

# University at Albany

## Sports Information Fax Cover Sheet

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

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**Date:** 6-25-01 (Monday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Basketball

### **BASKETBALL GUARD KIKI PICARD GRANTED REQUEST TO TRANSFER**

Albany, N.Y. – Freshman **Kiki Picard** has been granted his release to transfer from the University at Albany, as head basketball coach Scott Beeten announced today.

Picard, a 6-foot, 180-pound guard from Kissimmee, Fla., appeared in 23 games last season. He averaged 0.8 points and 0.9 rebounds in 8.4 minutes off the bench.

“We thank Kiki for his contributions to the program, and the effort he made on the practice floor last year,” Beeten said. “I respect his decision and wish him future success.”

Picard was an All-Orange Belt Conference and All-Osceola County standout as a junior and senior at Osceola High School in Florida.

Albany completed its second season as an independent at the NCAA Division I level last year, and will play in the America East Conference in 2001-02.



For Immediate Release  
Thursday, June 21, 2001

Contact: Brian DePasquale  
(518) 442-3072

## DENNIS SHORT NAMED UALBANY WOMEN'S LACROSSE HEAD COACH

ALBANY, N.Y. – University at Albany Director of Athletics and Recreation Lee McElroy announced today the hiring of **Dennis Short** as head women's lacrosse coach. Short, who previously was an assistant coach at The Ohio State University, moves into a position that has been elevated to full-time status for the first time.

Short coached both the offense and goalkeepers at Ohio State, and helped the program rise from the club level to Division I during his six-year tenure. The Buckeyes, who posted a combined 43-41 record in that period, were ranked among the nation's top 10 in scoring offense in 1999 and 2000. Members of the Ohio State team received All-America recognition for the third consecutive year this past spring.

A native of Chalfont, Pa., Short was an assistant at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa. from 1993-95. In his final season with the program, the nationally ranked Bears reached the NCAA Division III quarterfinals.

Short, 30, is a past president of the United States Women's Lacrosse Association's Midwest District, and currently serves as the Midwest Region Division I chairperson on the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association's Growth Committee. In 1997, he coached the Midwest District squad at the USWLA National Tournament, and two years later was director of the U.S. Women's Division National Tournament.

Short received his undergraduate degree in history with a dual minor in English and education from Ursinus in 1993, and has a secondary education teaching certificate in social studies from the state of Pennsylvania. As a collegian, he played midfield and attack for the Ursinus Lacrosse Club, leading the squad in goals and assists for two seasons. He also was a defender on the Bears' soccer team.

Short replaces Marylou Vosburgh, who compiled a 47-35 record in six seasons and led the Great Danes through a transition from the Division II level to its current Division I status. The women's lacrosse program became a varsity sport in 1992. UAlbany will compete for the first time in the America East Conference in 2001-02.

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# University at Albany

## Sports Information Office Fax Cover Sheet

**To:** Sports Department  
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**Date:** 6-19-01 (Tuesday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2

### Comments:

### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL ANNOUNCES SIGNINGS FOR 2001 SEASON

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany women's volleyball coach Curtis Strife announced today that five student-athletes have signed national letters of intent to play for the Great Danes in the 2001 season, including local product **Susan Spierre** of Averill Park High School. The Great Danes begin competition in the America East Conference this fall.

"These additions quickly improve our team's size and depth at the setter position," said Strife. "They have been members of successful high school programs. I see each of them providing an immediate impact for us as we enter our new conference."

A 5-foot-11 middle hitter from West Sand Lake, N.Y., Spierre was a member of Averill Park's Section II Class A championship squad in 2000 and Colonial Council championship team her junior year. She also participated in the Empire State Games on the Adirondack team last summer.

Two student-athletes join UAlbany from different schools in Bethlehem, Pa. – **Julie Spata** and **Kim Seningen**. Spata, a 5-foot-11 middle/outside hitter from Bethlehem Catholic High School, was named a Class 2A District 11 first-team selection, while earning all-state honorable mention this year. She totaled 91 kills and 51 blocks and guided her team to the District 11 title. The *Easton Express Times* first-team all-star also garnered All-East Penn Conference accolades. Seningen, a 5-foot-7 setter, led Freedom High School to consecutive Mountain Valley Conference championships and a combined 40-3 overall record during that span. In addition to being named first-team all-conference, Seningen secured second-team All-District 11 honors.

