 9.0 tackles for a loss, 2.0 sacks, two fumble recoveries and one interception. A second-team All-Northeast Conference selection, he made 10 or more tackles against four opponents. Albany finished 7-4 overall and earned a share of its second consecutive NEC championship. Camacho was previously voted to the CoSIDA University Division Academic All-America first team and named the NEC's Fall Scholar-Athlete in football.

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Date: 12-28-03 (Sunday)
Pages w/cover: 2
Comments: College Sports (Men's Basketball)

Massachusetts 82, Albany 66

Amherst, Mass. – **Rashaun Freeman** had 22 points and 10 rebounds as Massachusetts won its third straight game with an 82-66 non-conference victory over Albany on Sunday afternoon at Mullins Center.

Massachusetts (5-4) led 25-20 with 5:45 left in the first half, but then took control with 16 of the game's next 21 points. Freeman, a 6-foot-9 sophomore, had five points in that outburst.

Anthony Anderson and **Jeff Viggiano** each added a three-point field goal.

The Minutemen, who shot 62.5 percent from the field in the second half, led by as much as 19 points in the final period. Freeman, who made 10-of-13 from the field, scored his team's first two baskets of the half for a 45-26 lead.

"We played hard, but at times we were our toughest opponent," said Albany coach Will Brown, whose team had just eight players available due to injuries. "You can't have careless turnovers and not get shots against an athletic team like Massachusetts. I was pleased with our effort, not our execution."

Levi Levine led Albany (2-6) with 21 points, while **Aquawasi St. Hillaire** scored a career-high 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Freshman guard **John Iati** was the third Albany player in double figures with 15.

"You have to learn from every game," said Levine, who also collected eight rebounds. "We didn't get to loose balls and committed turnovers. You go to practice each day with the motivation to correct your mistakes."

UMass' **Art Bowers** and **Maurice Maxwell** had 13 and 10 points, respectively, off the bench. The Minutemen finished at 52.5 percent from the field on 31-of-59 attempts.

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Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: College Sports (Women's Basketball)

GREAT DANES ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIP OF FUN & SUN CLASSIC WITH WIN

Miami, Fla. – Junior **Danielle Hutcheson** recorded her second consecutive double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds in leading Albany to a come-from-behind victory, 61-57, over host Florida International on Sunday afternoon during day one action of the Fun & Sun/Herald Classic. The Great Danes will take on the winner of the Hofstra/Pepperdine match up tomorrow at 7 p.m.

FIU (4-7), which trailed by nine with under a minute left, pulled to within two, 59-57, with 18.6 seconds remaining in regulation on junior **Milena Tomova's** three pointer from the left wing. Albany junior **Alicia Learn**, who added 16 points and seven rebounds, and Hutcheson each split a pair of free throws to seal the Great Danes' first road victory since Dec. 21, 2002.

Albany (3-5), which trailed 31-26 at halftime, regrouped and took command for good when Hutcheson, who tallied 11 of her season-high 17 points in the second half, scored on a put back in the lane for 37-36 lead with 15:42 left. After the teams traded baskets, the Great Danes tallied six unanswered points on a left hook by Hutcheson and fastbreak lay ups by sophomores **Becky Ayers**, who had 10 points, and **Jen Schumacher** for a 49-40 lead with 8:38 to go.

UAlbany took an early 14-4 lead in the first half as the Great Danes went on an 8-0 run ignited by Ayers' free throws with 17:22 left before halftime.

FIU crawled back into the contest on a 13-4 run to tie the game at 19-apiece as sophomore **Allison Bustamante** who chipped in with 10 points, and junior **Faeza Bouderra** scored five points apiece during that spurt. After a **Sarah Sweetland** three pointer put Albany back ahead with 6:08 to go before intermission, the Panthers closed on a 12-4 run for a 31-26 lead at the break. **Milena Tomova**, who had career highs in points and rebounds with 33 and 17, respectively, tallied 10 points in that span including a baseline jumper with two seconds left in the opening period.

"I think the win was big for our program because of the caliber of FIU's basketball program," stated head coach Trina Patterson, whose team had a season-low nine turnovers. "We played together as a team and handled diversity in a very hostile environment. This win is going to help build confidence for our team heading into conference play."

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Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Basketball

MEN – Albany 63, Lehigh 55 (OT)

Albany, N.Y. – **Aquawasi St. Hillaire** scored six of his career-high 13 points in overtime, as Albany posted a 63-55 non-conference victory over Lehigh on Monday evening at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Lehigh (6-4) grabbed a 55-54 lead in the extra period, as senior guard **Ra Tiah** converted a three-point play when he was fouled on a driving layup. **Levi Levine**, who had eight points and nine rebounds, gave Albany (2-5) the lead for good with a 6-foot jumper from right of the lane. He added a pair of free throws with 1:37 remaining. The Great Danes scored the final nine points of the game as **Jon Iati** and St. Hillaire each sank a pair of foul shots over the last 26 seconds.

The Mountain Hawks, who saw their five-game winning streak come to an end, rallied from a 48-43 deficit to force overtime. Freshman **Jose Olivero** buried a three-point field goal, after taking a pass from a driving **Austen Rowland**, to tie the contest with 23 seconds left. Albany's Levine missed a three-pointer from the left wing on the final play of regulation.

"It was a great effort because we got a lot of contributions from different people in overtime," said Albany coach Will Brown, whose team held the visitors to 30.4 percent from field on 21-of-69 attempts. "We did everything you could possibly do to let them back in the game in regulation. But Lehigh has played in several tough, close games this season and won most of them."

The Great Danes led 26-20 at halftime, as each team shot less than 30 percent from the field in the opening period. Lehigh would draw even at 39 apiece with 9:08 to play. Olivero, who had eight points, was fouled as he made a driving bank shot, and his free throw completed the three-point play. However, Albany went back ahead, 43-39, on **Janis Pipikis'** turnaround on the left block and Levine's jump hook in the lane.

