



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS & RECREATION

For Immediate Release
Monday, August 25, 2003

Contact: Brian DePasquale
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UALBANY ATHLETICS COMPLETES NCAA DIVISION I CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Albany, N.Y. – The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification recently announced that University at Albany and fourteen other Division I member institutions have successfully completed the Association's second cycle of athletics certification.

UALbany was certified by the NCAA on August 21 along with Clemson University, East Carolina University, Elon University, Florida International University, Illinois State University, Montana State University, Samford University, University of South Alabama, U.S. Naval Academy, Portland State University, Southern University, Long Beach State University, University of North Carolina-Wilmington and Saint Louis University.

"NCAA certification verifies that the University at Albany and its intercollegiate athletics program are operating with integrity under the principles and standards that promote institutional control," Director of Athletics and Recreation Dr. Lee McElroy commented. "The certification process, led by University President Dr. Karen R. Hitchcock, was a two-year, university-wide project that incorporated self-study, peer review and evaluation."

The purpose of athletics certification is to ensure integrity in the institution's athletics program and to assist institutions in improving their athletics departments. NCAA legislation mandating athletics certification was adopted in 1993.

The certification process, which is a self-study led by an institution's chief executive officer, includes a review of these primary components: governance and commitment to rules compliance; academic integrity; fiscal integrity; equity; welfare; and sportsmanship. Dean of Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy Frank Thompson chaired UAlbany's internal review.

A designation of certified means that an institution operates its athletics program in substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the Division I membership. The second round of athletics certifications is being completed on a 10-year cycle rather than the five-year cycle used during the initial certification process. All 325 active Division I members participate in the certification process. UAlbany upgraded its 19-sport program for men and women to the Division I level in September 1999.

The Division I committee on Athletics Certification preliminarily reviews an institution's certification materials, and then provides a list of issues identified during the evaluation. The university then has a period of approximately one year to respond in writing to the issues before a final certification decision is rendered.

-30-



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University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

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Date: 8-21-03 (Thursday)
Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports

UALBANY NAMES FOOTBALL CAPTAINS FOR 2003 SEASON

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany head football coach Bob Ford announced today that **Jon George, Gary Jones** and **David Parks** have been voted team captains for the 2003 season. The defending Northeast Conference and ECAC champions open their schedule on Saturday, September 6 at Northeastern. Kickoff is 12:30 p.m. ET.

George, a senior fullback from Scotia, N.Y. (Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake), will serve in a captain's role for the second straight season. He rushed for the most yards by an Albany fullback since 1995 with 642 yards and four touchdowns last year. George, who earned second-team All-NEC honors as a junior, also caught 12 passes for 108 yards.

Jones, a senior tailback from Ravena, N.Y. (Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk), established nine school single-season records last fall, as he ran for 1,509 yards and scored 23 touchdowns. A Walter Payton Award candidate, Jones has been chosen to the *Street & Smith's, Football Gazette* and The Sports Network preseason Division I-AA All-America teams.

Parks, a senior defensive tackle from West Henrietta, N.Y. (Rush-Henrietta), was a second-team All-NEC selection last year, plus was voted the team's top defensive lineman for second consecutive season. He made 31 tackles, including 5.5 sacks for minus-45 yards, and led a unit that was ranked fifth nationally in rushing defense at 92.3 yards per game.

*****UALbany's football media luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 26. The event will be held in the Recreation and Convocation Center's Athletic Hall of Fame Room on campus. A barbecue-style lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Albany's coaching staff, team captains and other selected players will be in attendance*****