**Jill Dombrowski**, a 5-foot-9 setter/middle hitter from Canton, Mich., secured all-conference and all-metro honors after leading Plymouth South High School to a 35-8 overall record and its fourth consecutive district championship. A three-year starter, Dombrowski was

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## ALBANY SPORTS 2-2-2

recently named her school's Female Athlete of the Year. She also becomes the first-ever Albany women's volleyball signing from Michigan.

**Fallon Hearst**, a 6-foot middle hitter from Woodmere, N.Y., is the all-time total kills record holder at G.W. Hewlett High School. A Class-B All-State sixth-team selection two years ago, Hearst helped her squad capture the Nassau County and Conference IV championships.

### 2001 University at Albany Women's Volleyball Signings

<b>Name</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>High School/Hometown</b>
Jill Dombrowski	S/MH	5-9	Plymouth Salem/Canton, Mich.
Fallon Hearst	MH	6-0	G.W. Hewlett/Woodmere, N.Y.
Kim Seningen	S	5-7	Freedom/Bethlehem, Pa.
Julie Spata	MH	5-11	Bethlehem Catholic/Bethlehem, Pa.
Susan Spierre	MH	5-11	Averill Park/West Sand Lake, N.Y.

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**Date:** 6-7-01 (Thursday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 3

**Comments:** College Sports

### **MICHAEL OLIVA NAMED TO ABCA/RAWLINGS ALL-REGION TEAM**

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany's **Michael Oliva** has been chosen to the American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings All-Northeast Region squad. Oliva, a second-team selection, earned the award in voting by the region's 43 head coaches.

Oliva, a senior center fielder, batted .428 with 41 runs, six home runs, 40 RBI and nine stolen bases. He also set UAlbany single-season records with 14 doubles and 71 total hits, and ranked 15th nationally among the Division I hitting leaders.

Oliva, the school's all-time hits and stolen bases leader, received first-team All-New York State Baseball Conference and second-team All-ECAC recognition in 2001.

### **NFF&CHF CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER FOOTBALL CLINIC SET JUNE 9**

Albany, N.Y. – The Capital District Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame will conduct a football clinic at the University at Albany's Recreation and Convocation Center on Saturday, June 9, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Head coaches from area colleges, including UAlbany's Bob Ford, Siena's Jay Bateman, Union's John Audino, Rensselaer's Joe King, Hudson Valley Community College's Bob JoJo. Each coach and members of their staff will speak at the all-day event on topics from quarterback play to practice organization.

Registration is \$25.00 for an individual and \$100.00 for a high school or Pop Warner football staff.

### **AMERICA EAST ANNOUNCES BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SITES**

(See attached releases)

**TIM TOLOKAN**  
Associate Director of Athletics/  
Communications

# UConn

## SPORTS NEWS

[www.UConnHuskies.com](http://www.UConnHuskies.com)

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A COPY OF THIS RELEASE CAN ALSO BE FOUND BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT [www.UConnHuskies.com](http://www.UConnHuskies.com)

Contact: Zack Higbee/860-486-3531  
Wednesday, June 6, 2001  
CONNECTICUT BASEBALL

### American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings All-Northeast Region Team Announced

STORRS, CT - The American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings All-Northeast Region Team selection committee announced the 2001 first and second team members on Tuesday. The 43 head coaches that comprise the region first nominated and then voted on their choices. Once the final ballot of nominees was set, a player received five points for a first team vote and three for a second team vote with the players with the highest point totals deemed first team members. Those named to the first team now become All-America candidates, which will be selected by the Division I All-America Committee in Omaha, NE and reflects the opinions of the 281 Division I head coaches.