"I just told myself that I wasn't going home tonight with a loss," commented St. Hillaire, who made 4-of-6 from the floor and 5-of-5 from the line in matching his career-best scoring total set earlier this month against Colgate. "My teammates did a good job of getting me the ball and I just tried to be more aggressive in the overtime."

Lehigh's Rowland led all scorers with 17 points on 7-of-12 shooting from the floor. Iati, a 5-foot-9 freshman, scored a team-high 15 points for the Great Danes, while **Courtney Johnson**, a walk-on guard, finished with a career-high 10 off the bench.

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Date: 12-21-03 (Sunday)
Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: College Sports (Women's Basketball)

Bucknell 62, Albany 45

Lewisburg, Pa. -- Senior **Kristin Valdner** came off the bench to record her first career double-double with a career-high 15 points and 12 rebounds in leading four players in double-figures as Bucknell defeated Albany 62-45 in a non-conference contest on Sunday, Dec. 21 at The Sojka Pavilion.

Albany (2-5) held a 20-19 lead with 6:37 remaining in the first half before Bucknell (4-4) went on a 13-1 run ignited by junior **Lillian Drumgold**, who sank both free throws and converted a baseline jumper on the next possession to make it 23-20. Sophomore **Lindsey Geosits** scored six of her season-high 10 points in that span on back-to-back three-pointers to give the Bison a 34-23 lead at halftime.

The Bison, who won their third-straight contest, used a 12-5 run early in the second period to extend their lead, 50-30, with 11:38 remaining in the contest. Valdner, who scored 13 of her career-high 15 points in the second half, reeled off eight points in that span to give Bucknell the lead for good.

"**Maree Jones** played her best defensive game of the season holding their best player who averages 20 points-per-game to eight points," said Albany head coach **Trina Patterson**.

"That's a positive for us, it shows our ability to shutdown a dominant post-player. On the offensive end we were poor as a team overall, the offensive fire was not there today," stated Patterson.

The Great Danes were led by junior **Danielle Hutcheson's** first double-double of the season with 12 points and 12 rebounds, while sophomore **Becky Ayers** added 10 points. Freshman **Lindsey Hollobaugh** chipped in 11 points, while Drumgold scored a career-high 10 points off the bench. Senior **Desire Almind** grabbed a team-high 15 rebounds for the Bison.

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Date: 12-20-03 (Saturday)
Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Basketball

MEN – Sacred Heart 75, Albany 69

Albany, N.Y. – Senior guard **Maurice Bailey** scored 15 points, including the go-ahead basket with less than three minutes remaining, to lead Sacred Heart to a 75-69 non-league victory over Albany on Saturday afternoon at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (1-5) took a 64-62 lead, when freshman guard **Courtney Johnson** made a driving layup. Sacred Heart (4-4) went back in front for good on its next possession, as Bailey drilled a three-point field goal from the right corner with 2:33 left. **James Samuels**, who had a team-high 19 points, then hit a slam dunk for a 67-64 advantage after **Kibwe Trim** started the play with a steal.

The Pioneers still led 69-68 in the final minute, but then pulled away as Trim scored in the lane and Bailey converted a fastbreak layup after another steal. Trim, a 6-foot-10 sophomore, finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds off the bench.

The Great Danes wiped out a 46-43 deficit midway through the second half with eight unanswered points. **Levi Levine** and **Jon Iati** connected on back-to-back three point field goals to give their club its first lead of the game. Levine, a 6-foot-6 sophomore who had 22 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, scored on a follow shot for a 51-46 lead.

The Pioneers, who shot 55.2 percent on 16-of-29 attempts in the second half, would later trail 56-50, before stringing together seven straight markers to get back into the contest. Trim made two straight baskets in the lane, off passes from Bailey, to complete that spurt.

“There were a couple of steals, two breakdowns on defense and some transition baskets that hurt us at the end,” said Levine, whose team regrouped after trailing by as much as nine points in the opening half. “They put a lot of pressure on the ball and you have to work to get open.”

Justin James was the fourth Sacred Heart player in double figures with 11. Albany’s **Janis Pipikis** had 11 of his career-high 18 points in the final period. The senior center made 7-of-10 from the floor and grabbed six rebounds. Iati, a freshman guard, ended up with 16 points.

“We did a decent job of controlling tempo, but we just didn’t make any plays down the stretch,” commented Albany coach Will Brown, whose team hosts Lehigh on Monday, Dec. 22 at 7:00 p.m. “Against their pressure, we don’t have the guys who are playmakers and can break down the defense. We need to do this collectively.”

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Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Football

GARY JONES ON ASSOCIATED PRESS ALL-AMERICA FOOTBALL TEAM

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany's **Gary Jones** (Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk) has been named to the 2003 Associated Press I-AA All-America Football Team, as announced today by the national wire service. Colgate and Delaware, who will meet for the national title on Friday, Dec. 19 in Chattanooga, Tenn, combined to place seven players on the AP All-America team.

Jones, a third-team running back, makes his second consecutive appearance on the Division I-AA All-America squad. He earned second-team recognition as a junior.

Jones, the Northeast Conference's Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight year, broke his own conference single-season rushing record with 1,524 yards, and scored a league-leading 19 touchdowns. He ran for 100 or more yards against eight opponents, including a career-high 242 yards against Stony Brook on Oct. 25. Jones broke or tied 12 school records this season, including career rushing yards (3,033), touchdowns scored (42) and all-purpose yards (3,639).