University at Albany 2003 Football Media Luncheon

Tuesday, August 26, 2003

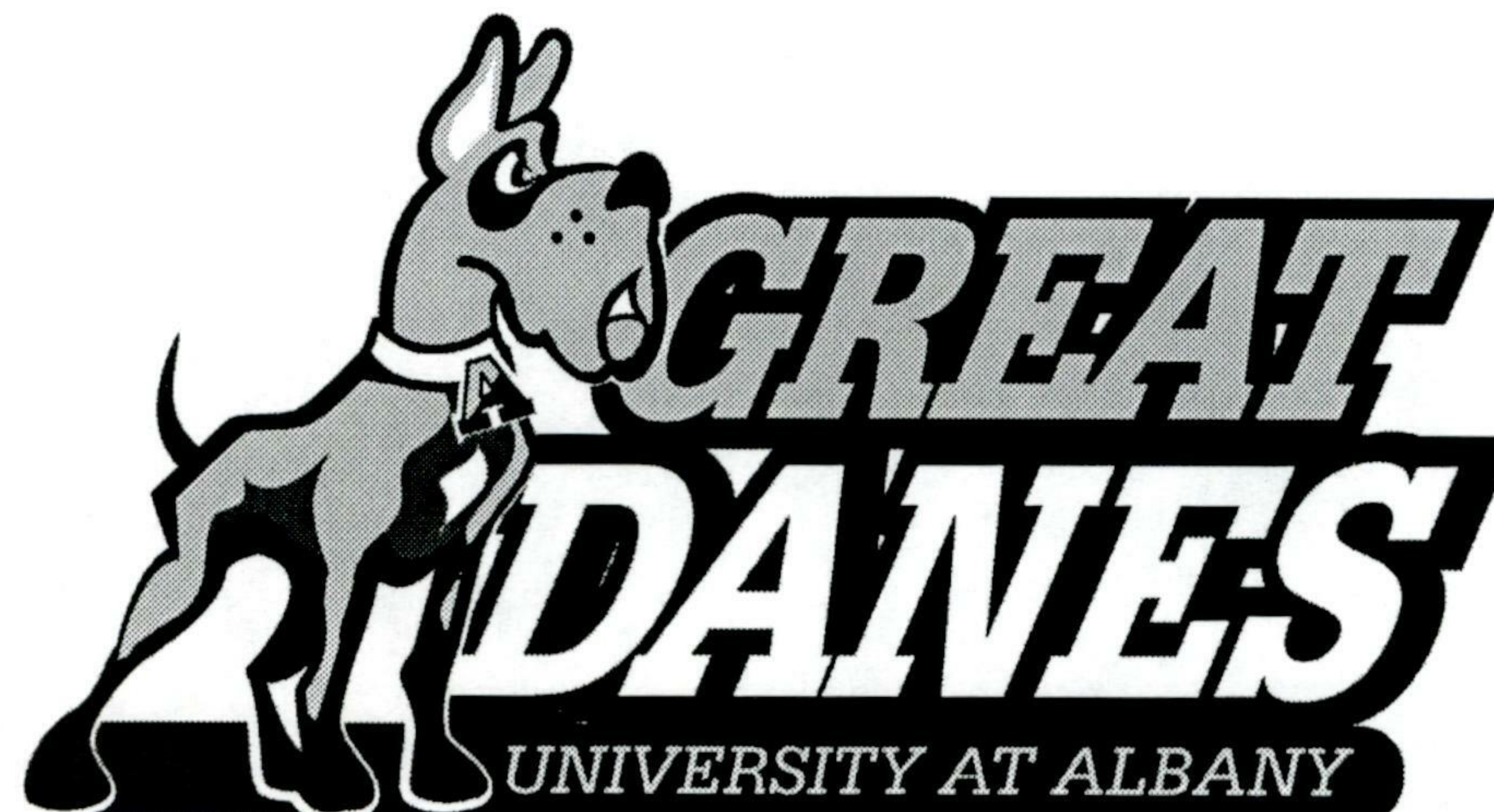
*Recreation and Convocation Center
Athletic Hall of Fame Room*

11:30 AM

**Head Coach Bob Ford,
the UAlbany coaching staff,
team captains, and selected players
will be in attendance.**

**A Barbecue-Style Lunch with Grilled Chicken, Pulled
Pork, Hamburgers & Hot Dogs will be served.**

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University at Albany

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Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: **College Sports (Volleyball)**

UALBANY PICKED TO FINISH THIRD IN PRESEASON AMERICA EAST POLL

Boston, Mass. - The University at Albany has been picked to finish third in the America East Conference women's volleyball preseason poll as announced on Thursday, Aug. 21 by the conference office. Defending America East champion New Hampshire was chosen to repeat its title in voting by the head coaches, while Northeastern was picked second.

The Great Danes, who achieved their first winning season in Division I, went 16-15 last season, 5-7 in conference play, and advanced to the semifinals of the America East Tournament for the first time in school history.

Head coach Kelly Sheffield, whose team led the country in aces per game a year ago, returns for his third season. Honorable mention All-America East setter **Jill Dombrowski**, who set the single-season assists record last season with 1,283, returns as well as sophomore outside hitter **Eileen Nicole Rodriguez**, the NCAA record-holder for aces in a season.

Sheffield added six players in the offseason, including sophomore transfer **Ashley Green** from Memphis, freshman setter **Blair Buchanan**, freshman outside hitter **Ashley DeNeal** and freshman outside hitter **Shelby Goldman**.

The top four teams in the conference advance to the America East Championship with the winner receiving an automatic NCAA berth. Albany begins its 2003 season on Friday, August 29 in Niagara Falls, N.Y. against Niagara as part of the Western New York Volleyball Tournament.

America East Conference Women's Volleyball Preseason Poll

1. New Hampshire (7) 49; 2. Northeastern (1) 44; **3. Albany 35**; 4. UMBC 29; 5. Stony Brook 28; 6. Maine 17; 7. Hartford 13; 8. Binghamton 10.

University at Albany

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Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: **College Sports (Field Hockey)**

UALBANY PICKED TO FINISH SIXTH IN PRESEASON AMERICA EAST POLL

Boston, Mass. - The University at Albany has been picked to finish sixth in the America East Conference women's field hockey preseason poll as announced on Wednesday, Aug. 20 by the conference office. Two-time defending America East champion Northeastern was chosen to repeat its title in voting by the head coaches, while New Hampshire, which tied for the regular-season title last year, was picked second.

The Great Danes went 5-12 last season and finished sixth in the conference with a 0-5 mark.