#### 2001 ABCA/Rawlings All-Northeast Region First Team

1B-Jon Hambelton	Maine
2B-Pete Summa	Holy Cross
SS-Mike LaBarbera	Rhode Island
3B-Brian Macchi	Boston College
OF-Anthony Bocchino	Marist
OF-Chris May	Pennsylvania
OF-Mike Scott	Connecticut
C-Alex Trezza	Stony Brook
DH-Tim Bittner	Marist
P-Chris Tracz	Marist
P-Kyle Johnson	St. Bonaventure
P-Chris Begg	Niagara
Relief Pitcher-Chris Piryk	Central Connecticut State
Relief Pitcher-Mark Sullivan	Boston College

#### 2001 ABCA/Rawlings All-Northeast Region Second Team

1B-Mike Bohlander	Pace
2B-Robert Deeb	Brown
SS-Dan Kantrovitz	Brown
3B-Ryan Nevins	New York Tech
OF-Matt Lemanczyk	Sacred Heart
OF-Mike Oliva	Albany
OF-Bob Kingsbury	Fordham
C-Joe Drapeau	Maine
C-Joe Myler	St. Bonaventure
DH-Peter Soteropoulos	Connecticut
P-Mike Collar	Maine
P-Jason Fardella	St. Francis
P-Jaime Steward	Lemoyne
Relief Pitcher-Anthony Stutz	Stony Brook



# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

10 High Street, Suite 860, Boston, MA 02110-1605 • 617.695.6369

Special Release  
June 6, 2001  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Matt Bourque

## University of Hartford to Host America East Women's Basketball Championship in 2002

**BOSTON**— The 2002 America East Women's Basketball Championship will be held at the 4,067-seat Chase Family Arena on the University of Hartford campus it was announced today. The decision was reached by a vote of the conference's athletic directors via a conference call on Tuesday, June 5.

The eight-team tournament begins with quarterfinal games on Thursday, March 7. Semifinal games will be played Friday, March 8 with the championship game set for Saturday, March 9.

Hartford, which has seen a surge in attendance since the hiring of third-year head coach Jennifer Rizzotti, becomes the third different school to host the America East Women's Basketball Championship since the conference adopted the present single-site format in 1998. The University of Vermont hosted each of the past three seasons, while the University of Maine served as host in 1998. The conference had used a higher-seed, campus-site format from 1991-1997.

"We are pleased to be able to showcase the conference's premier women's basketball event at the University of Hartford," said Chris Monasch, Commissioner of America East. "The state of Connecticut has some of the nation's most passionate college basketball fans. Our single-site format affords the fans the opportunity to enjoy our continually rising women's basketball programs."

The America East Women's Basketball Championship has averaged more than 2,000 fans to each of its tournament sessions since 1998, with an average championship game crowd of 2,883 during that time.

Hartford averaged nearly 1,200 fans per game last season under Rizzotti, the former University of Connecticut star who is currently playing with the Cleveland Rockers of the WNBA. The Hawks drew a season-high 2,011 for a game vs. Vermont on January 27.

America East has enjoyed tremendous success in women's basketball in recent years. Regular-season champion Maine and tournament champion Northeastern University each received bids to the 1999 NCAA Championship, with the Black Bears upsetting Stanford in the first round that year. Both Vermont and Maine received bids to the 2000 NCAA Championship. The America East Champion receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship.

Game times and ticket information for the 2002 America East Women's Basketball Championship will be announced at a later date.

America East will consist of nine women's basketball teams in 2001-02: University at Albany, Binghamton University, Boston University, Hartford, Maine, University of New Hampshire, Northeastern, Stony Brook University and Vermont.

ALBANY ★ BINGHAMTON ★ BOSTON UNIVERSITY ★ HARTFORD ★ MAINE ★ NEW HAMPSHIRE ★ NORTHEASTERN ★ STONY BROOK ★ VERMONT



# MEN'S BASKETBALL

10 High Street, Suite 860, Boston, MA 02110 • 617.695.6369

**Special Release**  
June 6, 2001  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Contact: Matt Bourque

## Northeastern, Boston University to Co-Host America East Men's Basketball Championship in 2002, 2003

**BOSTON**— The America East Conference has announced Northeastern University and Boston University will serve as co-hosts for the first two rounds of the America East Men's Basketball Championship in 2002 and 2003. The two Boston schools will host the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of the eight-team tournament, while the championship game will be played at the home court of the higher seed of the two remaining teams and televised by ESPN.

Northeastern and Boston University were chosen to host by a vote of the conference's athletic directors during a conference call on Tuesday, June 5. The University of Maine, Stony Brook University and the University of Vermont also submitted bids.