The UAlbany tailback is sixth among the nation's rushing leaders at 138.6 yards per game. He is fifth in Division I-AA in scoring (10.4 points per game) and 16th in all-purpose yards (153.6 ypg). Jones, a senior from Ravena, N.Y., was chosen to The Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major All-America Team earlier this month. He led the Great Danes to a 7-4 record and a share of the program's second consecutive NEC championship.

School Records Set By Gary Jones in 2003

Single-Season Rushing Yards -- 1,524
Single-Season Highest Average Gain Per Rush -- 7.22
Single-Season 200-Yard Rushing Games – 242, Stony Brook; 211, Wagner)
Single-Season 150-Yard Rushing Games -- 5
Career Rushing Yards -- 3,033
Career Highest Average Gain Per Rush -- 6.86
Career All-Purpose Yards -- 3,639
Career Rushing Touchdowns -- 40
Career Touchdowns Scored -- 42
Career Points Scored -- 252

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Comments: College Football

VICTOR CAMACHO NAMED NEC FALL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE IN FOOTBALL

Somerset, N.J. – University at Albany's **Victor Camacho** is the recipient of the Northeast Conference Fall Scholar-Athlete Award in the sport of football, as announced today by the conference office. He has a 3.79 cumulative grade point average in business administration/finance with a minor in sociology.

Camacho, who helped Albany earn a share of the 2003 NEC championship, led a defensive squad that is ranked fifth among the NCAA Division I-AA leaders in total defense (279.1 ypg), eighth in rushing defense (104.5 ypg) and 11th in scoring (16.8 ppg). He finished ninth among the conference leaders with 94 tackles and added 9.0 tackles for a loss, 2.0 sacks, two fumble recoveries and one interception. Camacho, a senior inside linebacker, was named to the All-NEC second team, and totaled 10 or more tackles against four opponents.

A native of New York, N.Y., Camacho recently was voted to the CoSIDA University Division Academic All-America first team, and twice was selected the District all-academic unit. Camacho, who plans to work in investment banking before returning to graduate school for his MBA, has received the school's Spellman Achievement Award four times and been a member of the NEC Academic Honor Roll for three years.

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Comments: College Basketball

ALICIA LEARN EARNS AMERICA EAST CO-PLAYER OF THE WEEK HONORS

Boston, Mass. – University at Albany's **Alicia Learn** has been named America East Conference Co-Player of the Week in women's basketball as announced by the conference office on Monday, Dec. 15.

Learn, a junior forward from Watkins Glen, N.Y., recorded her first career double-double with 18 points and a career-high 10 rebounds in the Great Danes' 86-63 non-conference victory over Charleston Southern on Dec. 13. UAlbany snapped a three-game losing skid and improved to 2-4 overall for the season. The 6-foot-1 Learn also dished out a career-high six assists and tied the school's single-game record for blocks with seven, previously set by Ikeuchi Franklin against Rensselaer on Nov. 21, 1992.

Learn currently ranks first among the America East leaders in blocks (3.67 pg), third in rebounding (7.3 pg), fourth in field goal percentage (.507) and eighth in scoring (13.8 ppg). She is also among the NCAA Division I leaders in blocked shots.

Albany returns to action on Dec. 21, as the Great Danes travel to Lewisburg, Pa. to face Patriot League member Bucknell. Game time is 2:00 p.m.

JON IATI EARNS SECOND AMERICA EAST ROOKIE OF THE WEEK AWARD

Boston, Mass. – University at Albany's **Jon Iati** has been selected as the America East Conference Rookie of the Week in men's basketball as announced today by the conference office. He received the award for the second consecutive week.

Iati, a freshman guard from York, Pa., scored a season-high 17 points and added three assists and two steals against Long Island on Dec. 10. He has netted 16 or more points in three consecutive outings.

Iati is seventh among the America East leaders with a 14.4 scoring average, plus is tied for first in the league in three-point field goals made at 3.2 per game.

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Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Basketball

WOMEN – Albany 86, Charleston Southern 63

Albany, N.Y. – **Alicia Learn** recorded her first career double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds, as Albany snapped a three-game losing streak with an 86-63 non-conference victory over Charleston Southern on Saturday afternoon at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (2-4) held a 26-18 lead in the opening period, but then seized control with 13 unanswered points. Sophomore guard **Becky Ayers**, who had a season-high 21 points on 7-of-10 shooting, sank three foul shots and converted an offensive rebound during that stretch. **Maree Jones**, who totaled 12 points and nine rebounds, made a jumper in the lane to cap the decisive run.

The Great Danes, who shot 55.6 percent from the field, leaped to a 15-2 lead over the opening six minutes and 23 seconds in leading wire-to-wire. Sophomore **Jen Schumacher**, one of five players in double figures with 12 points, canned a pair of three-point field goals in that outburst. Meanwhile, Albany used a zone defense that confused Charleston Southern (2-4), as the visitors made just 5-of-26 field goal attempts and committed 14 of their 24 turnovers in the first half.

“We worked on our deficiencies all week,” Albany coach Trina Patterson said. “Our defensive play and rebounding were much better. The 3-2 zone was something they probably were not prepared for; they didn’t shoot well against it.”

The Great Danes, who hit 18-of-28 from the floor in the final period, were never threatened after halftime and led by as much as 27 points in the late going. **Danielle Hutcheson**, a 6-foot-4 junior, made her first appearance of the year after having surgery to remove a blockage near her left kidney during the preseason. Hutcheson contributed 12 points and three rebounds in 17 minutes off the bench.

“I think we just wanted the game,” said Learn, a 6-foot-1 junior who tied the school’s single-game record with seven blocked shots. “We worked on the zone and our block outs in practice and it paid off. It’s a great asset to have (Danielle) Hutcheson back, she brings so much emotion to the game.”

Natalie Caldwell led the Lady Buccaneers with 16 points, while **Keena Wicker** and **Deborah Cherry** added 13 apiece. Albany’s Learn, who matched her career-high scoring total set against Fairleigh Dickinson earlier this year, added six assists and two steals in 36 minutes. The Great Danes’ victory margin was their largest in three years.