Head coach Deborah Fiore enters her ninth year with the Great Danes. Fiore's squad will be led by senior All-America East performer **Lisa Burline**, who ranks fourth in school history in points (43) and goals (19). Also returning are all-rookie team members **Tina Bryson** and **Devon Switzer**.

Six new faces appear on the 2003 roster for Fiore, including high school All-Americans **Kristina** and **Marisa Maze** (Glens Falls H.S.). Kristina, a forward who scored 67 goals and 20 assists last year, and Marisa, a goalkeeper who went 22-1 with eight shutouts, were both named Co-Players of the Year by *The Post Star*.

The top four teams in the conference advance to the America East Championship with the winner receiving an automatic NCAA berth. Albany begins its 2003 season on Saturday, August 30 in Storrs, Conn. against Lehigh at the UConn Classic.

America East Conference Field Hockey Preseason Poll

1. Northeastern (6) 36; 2. New Hampshire 28; 3. Maine 26; 4. Boston U. (1) 24; 5. Vermont 16; 6. Albany 11; 7. UMBC 6.

University at Albany

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Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports

UALBANY IS UNANIMOUS CHOICE TO DEFEND NEC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP Four Players on All-Northeast Conference Preseason Squad

Somerset, N.J. – Following its first Northeast Conference and ECAC Division I-AA Classic championships, the University at Albany is the unanimous preseason choice to capture its second straight NEC football title, in voting by the conference's head coaches.

UALbany won its first-ever NEC championship with an 8-4 record in 2002. The Great Danes capped their season with a victory over previously unbeaten Duquesne in the ECAC Classic.

"It is always tough to win a championship, but it is twice as challenging to repeat," offers Albany coach Bob Ford, who has 194 career victories at the collegiate level. "Our team knows how to win and we have good leadership. We also have good team chemistry. However, you can't dictate it, you have to hope you hold on to it. Both our offensive and defensive line should be very good, but we will need to solidify our quarterback and inside linebacker positions early on."

Four UAlbany players were named to the Preseason All-Northeast Conference Team. Senior tailback **Gary Jones** (Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk) rushed for 1,509 yards and scored 23 touchdowns last year. He earned Associated Press second-team All-America honors, and was the NEC offensive player of the year.

Offensive linemen **Geir Gudmundsen** (6-6, 315) and **Mike Laroche** (6-4, 280) join Jones on the All-NEC offense. Gudmundsen and Laroche (Queensbury) have each made 22 consecutive starts at the left and right tackle positions, respectively. Senior defensive end **John Bolt** (Watervliet) was also named to the NEC preseason squad. The 6-foot-4, 250-pound defender had 30 tackles, including 3.5 sacks, last season.

The Great Danes open their 2003 schedule at Northeastern on Sept. 6. The Huskies shared last year's Atlantic 10 Conference championship and made their first NCAA playoff appearance.

Northeast Conference Football Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Albany (7), 2. Stony Brook (1), T3. Robert Morris, T3. Sacred Heart, T3. Wagner, 6. Central Connecticut State, 7. Monmouth, 8. St. Francis, Pa.

() – first-place votes

University at Albany

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

UALBANY PICKED TO FINISH 10TH IN PRESEASON AMERICA EAST POLL

Boston, Mass. - The University at Albany has been picked to finish 10th in the America East Conference women's soccer preseason poll as announced on Tuesday, Aug. 19 by the conference office. Defending America East champion Hartford was chosen to repeat its title in voting by the head coaches, while Boston U. was picked second.

The Great Danes went 4-14-1 last season and finished ninth in the conference with a 1-7-0 mark.

Head coach Kalekeni Banda begins his first season at the helm of the Great Dane program. Banda, who previously was the head men's coach at Wisconsin, returns to coaching women for the first time since 1987. He guided his squads to a 125-20-10 mark during his eight-year tenure with the Minutewomen.

Returning for Coach Banda is two-time All-America East player junior **Sara Rickard**, who has led the Great Danes in scoring her first two seasons. Also coming back is junior goalkeeper **Erika Van Zandt**, who ranked 12th in the country in saves per game, and senior defender **Vanessa Vukov**.

The top six teams in the conference advance to the America East Championship with the winner receiving an automatic NCAA berth. Albany begins its 2003 season on Saturday, August 30 at Varsity Field against Marist.

America East Conference Women's Soccer Preseason Poll

1. Hartford (7) 89; 2. Boston U. (2) 71; 3. New Hampshire 61; 4. Stony Brook 51; 5. Maine (1) 48; 6. Northeastern 43; 7. Binghamton 36; 8. Vermont 24; 9. UMBC 22; **10. Albany 11.**

University at Albany

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Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: **College Sports (Men's Soccer)**

UALBANY PICKED TO FINISH SEVENTH IN PRESEASON AMERICA EAST POLL

Boston, Mass. - The University at Albany has been picked to finish seventh in the America East Conference men's soccer preseason poll as announced on Monday, Aug. 18 by the conference office. Defending America East champion Northeastern was chosen to repeat its title in voting by the head coaches, while Boston U. was picked second.