Northeastern will host the quarterfinals on Saturday, March 2 and semifinals on Sunday, March 3 at the 6,000-seat Matthews Arena in 2002. The championship game will be played on Saturday, March 9. Boston University will play host to those quarterfinal and semifinal rounds at the 4,100-seat Walter Brown Arena in 2003.

"We are excited to play the America East Men's Basketball Championship in Boston," said Chris Monasch, Commissioner of America East. "Both Northeastern and Boston University are charter members of the conference and history shows some of our greatest games were played in these two arenas. We expect a quality championship experience for America East's student-athletes and fans."

Boston University last hosted an America East Men's Basketball Championship game when the top-seeded Terriers defeated Drexel University, 68-61, before a sellout crowd at Case Gymnasium in 1997. Northeastern was last the site of the 1991 conference championship when the Huskies defeated Maine, 57-46.

The two schools hosted the conference championship game each year between 1981 and 1987 under the higher-seed format. The 1986 championship game between Northeastern and Boston University in 1986 drew a conference championship record 5,644 fans to Matthews Arena. The Huskies, led by Wes Fuller and the late Reggie Lewis, defeated the Terriers, 63-54. The game was the last home game for Northeastern head coach Jim Calhoun, who departed after the Huskies' 80-74 loss to Oklahoma in the first round of the NCAA Championship, to become head coach at the University of Connecticut. The Terriers were led by rookie head coach Mike Jarvis, now the head coach at St. John's University.

The America East Championship has utilized the present format of a single site for the first rounds of the tournament with the championship game played at the higher remaining seed since 1996. The University of Delaware hosted the quarterfinal and semifinals rounds from 1996 to 2001.

America East will consist of nine teams for the 2001-02 men's basketball regular-season schedule: University at Albany, Binghamton University, Boston University, University of Hartford, Maine, University of New Hampshire, Northeastern, Stony Brook and Vermont. Binghamton is not eligible for the America East Men's Basketball Championship until 2004 in its transition to NCAA Division I.

Game times and ticket information for the 2002 America East Men's Basketball Championship will be announced at a later date.

ALBANY ★ BINGHAMTON ★ BOSTON UNIVERSITY ★ HARTFORD ★ MAINE ★ NEW HAMPSHIRE ★ NORTHEASTERN ★ STONY BROOK ★ VERMONT



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**Date:** 6-6-01 (Wednesday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2

**Comments:** College Sports

### **STEVE CHECKSFIELD SELECTED IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT**

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany's **Steve Checksfield** was chosen in the 26th round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the Houston Astros on Wednesday afternoon. Checksfield, a senior right fielder and first baseman, was the draft's 776th pick overall, and will report to the organization's Class A New York-Penn League squad in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Checksfield, who is the first UAlbany player to be chosen since Terry Kenny went in the ninth round of the 1974 draft to the San Francisco Giants, batted .327 with 10 home runs, 13 doubles, 36 RBI and a .612 slugging percentage.

Checksfield, the school's all-time leader with 40 home runs and 168 RBI, was a first-team All-New York State Baseball Conference and honorable mention All-ECAC choice this spring.

**LEE McELROY NAMED TO NCAA DIVISION I MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
(see attached release)



For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Contact: 518-442-3072  
Brian DePasquale

## **UALBANY'S LEE McELROY APPOINTED TO NCAA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL Director of Athletics Will Serve As Division I-AAA At-Large Member**

ALBANY, N.Y. – University at Albany Director of Athletics and Recreation Lee McElroy has been appointed to the NCAA Division I Management Council. McElroy, who will complete his first year as Albany's director of athletics next month, will serve a three-year term as one of four at-large representatives from I-AA or I-AAA conferences.

The 49-member Division I Management Council includes athletics administrators and faculty representatives. The Council adopts operating bylaws and rules to govern Division I, subject to Board of Directors ratification; interprets Division I bylaws, and develops and administers the Division I budget. America East Conference Commissioner Chris Monasch also serves as a Council member.

"This appointment allows both the University at Albany and America East to be involved in the maintenance of the governance process," said McElroy, who helped UAlbany attain broad-based conference affiliation with its acceptance into America East in January 2001. "We will be able to impact the future operations of Division I intercollegiate athletics."