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Date: 12-11-03 (Thursday)
Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Basketball

UALBANY'S JAMAR WILSON SCHEDULED TO HAVE SURGERY ON DEC. 29

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany men's basketball standout Jamar Wilson has decided to have surgery to repair a fracture at the lower end of his right patella or knee cap, as Director of Athletics Lee McElroy announced today. Dr. Max Alley, of Capital Region Orthopaedic Group and a member of the UAlbany sports medicine staff, will perform the surgical procedure on Monday, Dec. 29.

Wilson, who suffered the injury on Nov. 6 and was ruled out for the season last week, will have a surgery that removes the bone fragment at the tip of the patella. A rehabilitation period of six to eight weeks will follow.

"When I looked at all the options, I felt most comfortable with this procedure," said Wilson, who averaged 18.9 points per game as a freshman when he was the America East Conference Rookie of the Year. "After discussing with the doctors the surgery and the therapy that will follow, I am confident this will be the best for me."

Dr. Alley first confirmed Wilson's injury on Nov. 10. MRI results showed the right knee ligaments were normal and there was no meniscal or cartilage damage. Following non-operative treatment, subsequent X-rays showed no significant healing. Wilson then met with Dr. Russell Warren, the New York Giants Team Physician, on Dec. 4. Dr. Warren recommended surgery after the consultation.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
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Date: 12-10-03 (Wednesday)
Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: **Men's Basketball**

ALBANY FALLS AT LONG ISLAND, 78-65, IN NON-CONFERENCE PLAY

Brooklyn, N.Y. – Freshman **Eugene Kotorobai** scored a career-high 20 points, and connected on five three-point field goals, as Long Island ended a three-game losing streak with a 78-65 non-league victory over Albany on Wednesday evening at Schwartz Athletic Center.

Long Island (3-3) snapped a 28-28 halftime tie with nine unanswered points to go ahead for good. Kotorobai, who made 5-of-8 from the three-point arc, canned a long-range jumper in that outburst, before **James Williams** converted a drive in transition to end the run.

The Blackbirds, who held the visitors scoreless over the opening five minutes and 31 seconds of the period, moved out to a 50-32 lead midway through the half. Williams, a freshman guard who had all 13 of his points after halftime, was fouled on a driving layup for a three-point play. **Raymond Edwards**, who had nine points and nine rebounds, scored in the lane to give his team an 18-point margin.

"We controlled the tempo in the first half," said Albany coach **Will Brown**, whose team shot 37.9% and committed 19 turnovers. "We have no room for error and in the first five minutes of the second half we turned the ball over and gave them second, third and fourth opportunities. We struggled to manufacture points, so we need to get a shot every time down the floor."

The contest went back and forth in the opening 20 minutes. **Levi Levine**, who scored a career-high 30 points on 10-of-20 shooting, and grabbed nine rebounds, hit a fastbreak layup for a 28-26 lead. **Esa Maki-Tulokas** made a follow shot as his team drew even with 12 seconds left before the break.

Albany (1-4) had two other players in double figures. Freshman **Jon Iati** finished with a season-high 17 points, while **Aquawasi St. Hillaire** had 10. LIU's **Brandon Thomas** came off the bench to contribute 15 points and eight rebounds.

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

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Date: 12-9-03 (Tuesday)
Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: **Men's Soccer**

UALBANY'S COUNDOUL SELECTED TO NSCAA ALL-REGION SQUAD

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany junior goalkeeper **Bouna Coundoul** has been named to the NSCAA/adidas All-New York Region second team. The all-star squad was chosen by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Coundoul, who was also voted to the All-America East Conference second team in November, played all 1,672 minutes in goal for the Great Danes this season. He posted a 7-9-2 record with 113 saves, a 1.20 goals against average, and a save percentage of .856 to go along with four shutouts. The junior finished the season ranked sixth in the nation at 6.28 saves per game.

The Bronx, N.Y. native also garnered America East goalkeeper of the year honors following the 2002 campaign.

University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
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Date: 12-8-03 (Monday)
Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Sports

JON IATI NAMED AMERICA EAST BASKETBALL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Boston, Mass. – University at Albany's **Jon Iati** has been selected as the America East Conference Rookie of the Week in men's basketball, as announced on Monday by the conference office. Iati, a freshman guard from York, Pa., averaged 16.0 points and 2.5 assists in two games last week.

Iati scored 13 of his season-high 16 points in the second half in last Friday's 68-62 victory over Army, as the Great Danes halted their longest losing streak since 1956. He also tallied 16 points and made 4-of-6 three-point field goal attempts in a 68-65 loss to Colgate on Dec. 2. Iati, a first-team all-state scholastic player in Pennsylvania last year, is eighth among the conference scoring leaders at 13.8 points per game.

UALBANY PLAYERS ON SPORTS NETWORK MID-MAJOR ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Philadelphia, Pa. – Senior tailback **Gary Jones** (Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk) leads a group of three University at Albany players who have been voted to The Sports Network's 2003 Division I-AA Mid-Major All-America Football Team. Offensive tackles **Mike Laroche** (Queensbury) and **Geir Gudmundsen** join Jones on the 27-player squad that was chosen by a panel of I-AA media and sports information directors.

Jones, who broke his own Northeast Conference single-season rushing record with 1,524 yards, and scored a league-leading 19 touchdowns, makes his second consecutive appearance on The Sports Network All-America squad. A two-time NEC offensive player of the year, Jones is sixth among the NCAA Division I-AA rushing leaders at 138.6 yards per game, plus is fifth in scoring (10.4 ppg). He broke or tied 12 school records this season, including career rushing yards (3,033), touchdowns scored (42) and all-purpose yards (3,639).