The Great Danes went 9-6-2 last season and finished tied for fourth in the conference with a 4-2-2 mark, but missed the postseason tournament due to the tiebreaker formula.

Fourth-year head coach Johan Aarnio returns 12 letterwinners from last season's squad including America East Goalkeeper of the Year **Bouna Coundoul** and second team all-league selection **Rodrigo Marion**. Among the leading scorers coming back are sophomore forward **Nick Leddy**, who totaled three goals and three assists, and sophomore midfielder **Savvas Theofilou**, who tallied two goals and three assists.

Aarnio will add 12 newcomers to his team including NSCAA High School All-American **Peter Squeglia** (Mohonasen), who set a Section II high school record with 118 career goals, including 39 last year alone. Also starting his first year with the Great Danes is **Joshua Lenoff**, a member of the 2001 St. Benedict's Prep National Championship team, and **Stephan Hall**, a two-time all-state player from Colorado.

The top six teams in the conference advance to the America East Championship with the winner receiving an automatic NCAA berth. Albany begins its 2003 season on Saturday, August 30 at Varsity Field against Marist.

America East Conference Men's Soccer Preseason Poll

1. Northeastern (8) 80; 2. Boston U. (1) 66; 3. New Hampshire (1) 56; 4. Vermont 55; 5. Hartford 54; 6. UMBC 45; 7. **Albany 37**; 8. Binghamton 25; 9. Stony Brook 17; 10. Maine 13.



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS & RECREATION

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 5, 2003

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UALBANY NAMES WINNIE CORRIGAN ASSISTANT WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH, JENN ARBUCKLE ASSISTANT VOLLEYBALL COACH AND TRACY BARCLAY ASSISTANT FIELD HOCKEY COACH

ALBANY, N.Y. - University at Albany Director of Athletics and Recreation Dr. Lee McElroy announced today the hiring of Winnie Corrigan as assistant women's soccer coach, Jenn Arbuckle as assistant volleyball coach and Tracy Barclay as assistant field hockey coach.

Corrigan served as the men's soccer goalkeeper coach at Union College during the spring of 2002. During that period she was a volunteer assistant coach for the Bethlehem High School girls' varsity team and a substitute teacher in the same school district. Corrigan has also been the goalkeeper/assistant coach within the girls' division for the Capital United/Black Watch, a premier soccer club in the Capital Region, and for the Albany Alley Cats, an under-17 girls team.

A native of Delmar, N.Y., Corrigan earned a B.A. in English with a minor in French from Davidson College in North Carolina in 2001. She was the MVP of the Wildcats in 1999 and was named first-team All-Southern Conference. Corrigan holds three goalkeeping records at Davidson including single-season goals against average (0.84), shutouts in a season (8) and career goals against average (1.03). She also earned the Class of 1986 Award and Susan K Roberts Award for Outstanding Female Athlete.

Arbuckle recently served as the head coach of the Oahu Volleyball Club 12s, a junior olympic squad. Her initial coaching experience was as the assistant volleyball coach for Virginia Tech from 1997-99. During her tenure she aided in on-court training, recruiting, setting up travel plans, scheduling tournaments and supervising the academic progress of the athletes. Arbuckle also worked with the strength and conditioning departments at Radford, West Virginia Wesleyan and Virginia Tech.

A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, Arbuckle received her M.S. in health promotions from Virginia Tech in May of 2001. Five years earlier, she earned her B.S. in psychology, also from Virginia Tech. She was a four-year outside hitter for the Hokies helping the team win the Metro Conference Championship in 1992. In her senior year, Arbuckle was a member of the Atlantic-10 all-conference team and a member of the A-10 Academic all-conference team. She made the athletic director's honor roll six out of eight semesters.

Barclay recently finished her fifth year as the head coach of the Union College field hockey squad. She also served as an assistant for one season prior to that appointment. In her first year with the Dutchwomen, she led the team to the a New York State postseason tournament appearance.

A native of Schenectady, N.Y., Barclay came to Union in the summer of 1998 after serving as the assistant field hockey coach at Dickinson College. She also spent a year at Shippensburg University, a Division II school in Pennsylvania, as an assistant in both field hockey and lacrosse. Barclay earned a bachelor of science degree in May of 1994 from the University of Massachusetts where she was captain of the 1993 team. A scholarship player, she was a member of the squad that reached the Final Four in 1992 and also helped UMass to the Atlantic 10 championship on two occasions. Barclay was voted to the Atlantic 10 all-tournament team as well as to the all-conference squad.



University at Albany

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Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports

UALBANY FOOTBALL RANKED IN NATIONAL PRESEASON POLLS

Albany, N.Y. – Head coach Bob Ford's University at Albany football team is ranked in both the Football Gazette and The Sports Network Division I-AA mid-major preseason polls. The Great Danes are second in Football Gazette's listing and third in The Sports Network rankings. Dayton was voted No. 1 by both national polls.

UALbany won its first-ever Northeast Conference title last year with an 8-4 record. The Great Danes capped their season with a victory over previously unbeaten Duquesne in the ECAC Football Classic.