McElroy, 53, has previously worked with numerous professional organizations and NCAA committees. He is currently involved in the NCAA Degree Completion Program and the Financial Aid Committee. In addition, he has served on two prestigious NCAA Committees: Athletics Certification, a select group of university presidents, athletic administrators and faculty athletic representatives who oversee the certification of more than 300 NCAA Division I institutions, and the NCAA Special Committee on Agents and Amateurism.

In 1998, McElroy was named to the NACDA Executive Committee for the University Division, and chair of the Sears Directors Cup Committee. The Sears Directors Cup is the only national award and academic scholarship program to recognize all NCAA and NAIA championship sports for men and women. Along with his duties for the NCAA and NACDA, McElroy has testified before congressional committees on issues of college athletics, such as gender equity, the welfare of the minority student-athlete and the academic/athletic balance.





For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Contact: Brian DePasquale  
(518) 442-3072

## **TICKETS FOR GIANTS TRAINING CAMP EVENTS ON SALE JUNE 25** **Phone Orders Now Being Taken For Meet the Giants Party and Intrasquad Scrimmage**

ALBANY, N.Y. – Ticket sales for New York Giants training camp events begin on Monday, June 25 at the University at Albany Athletic Ticket Office, as Director of Athletics and Recreation Lee McElroy announced today. The Meet the Giants Fan Party (August 1), Intrasquad Scrimmage and Barbecue (August 4), and parking decals for all practice sessions will be available.

UAlbany's Athletic Ticket Office is located in the Recreation and Convocation Center, and will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., beginning June 25. Phone orders are currently being taken, at 518-442-4683.

The Meet the Giants Fan Party is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at University Gymnasium on campus. The cost is \$50.00 for adults and \$25.00 for youth (16 and under). Proceeds benefit the Capital District Student Scholarship Fund sponsored by the New York Giants, Albany Times Union and University at Albany. Fans have an opportunity to meet Giants players and coaches, obtain autographs, join in a prize raffle, and participate in activities and contests. Food and beverage stations, along with music, will be provided.

The Scrimmage Day Barbecue on Saturday, August 4 begins at 12 noon under a tent in the west end zone of University Field. The price is \$35.00 per person, and includes a reserved seat for the scrimmage and a picnic menu. Individual intrasquad scrimmage tickets (price includes parking) are also available. Reserved seating is \$10.00, and general admission is \$8.00.

Giants Training Camp parking decals (non-transferable) for all practice sessions are priced at \$10.00. The daily parking fee is \$5.00. Dutch Quad Lot will again be used as the primary parking facility for the public.

**GIANTS CAMP NOTES:** Media Day for New York Giants Training Camp is scheduled for Thursday, July 26 at Dutch Quad Field on campus ... UAlbany is the Giants Training Camp site for the sixth consecutive summer ... the Giants and UAlbany announced last August a three-year agreement to keep the training camp on campus through 2003 ... the first practice sessions will be held on Friday, July 27, while camp ends on Friday, August 24 ... the intrasquad scrimmage on Saturday, August 4 begins at 2:00 p.m. ... the Giants Training Camp schedule can be accessed through the University's athletic web site ([www.albany.edu/sports/giants.html](http://www.albany.edu/sports/giants.html)) ...



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**Date:** 6-4-01 (Monday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Sports

### **MICHAEL OLIVA & STEVE CHECKSFIELD ON ALL-ECAC BASEBALL TEAM**

Centerville, Mass. – University at Albany's **Michael Oliva** and **Steve Checksfield** have been chosen as Eastern College Athletic Conference Division I Baseball All-Stars. Oliva, a second-team selection, and Checksfield, an honorable mention choice, were voted to the squad by the ECAC's head coaches.

Oliva, a senior outfielder, led the New York State Baseball Conference and ranked 15th nationally among Division I hitters with a .428 batting average. He set school single-season records for total hits (71) and doubles (14). Oliva, the team's most valuable player, had 19 multi-hit games, and totaled six home runs, 41 runs, 40 RBI and nine stolen bases. He finished his career as UAlbany's all-time leader in hits (229), doubles (51) and stolen bases (58).

Checksfield, who was positioned as a first baseman and right fielder, batted .327, and led the Great Danes in extra-base hits (25) and home runs (10). The UAlbany senior drove in 36 runs and posted a .612 slugging percentage. Checksfield is the school's career leader in five categories, including home runs (40) and RBI (168).