Laroche, a 6-foot-4, 280-pound senior, and Gudmundsen, a 6-foot-6, 315-pound junior, anchored an offensive line that helped Albany set an NEC and school single-season record with 3,215 rushing yards. The Great Danes, who are fourth nationally in rushing at 292.3 yards per game, were also second in the conference in total offense (377.1 ypg) and scoring (27.2 ppg). Laroche, a right tackle, and Gudmundsen, a left tackle, were each named to the All-NEC first team for the second straight year. Both linemen have made 33 consecutive starts.

MORE

Albany Sports 2-2-2

2003 Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major All-America Football Team

OFFENSE	School	Pos.	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.
David Macchi	Valparaiso	QB	Sr.	5-10	183
Evan Harney	San Diego	RB	So.	6-1	215
Mike Hilliard	Duquesne	RB	Sr.	5-11	200
Gary Jones	Albany	RB	Sr.	5-10	220
Rob Giancola	Valparaiso	WR	Jr.	6-0	222
Adam Hannula	San Diego	WR	So.	6-1	193
Mike Malone	C. Conn State	TE	Sr.	6-3	210
Rob Bowser	Duquesne	OL	Sr.	6-2	270
Geir Gudmundsen	Albany	OL	Jr.	6-6	315
Mike Laroche	Albany	OL	Sr.	6-4	280
Nate Moore	Dayton	OL	Sr.	6-4	277
Keith Zapalac	San Diego	OL	Jr.	6-4	270
Greg Tonzola	Sacred Heart	K	Sr.	5-10	188
Pete Athans	Sacred Heart	RS	Sr.	5-10	187

DEFENSE	School	Pos.	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.
Josh Antinopolous	Duquesne	DL	So.	6-2	260
Franklin Bright	Wagner	DL	Sr.	6-2	245
Darryl Childers	Davidson	DL	Sr.	5-11	225
Kevin Fales	Iona	DL	Sr.	6-3	275
Harry Carter	Duquesne	LB	So.	6-1	235
Tim Heaney	Wagner	LB	Sr.	6-2	220
Joe Sentipal	Monmouth	LB	Sr.	5-11	230
Craig Unger	Morehead State	LB	Jr.	6-2	225
Charles Byrd	Morehead State	DB	Jr.	5-11	202
Chris Daniels	Valparaiso	DB	Jr.	5-11	203
Doug Jones	Dayton	DB	Jr.	5-9	179
Brandon Martin	Butler	DB	Sr.	5-11	180
Sean Dennis	Monmouth	P	Fr.	5-10	175

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
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Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Basketball

WOMEN – Colgate 85, Albany 67

Albany, N.Y. – **Malissa Burke** scored 14 of her 24 points in the second half to pace four players in double figures, as Colgate pulled away in the final period for an 85-67 non-league victory over Albany on Saturday afternoon at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Colgate (5-1) led 49-48 in the final period, but then reeled off eight straight points. Freshman guard **Molly Patterson**, who had nine points, nine rebounds and six assists, converted a back-door layup off Burke's lob pass to start the run, and later added two free throws for a 57-48 advantage with 11:46 remaining.

The Raiders, who are off to their best start since 1982-83, held a 59-54 margin one minute later, before taking firm control with 10 unanswered points. **Meghan Curtin** and Burke each canned three-point field goals in that stretch. **Leandra Fuller**, who totaled 15 points and nine rebounds, added a jumper in the lane.

The first half featured eight lead changes and seven ties, as Colgate took a 37-33 cushion to the break. Albany (1-4) rallied from an early deficit to take a 29-27 lead on a baseline jumper by sophomore guard **Becky Ayers**, who was one of three Great Danes in double figures with 15 points. However, the Raiders would go back in front with 10 straight markers. Burke, who made 8-of-13 from the field, was fouled as she hit a driving bank shot that would cap that sequence.

"The difference was rebounding, we gave them too many second opportunities," said Albany coach Trina Patterson, whose team was handled on the glass, 52-32. "You will not win a lot of games being out-rebounded by that margin. Colgate is a high-scoring team, and we didn't do enough to slow them down today."

Sarah Sweetland led Albany with a season-high 17 points, including three 3-pointers, while **Jen Schumacher** added 12. Colgate's **Emily Braseth**, a 5-foot-11 junior, had 18 points and nine rebounds. **Chigozie Ozor** finished with 10 points.

"We were hurt defensively with transition baskets," Sweetland commented. "We made too many stupid errors on defense. But we're a young team with just two seniors, and it's going to take some time to get ready for the conference season."

University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
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Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Basketball

MEN – Albany 68, Army 62

Albany, N.Y. – **Levi Levine** and **Jon Iati** each had 16 points, as Albany held off Army, 68-62, as the Great Danes posted their first win of the season on Friday evening at the Recreation and Convocation Center. Albany (1-3) ended an eight-game losing streak that included the final five games of last season.

Army (3-3) rallied from an eight-point deficit with eight minutes remaining to close within 55-54 with 4:38 to play. **Bill Mohr**, who had nine points and seven rebounds off the bench, hit a pair of free throws and scored in the lane during that run, before freshman **Cory Sinning** canned a three-point field goal from the right corner.

The Great Danes, who halted their longest loss skein since 1956, regrouped with eight consecutive points. **Todd Martin**, who was one of four players in double figures with 10 points, nailed a 3-pointer from the top of the arc. **Aquawasi St. Hillaire** followed with a conventional three-point play for a 63-54 lead, when he was fouled as he put back Levine's missed jumper. Iati, a 5-foot-9 guard, canned all four of his free throw attempts in the final 22 seconds to keep his team in front.