Fifteen starters, including eight on offense and seven on defense, return from that championship squad. Senior tailback Gary Jones leads the returnees after rushing for 1,509 yards and scoring 23 touchdowns last year. He earned Associated Press second-team All-America recognition. Jones and offensive tackles Geir Gudmundsen (6-6, 315) and Mike Laroche (6-4, 280) were named as preseason All-Americans.

The Great Danes, who begin practice on Thursday, Aug. 14, open their schedule at Northeastern on Sept. 6. The Huskies shared last year's Atlantic 10 Conference championship and made their first NCAA playoff appearance.

The Sports Network Preseason I-AA Mid-Major Poll

1. Dayton (11-1), 2. Duquesne (11-1), 3. Albany (8-4), 4. Morehead State (9-3), 5. Stony Brook (8-2), 6. Sacred Heart (7-3), 7. Davidson (7-3), 8. Wagner (7-4), 9. San Diego (5-5), 10. Marist (7-4).

Football Gazette Preseason I-AA Mid-Major Poll

1. Dayton (11-1), 2. Albany (8-4), 3. Duquesne (11-1), 4. Morehead State (9-3), 5. Davidson (7-3), 6. Stony Brook (8-2), 7. Sacred Heart (7-3), 8. San Diego (5-5), 9. St. Peter's (7-5), 10. Austin Peay (7-5).

() – 2002 Record

University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

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Date: 8-31-03 (Sunday)
Pages w/cover: 1
Comments: College Sports (Field Hockey)

MARISA MAZE SETS FRESHMAN RECORD IN 5-4 LOSS TO LAFAYETTE

Storrs, Conn. – Freshman goalkeeper **Marisa Maze** (Glens Falls H.S.) recorded the second highest number of saves in a game by a freshman with 24, as Albany lost a heartbreaker to Lafayette, 5-4, on the second day of the UConn Field Hockey Classic at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex. Maze was also named the Great Danes' MVP of the Classic as she totaled 30 saves in two contests.

The Great Danes, who defeated Lehigh, 5-1, in their opener the previous day, fell to 1-1 on the season, while the Leopards improved to 1-1 with the victory.

Junior forward **Alexis Johnson** scored twice to lead her team in scoring. Johnson's first goal came with six seconds left in the first half, as the Great Danes drew even at two apiece. Junior **Kristi Clausi** gave Albany the lead in the final period, when her team was awarded a penalty stroke as Johnson was pushed by Leopard goalkeeper, **Casey Devin**. Clausi lifted the ball to right center of the net past Devin for a 3-2 advantage.

Lafayette rallied with three straight goals. **Casey Gallagher** tied the contest, before **Meredith Hahn** gave her team the lead for good by converting a pass from Stephanie Goldman with 17:06 remaining. Senior midfielder **Jennifer Stone** turned in a three-goal performance, while Devin finished with 12 saves.

The Great Danes will face La Salle in their home opener on Friday, Sept. 5 at Rensselaer's Harkness Field in Troy, N.Y. Game time is 1:00 p.m.

-agate-

UConn Classic (Storrs, Conn.)

Lafayette (1-1)	2	3	-	5
Albany (1-1)	2	2	-	4

Lafayette – Jennifer Stone 3-0, Casey Gallagher 1-1, Meredith Hahn 1-0, Melissa Farrand 0-1, Stephanie Goldman 0-1; Goalkeeper: Casey Devin (70:00, 12 saves, 4 GA)

Albany – Alexis Johnson 2-0, Tina Bryson 1-0, Kristi Clausi 1-0, Amber Morris 0-1; Goalkeeper: Marisa Maze (70:00, 24 saves, 5 GA)

University at Albany

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Pages w/cover: 2
Comments: College Sports (Field Hockey, Men's Soccer, Volleyball)

TINA BRYSON SCORES TWICE TO LIFT ALBANY OVER LEHIGH, 5-1

Storrs, Conn. – Sophomore forward **Tina Bryson** scored a career-high two goals with an assist to power Albany to a 5-1 non-league victory over Lehigh in first-day action of the UConn Field Hockey Classic on Saturday afternoon at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex. It was the season opener for both teams.

Senior **Lisa Burline** tallied her 20th career goal and notched two assists, while juniors **Danielle Costello** and **Amber Morris** added a goal each. Bryson snapped a 1-1 tie with 13:50 left in the opening period to give her team the lead for good.

Freshman goalkeeper **Marisa Maze** (Glens Falls H.S.) recorded her first collegiate win, allowing one goal and making six saves. Lehigh's **Jeanine Hoff** totaled eight saves as the Mountain Hawks were outshot, 19-16.

The Great Danes, who won their opening game for the second straight year, will face Lafayette on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. in round-robin play as the UConn Classic continues.

-agate-

UConn Classic (Storrs, Conn.)

Lehigh (0-1)	1	0	-	1
Albany (1-0)	2	3	-	5

Lehigh – Scoring: Maureen Harrington 1-0; Goalkeeper(s): Jeanine Hoff (60:00, 8 saves, 5 GA).