"It's a good feeling to win," said Levine, who with the rest of his teammates found out prior to the game that leading-scorer Jamar Wilson would be lost for season due to a knee injury. "We paid attention to the scouting report, helped on their screens, and did a good job of getting each other into the flow on offense."

Albany jumped out to a 23-10 in the first half, as the Great Danes held the visitors scoreless for nearly eight minutes to start the contest. The Black Knights responded with 10 unanswered points. **Josh Wilson** made a jumper and two foul shots to ignite the run, before Sinning sank both ends of a one-and-one free throw opportunity to slice the deficit to 23-20.

The Great Danes used a 13-6 spurt to begin the final period in securing a 38-28 lead. **Janis Pipikis**, a 6-foot-8 senior, scored seven of his career-high 11 points in that outburst. Pipikis connected on a three-play play when he was fouled on a 15-foot jumper, plus added a tip-in and a conversion in the lane.

Sean O'Keefe was the lone Army player in double figures with 12 points, while Wilson finished with eight points and six rebounds.

"We didn't have a lot of time to prepare with (Jamar) Wilson out of the lineup," Albany coach Will Brown said. "I was impressed with how hard we went to the offensive glass, and then some guys stepped up down the stretch when we needed them."

University at Albany

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To: Sports Department
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Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Basketball

JAMAR WILSON WILL MISS THE REMAINDER OF THE 2003-04 SEASON

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany men's basketball standout Jamar Wilson will miss the remainder of the 2003-04 season, as announced today by Director of Athletics and Recreation Dr. Lee McElroy.

Wilson, the 2003 America East Conference Rookie of the Year, has three options following Thursday's consultation with Dr. Russell Warren, the New York Giants Team Physician and currently the Surgeon-in-Chief at The Hospital for Special Surgery.

Wilson, who fractured the lower end of his right patella or knee cap on Nov. 6, may have one of two surgeries, as recommended by Dr. Warren, or continue to use a non-operative method. A surgical procedure would either use screws to attach the bone or make use of a second option that would remove the bone fragment. If Wilson elects surgery, the rehabilitation period would last from six to eight weeks.

Dr. Max Alley, of Capital Region Orthopaedic Group and member of the UAlbany sports medicine staff, first confirmed Wilson's injury on Nov. 10. MRI results showed the right knee ligaments were normal and there was no meniscal or cartilage damage. Dr. Alley then prescribed a non-operative treatment; however, subsequent X-rays have not shown significant healing.

Dr. Alley, who has consulted with Dr. Warren during New York Giants Training Camp over the last eight years, then asked for the Giants Team Physician to examine Wilson's knee earlier this week.

Wilson, a 6-foot-1 sophomore, was the conference's second-leading scorer last year with an 18.9 average. He scored 20-plus points on 12 occasions, including a freshman record 39 points against New Hampshire.

MEDIA ADVISORY: Dr. Max Alley and Jamar Wilson will be available to the media, beginning at 6:00 p.m., on the Recreation and Convocation Center's courtside arena level.

University at Albany

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Date: 12-2-03 (Tuesday)
Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: **Men's Basketball**

ALBANY FALLS TO COLGATE, 68-65, IN NON-CONFERENCE ACTION

Hamilton, N.Y. – Sophomore **Alvin Reed** scored a career-high 26 points, and **Mark Linebaugh** made two key free throws with 9.5 seconds remaining as Colgate held off Albany, 68-65, Tuesday evening at Cotterell Court.

Colgate (2-2) snapped a 53-53 deadlock with seven consecutive points. Reed, who made 8-of-12 from the field, including five 3-pointers, converted a layup after a steal to put his team ahead. Linebaugh, who finished with 11 points, made two free throws and converted a fastbreak layup in the run.

Albany (0-3) closed to within a single point twice in the final minute of the period. Sophomore **Jamar Wilson**, who started after missing the opening two games with a knee injury, hit a driving layup to slice the margin to 66-65. After Linebaugh made two free throws, Albany's **Courtney Johnson** misfired on a long-range jumper with two seconds left in an effort to force overtime.

The Raiders reversed a 36-32 deficit early in the second half by reeling off 14 straight points. **Howard Blue**, a 6-7 senior, had six of his 16 points in that stretch. Linebaugh and Reed drilled consecutive 3-point field goals to complete the outburst.

However, the Great Danes whittled away at the lead over the next eight minutes. **Aquawasi St. Hillaire**, who had career-highs with 13 points and 14 rebounds, made a bankshot to draw his team within 49-46. Wilson later connected on a spinning shot in the lane to tie the contest at 53 apiece.

"We didn't do what we needed to do in the stretch," Albany coach **Will Brown** commented. "We were not in sync with our youth and inexperience. They attacked us on the inside and were able to get easy baskets."

Freshman guard **Jon Iati** led the Great Danes with 16 points, including four 3-point shots. **Levi Levine** added 15 points to extend his double-figure scoring streak to 18 straight.

"I am feeling better so I wanted to play," said Wilson, who had 13 points on 4-of-14 field goal attempts in 33 minutes. "It's a different level between playing in a game and practicing. I made some careless mistakes and there were a couple of shots I should have hit."

University at Albany

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Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Football

CAMACHO AND PARKS ON CoSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA FOOTBALL TEAM

Stamford, Conn. – University at Albany's **Victor Camacho** and **David Parks** have been named to the CoSIDA University Division Academic All-America Football Team.

Camacho was a first-team selection, while Parks earned second-team honors. UAlbany joined Northwestern, Nebraska, Syracuse, Louisiana State, Pittsburgh and Dayton as programs with more than one student-athlete on the national squad.

Camacho, a senior inside linebacker from New York, N.Y., has a 3.79 cumulative grade point average in business administration/finance with a minor in sociology. He was ninth among the Northeast Conference leaders in tackles with 94, including 52 unassisted. Camacho, who was picked to the All-NEC second team, added two fumble recoveries, one interception and two sacks. He was twice named to the CoSIDA District I all-academic unit and has been a member of the NEC Academic Honor Roll for three years.