Albany – Scoring: Tina Bryson 2-1, Lisa Burline 1-2, Danielle Costello 1-0, Amber Morris 1-0, Amber Greiner 0-1, Alexis Johnson 0-1, Rhonda Corcoran 0-1; Goalkeeper(s): Marisa Maze (60:00, 6 saves, 1 GA).

MEN'S SOCCER PLAYS TO 2-2 TIE WITH MARIST IN SEASON OPENER

Albany, N.Y.- **Bruno Machado** scored both goals for Marist, including the equalizer in the 75th minute, as the Red Foxes earned a 2-2 double-overtime tie with Albany on Saturday afternoon at Varsity Field. The match was the season opener for both teams.

Albany's **Lucas Machado** opened the scoring at the 14:55 mark on a header off a cross from **Yan Gbolo**. The Red Foxes (0-0-1) evened the contest in the 32nd minute as Machado, a 5-foot-10 midfielder, scored on a breakaway. Junior **Savvas Theofilou** put the Great Danes back in front on a penalty kick after Gbolo, who was fouled in the box by Marist goalkeeper **Mike Valenti**. Machado sent the game to overtime, tallying his second goal with just over 15 minutes left.

Marist's **Anthony Graci** had a chance for the game-winner in the final overtime. His shot hit the crossbar and the follow-up by **Kyle Nunes** went wide of the net. Albany (0-0-1) also had an opportunity in the second extra, period, but Valenti stopped a short blast by **Peter Squelgia** (Mohonasen H.S.) in the box. Albany's **Bouna Coundoul** notched six saves, while Valenti turned aside five shots.

The Great Danes return to action this Wed., Sept. 3 at Syracuse. Game time is 7:00 p.m.

-agate-

Marist 2, Albany 2 (2OT)

Marist – Bruno Machado 2-0, Keith Detelj 0-1, Robert Vandyke 0-1; Goalkeeper: Mike Valenti (110:00, 5 saves, 2 GA)

Albany – Lucas Machado 1-0, Savvas Theofilou 1-0, Yan Gbolo 0-1; Goalkeeper: Bouna Coundoul (110:00, 6 saves, 2 GA)

UALBANY DROPS NON-CONFERENCE MATCH TO YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Buffalo, N.Y. – **Abby Ettenhofer** recorded nine kills and five block assists as Youngstown State defeated Albany, 3-0, on Saturday afternoon at Canisius' Koessler Athletic Center during the second day of the Western New York Invitational.

Youngstown State (2-1) won in three sets, 30-28, 31-29 and 30-26, behind 11 team blocks, including 20 block assists. **Amanda Cindric** totaled 11 digs, while setters **Angie Pasquinelli** and **Beth Boscarelli** had 18 and 10 assists, respectively.

Albany (1-2) was led by **Ashlee Reed**, who had 11 kills, while setter **Jill Dombrowski** had 17 assists and **Blair Buchanan** added 13 helpers. **Ashley DeNeal** chipped in with 10 digs.

Albany takes on crosstown-rival Siena on Tuesday, Sept. 2 in Loudonville, N.Y.

-agate-

Western New York Invitational

Youngstown State (2-1) defeats Albany (1-2), 30-28, 31-29, 30-26.

University at Albany

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Date: 8-29-03 (Friday)
Pages w/cover: 1

Comments: College Sports (Volleyball)

UALBANY SPLITS A PAIR OF GAMES AT WESTERN NEW YORK INVITATIONAL

Niagara University, N.Y. – Sophomore middle hitter **Ashlee Reed** recorded 10 kills on 13 attacks as Albany defeated Niagara, 3-0 (30-11, 30-28, 30-20), on Friday afternoon in the Gallagher Center during day one of the Western New York Invitational. The Great Danes (1-1), dropped a five-set affair to Syracuse in their second match of the day.

Junior setter **Jill Dombrowski**, who recorded a match-high 26 assists, started off the Niagara match by serving 11 straight points. Freshman **Blair Buchanan**, who was making her collegiate debut, was the only other Great Dane in double figures, as she dished out 12 assists. Albany hit .289 for the match, while the Purple Eagles hit at a .111 clip led by **Erin Graham's** 13 kills.

In the nightcap, Albany rallied from a two sets to none deficit to force a decisive game five, but Syracuse took the final game, 15-13, to defeat the Great Danes for the fifth consecutive time. The Orangewomen (1-0) were led by **Kristen Conway**, who had 20 kills, and **Aila Dommestrup**, who added 47 assists. Freshman **Ashley DeNeal**, who recorded 12 kills, was one of four UA players with double-digit kills. **Kristin Norton**, **Ashley Green** and **Susan Spierre** recorded 11 apiece.

Albany concludes its first weekend of action tomorrow at 11 a.m. against Youngstown State.