Parks, a senior defensive tackle from West Henrietta, N.Y., posted a 3.54 GPA in earning his B.A. in history with a minor in education last May. Parks, one of four Great Danes to receive first-team All-NEC recognition in 2003, made 37 tackles and led the team in sacks (7.5) and tackles for a loss (13.0). Albany is among the NCAA Division I-AA national leaders in rushing defense (8th), total defense (5th) and scoring against (12th). Parks was also a two-time CoSIDA District I selection and NEC Academic Honor Roll member.

Camacho and Parks are first pair of UAlbany football student-athletes to be voted to the national academic all-america team in the same season. J.T. Herfurth was a first-team offensive tackle in 2000, while roverback Ryan MacLean was chosen to the second team in 2002.

A student-athlete must be a starter or important reserve with a minimum 3.20 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) to be nominated for the award. University Division incorporates all NCAA Division I-A and I-AA football programs.

**2003 CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America)
University Division Academic All-America Football Team Attached**

2003 CoSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® FOOTBALL TEAM (University Division)

First-Team Offense

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	YR.	HOMETOWN	GPA	MAJOR
Craig Krenzel ••	Ohio State	Quarterback	Sr.	Sterling Heights, Mich.	3.68	Molecular Genetics
Kyler Randall	Eastern Washington	Wide Receiver	Sr.	Ferndale, Wash.	3.88	Social Studies
John Standeford	Purdue	Wide Receiver	Sr.	Monrovia, Ind.	3.65	Elementary Education
John Frieser	Colgate	Tight End	Sr.	Endwell, N.Y.	3.69	Sociology & Anthropology
Mike Hilliard	Duquesne	Running Back	Sr.	Homer Center, Pa.	3.55	Finance
Jason Wright	Northwestern	Running Back	Sr.	Diamond Bar, Calif.	3.20	Psychology (Pre-Medicine)
Travis Barclay	Ball State	Offensive Line	Sr.	Bedford, Ind.	3.99	Physics
Rob Droege	Missouri	Offensive Line	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo.	3.85	Social Studies Education
Rodney Reed	LSU	Offensive Line	Sr.	West Monroe, La.	3.94	Accounting
Nick Sellett	Dayton	Offensive Line	Sr.	Cincinnati, Ohio	3.80	Mechanical Engineering
Jason Whaley	Western Carolina	Offensive Line	Sr.	Beulaville, N.C.	3.91	Computer Information Systems
Nick Browne	TCU	Place-kicker	Sr.	Garland, Texas	3.97	Finance

First-Team Defense

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	YR.	HOMETOWN	GPA	MAJOR
Vince Crochunis	Pittsburgh	Defensive Line	Jr.	Schuylkill Haven, Pa.	3.76	Pol. Sci./Communications/History
Jon Montoya	Montana State	Defensive Line	Sr.	Brandon, S.D.	3.60	Elementary Education
Kevin Rooney	Cornell	Defensive Line	Sr.	Stockton, Calif.	3.86	History
Dan Stephens	Pittsburgh	Defensive Line	Jr.	Wheeling, W. Va.	3.76	Urban Studies
Victor Camacho	Albany	Linebacker	Sr.	New York, N.Y.	3.79	Business Administration (Finance)
Rich Scanlon	Syracuse	Linebacker	Sr.	Oradell, N.J.	3.70	Health and Exercise Science
Craig Unger	Morehead State	Linebacker	Jr.	Greenfield, Ohio	3.86	Business Administration/Finance
Doug Jones	Dayton	Defensive Back	Jr.	Zanesville, Ohio	3.52	Accounting/Finance
Nathan Jones	Rutgers	Defensive Back	Sr.	Scotch Plains, N.J.	3.60	Finance
Morgan Scalley	Utah	Defensive Back	Jr.	Salt Lake City, Utah	3.95	Communication
Scott Thiessen	Youngstown State	Defensive Back	Sr.	Modesto, Calif.	3.59	Special Education
Mark Gould	Northern Arizona	Punter	Sr.	Boise, Idaho	3.57	Marketing

Second-Team Offense

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	YR.	HOMETOWN	GPA	MAJOR
Matt Mauck	LSU	Quarterback	Jr.	Jasper, Ind.	3.72	Kinesiology (Pre-Medicine)
Shaun Feldeisen	Connecticut	Wide Receiver	Sr.	Stow, Mass.	3.63	Marketing
P.J. Fleck	Northern Illinois	Wide Receiver	Sr.	Sugar Grove, Ill.	3.43	Elementary Education
Craig Jarrett	Bowling Green	Tight End	Sr.	Bellevue, Ohio	4.00	Biology
Judd Davies	Nebraska	Running Back	Sr.	Omaha, Neb.	3.90	Pre-Medicine
Renaldo Works	Oklahoma	Running Back	Sr.	Tulsa, Okla.	3.48	MIS
Dave Costlow	Penn State	Offensive Line	Gr.	Lansdale, Pa.	3.65	Information Science/Technology
Ryan Lilja	Kansas State	Offensive Line	Sr.	Lake Quivira, Kan.	3.60	Finance
Brandon Mason	Elon	Offensive Line	Jr.	Martinsville, Va.	3.83	Business Administration/Accounting
Jerry Reith	Arkansas	Offensive Line	Sr.	Fort Smith, Ark.	3.68 •	Industrial Engineering
Nick Romeo	Syracuse	Offensive Line	Gr.	Tarpon Springs, Fla.	3.57 •	Mechanical Engineering
Matt Sharpe	VMI	Place-kicker	Sr.	Richmond, Va.	3.91	Computer Science