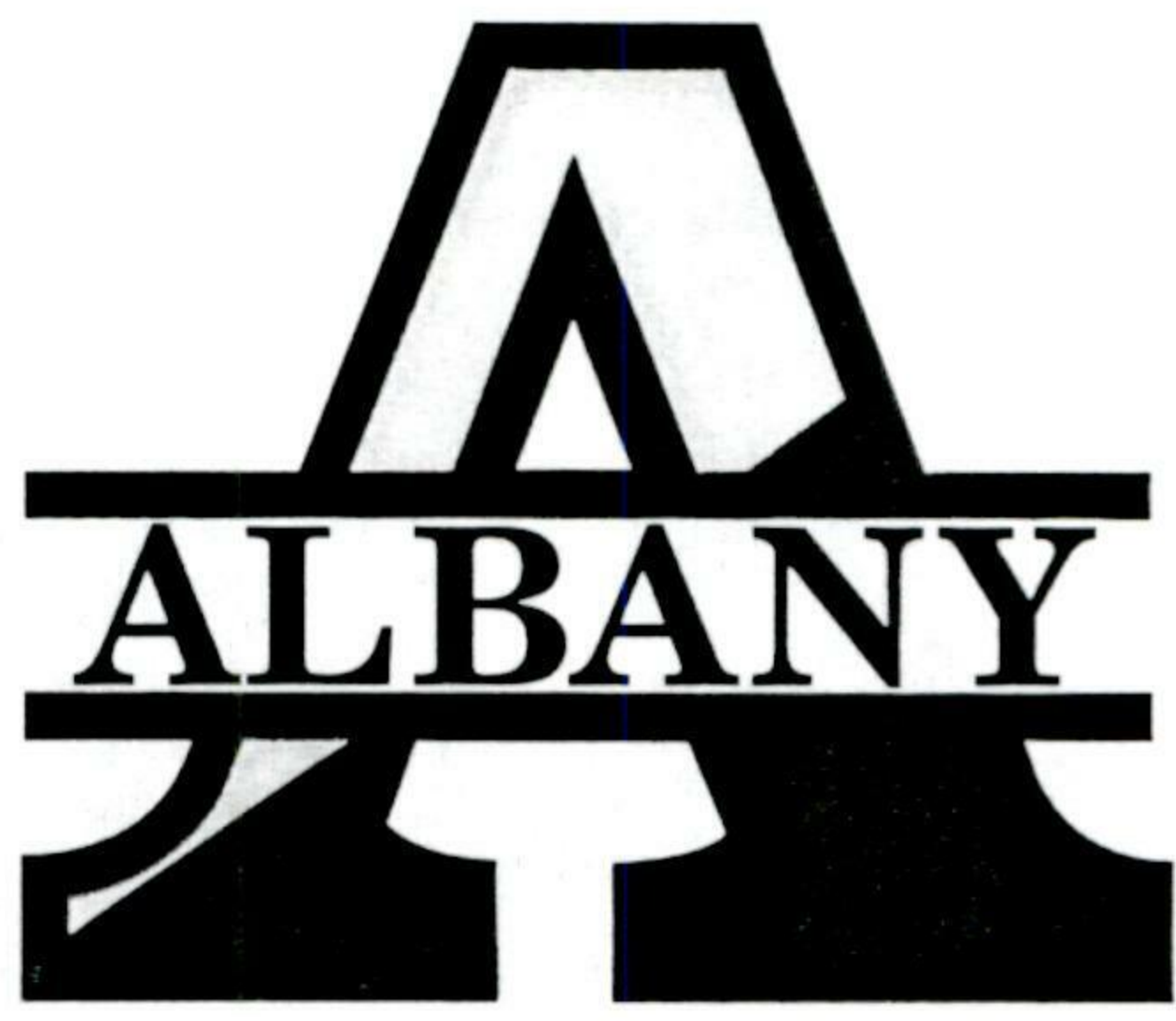
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Western New York Invitational

Albany (1-1) defeats Niagara (0-1) 3-0 (30-11, 30-28, 30-20)

Syracuse (1-0) defeats Albany 3-2 (30-25, 30-17, 28-30, 28-30, 15-13)

MORE



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS & RECREATION

For Immediate Release
Monday, August 25, 2003

Contact: Brian DePasquale
(518) 442-3072

UALBANY ATHLETICS COMPLETES NCAA DIVISION I CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Albany, N.Y. – The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification recently announced that University at Albany and fourteen other Division I member institutions have successfully completed the Association's second cycle of athletics certification.

UALbany was certified by the NCAA on August 21 along with Clemson University, East Carolina University, Elon University, Florida International University, Illinois State University, Montana State University, Samford University, University of South Alabama, U.S. Naval Academy, Portland State University, Southern University, Long Beach State University, University of North Carolina-Wilmington and Saint Louis University.

"NCAA certification verifies that the University at Albany and its intercollegiate athletics program are operating with integrity under the principles and standards that promote institutional control," Director of Athletics and Recreation Dr. Lee McElroy commented. "The certification process, led by University President Dr. Karen R. Hitchcock, was a two-year, university-wide project that incorporated self-study, peer review and evaluation."

The purpose of athletics certification is to ensure integrity in the institution's athletics program and to assist institutions in improving their athletics departments. NCAA legislation mandating athletics certification was adopted in 1993.

The certification process, which is a self-study led by an institution's chief executive officer, includes a review of these primary components: governance and commitment to rules compliance; academic integrity; fiscal integrity; equity; welfare; and sportsmanship. Dean of Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy Frank Thompson chaired UAlbany's internal review.

A designation of certified means that an institution operates its athletics program in substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the Division I membership. The second round of athletics certifications is being completed on a 10-year cycle rather than the five-year cycle used during the initial certification process. All 325 active Division I members participate in the certification process. UAlbany upgraded its 19-sport program for men and women to the Division I level in September 1999.

The Division I committee on Athletics Certification preliminarily reviews an institution's certification materials, and then provides a list of issues identified during the evaluation. The university then has a period of approximately one year to respond in writing to the issues before a final certification decision is rendered.

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**News Release****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT:**

Thursday, August 21, 2003

Kay Hawes
Associate Director of
Public Relations
317/917-6222**NCAA ANNOUNCES ATHLETICS CERTIFICATION DECISIONS**

INDIANAPOLIS---The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification announced decisions today concerning the certification status of 15 Division I member institutions that have undergone the Association's second cycle of athletics certification.

The following universities were certified:

- University at Albany
- Clemson University
- East Carolina University
- Elon University
- Florida International University
- Illinois State University
- Montana State University-Bozeman
- Samford University
- University of South Alabama
- U.S. Naval Academy
- Portland State University
- Southern University, Baton Rouge
- Long Beach State University
- University of North Carolina, Wilmington
- Saint Louis University

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conformity with operating principles adopted by the Division I membership.

The second round of athletics certifications is being completed on a 10-year cycle rather than the five-year cycle used during the initial certification process. All 325 active Division I members participate in the certification process.

The Division I Committee on Athletics Certification preliminarily reviews an institution's certification materials, and then provides a list of issues identified during the evaluation. The university then has a period of approximately one year to respond in writing to the issues before a final certification decision is rendered. An institution's failure to satisfactorily respond to the committee may negatively impact certification status.

The certification process is separate from the NCAA's enforcement program, which investigates allegations of rules violations by NCAA member institutions. A decision of certified does not exempt an institution from concurrent or subsequent enforcement proceedings.

The NCAA Committee on Infractions may ask the Committee on Athletics Certification to review an institution's certification status as a result of the completed infractions case.

The members of the Committee on Athletics Certification are: Tom Davis, Sam Houston State University; John Hardt, Bucknell University; Susan Hofacre, Robert Morris University; Pat Howey, University of North Carolina, Wilmington; Jerry Kingston, Arizona State University; Colleen Lim, Yale University; Jamie McCloskey, University of Florida; Fred Mims, University of Iowa; Rance Pugmire, Utah State University; Paul Risser (chair), Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; Dawn Rogers, Xavier University; Greg Sankey, Southeastern Conference; Irene Shea, California State University, Sacramento; Richard L. Wallace, University of Missouri, Columbia; and Brenda Weare, Conference USA.

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University at Albany

Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

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Comments: College Sports

UALBANY IS UNANIMOUS CHOICE TO DEFEND NEC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP Four Players on All-Northeast Conference Preseason Squad

Somerset, N.J. – Following its first Northeast Conference and ECAC Division I-AA Classic championships, the University at Albany is the unanimous preseason choice to capture its second straight NEC football title, in voting by the conference's head coaches.

UALbany won its first-ever NEC championship with an 8-4 record in 2002. The Great Danes capped their season with a victory over previously unbeaten Duquesne in the ECAC Classic.

"It is always tough to win a championship, but it is twice as challenging to repeat," offers Albany coach Bob Ford, who has 194 career victories at the collegiate level. "Our team knows how to win and we have good leadership. We also have good team chemistry. However, you can't dictate it, you have to hope you hold on to it. Both our offensive and defensive line should be very good, but we will need to solidify our quarterback and inside linebacker positions early on."

Four UAlbany players were named to the Preseason All-Northeast Conference Team. Senior tailback **Gary Jones** (Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk) rushed for 1,509 yards and scored 23 touchdowns last year. He earned Associated Press second-team All-America honors, and was the NEC offensive player of the year.

Offensive linemen **Geir Gudmundsen** (6-6, 315) and **Mike Laroche** (6-4, 280) join Jones on the All-NEC offense. Gudmundsen and Laroche (Queensbury) have each made 22 consecutive starts at the left and right tackle positions, respectively. Senior defensive end **John Bolt** (Watervliet) was also named to the NEC preseason squad. The 6-foot-4, 250-pound defender had 30 tackles, including 3.5 sacks, last season.

The Great Danes open their 2003 schedule at Northeastern on Sept. 6. The Huskies shared last year's Atlantic 10 Conference championship and made their first NCAA playoff appearance.

Northeast Conference Football Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Albany (7), 2. Stony Brook (1), T3. Robert Morris, T3. Sacred Heart, T3. Wagner, 6. Central Connecticut State, 7. Monmouth, 8. St. Francis, Pa.

() – first-place votes