Second-Team Defense

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	YR.	HOMETOWN	GPA	MAJOR
Ryan Carter	Air Force	Defensive Line	Jr.	Waterloo, Wis.	3.63	Astronautical Engineering
Eric Dearth	Dayton	Defensive Line	Sr.	Bellbrook, Ohio	3.48	Mechanical Engineering
Ben Cross	Delaware	Defensive Line	Jr.	Hamilton, Va.	3.93	Civil Engineering
David Parks	Albany	Defensive Line	Sr.	West Henrietta, N.Y.	3.54	History
Eric Pauly	Colorado State	Linebacker	Sr.	Conway Springs, Kan.	3.74	Computer Information Systems
Dontarrious Thomas	Auburn	Linebacker	Sr.	Perry, Ga.	3.48	Management Information Systems
Jonathan Vilma	Miami (Fla.)	Linebacker	Sr.	Miami, Fla.	3.27	Finance
Jeff Backes	Northwestern	Defensive Back	So.	Columbus, Ohio	3.81	Psychology (Pre-Medicine)
Justin Isom	Minnesota	Defensive Back	Sr.	Huber Heights, Ohio	3.88	Sports Management
Jim Leonhard	Wisconsin	Defensive Back	Jr.	Tony, Wjs.	3.31	Kinesiology
Pat Ricketts	Nebraska	Defensive Back	Gr.	Millard, Neb.	3.52	Business Administration
Robert Wallis	Mississippi State	Punter	Sr.	Columbus, Miss.	4.00	Geo Sciences

•• Academic All-America® of the Year • undergraduate GPA only

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
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Date: 12-1-03 (Monday)
Pages w/cover: 2

Comments: College Football

GARY JONES NAMED NORTHEAST CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE YEAR Nine UAlbany Players on NEC Football All-Conference Team

Somerset, N.J. – University at Albany's **Gary Jones** (Ravena-Coyemans-Selkirk) has been named the Northeast Conference Offensive Player of the Year in football for the second straight year, as announced today by the conference office. The Great Danes, who won a share of their second consecutive NEC championship, had nine players chosen to the all-conference squad.

Jones, a senior tailback from Ravena, N.Y., shattered his own NEC single-season rushing record with 1,524 yards, plus scored a league-leading 19 touchdowns. Jones, who established 10 school records this season, became UAlbany's all-time leader in rushing yards (3,033), all-purpose yards (3,639) and touchdowns scored (42). He is currently sixth among the NCAA Division I-AA rushing leaders at 138.6 yards per game, and is fifth in scoring (10.4 ppg). Jones is the second player in NEC history to win consecutive NEC offensive player of the year awards.

Senior right tackle **Mike Laroche** (Queensbury), junior left tackle **Geir Gudmundsen** and senior defensive tackle **David Parks** joined Jones on the All-NEC first team. Laroche (6-4, 280) and Gudmundsen (6-6, 315) earned first-team recognition for the second straight season. Each player has made 33 consecutive starts on the offensive line. Albany ran for an NEC and school record with 3,215 rushing yards, and is ranked fourth nationally at 292.3 yards per game. Parks, a second-team all-league pick in 2002, made 37 tackles and led the team in tackles for a loss (13.0) and sacks (7.5). The Great Danes are among the I-AA defensive national leaders in rushing (8th), total defense (5th) and scoring (12th).

UAlbany placed five players on the All-NEC second team. Senior fullback **Jon George** (Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake) and offensive lineman **Brandon Shaw** each made the second-team unit for the second year in a row. George rushed for 589 yards and four touchdowns, while Shaw started all 11 games at both center and left guard. Senior inside linebacker **Victor Camacho**, who was ninth among the conference leaders with 94 tackles, including nine hits for a loss, right guard **Tom Swicicki** (6-4, 290) and punter **Stan Zylinski** were also chosen.

NEC co-champions Albany and Monmouth each led the way with nine all-conference selections. The Hawks' **Joe Sentipal** was the league's top defensive player, while Monmouth's **Kevin Callahan**, a former UAlbany assistant coach, was the NEC Coach of the Year. The Great Danes finished with a 7-4 overall record, and reached the seven-win mark for the seventh time in the last eight seasons.

MORE

UAlbany Football 2-2-2

2003 Northeast Conference Football All-Conference Awards

First Team -- Offense

QB T.J. Moriarty (Stony Brook)
RB **Gary Jones (Albany)**
RB Clinton Graham (Stony Brook)
WR Miles Austin (Monmouth)
WR Sean Simmons (Wagner)
TE Mike Malone (Central Connecticut State)
OL **Geir Gudmundsen (Albany)**
OL **Mike Laroche (Albany)**
OL David Charles (Stony Brook)
OL Brad Larson (St. Francis, Pa.)
OL Jeff Gallo (Monmouth)

First Team – Defense

DL Franklin Bright (Wagner)
DL **David Parks (Albany)**
DL David Bamiro (Stony Brook)
DL Sean Hefferon (Monmouth)
LB Joe Sentipal (Monmouth)
LB James Noel (Robert Morris)
LB Tim Heaney (Wagner)
DB Chris Blackshear (Central Connecticut State)
DB Donnie Rose (Central Connecticut State)
DB Brian Pawlowski (Sacred Heart)
DB Pete Athans (Sacred Heart)

First Team – Special Teams

PK Greg Tonzola (Sacred Heart)
P Sean Dennis (Monmouth)
RS Pete Athans (Sacred Heart)

Offensive Player of the Year – **RB Gary Jones (Albany)**

Defensive Player of the Year – LB Joe Sentipal (Monmouth)

Offensive Rookie of the Year – RB Cory Harge (Central Connecticut State)

Defensive Rookie of the Year – CB James Niklos (Robert Morris)

Coach of the Year – Kevin Callahan (Monmouth)