

# University at Albany

## Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

**To:** Sports Department  
**Organization:** Albany Times Union  
**From:** Brian DePasquale  
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**Date:** 8-31-02 (Saturday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments: College Sports**

### **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS IN FOUR GAMES AGAINST MARIST**

Albany, N.Y. – Senior outside hitter **Alissa Gibbs** (Shenendehowa) totaled 21 kills and nine digs to lead Albany to a 3-1 win over Marist in the second round of the Great Dane Invitational on Saturday evening at University Gymnasium. The Great Danes, who are off to a 2-0 start for the first time since 1997, won by scores of 30-17, 28-30, 30-13, 30-23.

Freshman **Alexis Bowens**, who recorded 21 kills with no errors in Friday's victory over Lafayette, posted 13 kills. **Eileen Nicole Rodriguez**, a freshman from Puerto Rico, added 12 kills, seven service aces and eight digs.

Junior middle blocker **Christina Brozek** had 10 kills and three block assists for Marist (1-1). Earlier in the day, the Red Foxes upended Lafayette, 35-33, 30-24, 30-27, behind the play of **Aline dos Santos**, who recorded 15 kills and five digs.

-agate-

Great Dane Invitational – Second Round  
Albany def. Marist, 30-17, 28-30, 30-13, 30-23  
Marist def. Lafayette, 35-33, 30-24, 30-27



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**Date:** 8-31-02 (Saturday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Sports

### FIELD HOCKEY BEATS ST. FRANCIS, PA. IN SEASON OPENER

Loretto, Pa. – Sophomore **Amber Morris** scored a pair of goals to lead Albany to a 3-1 victory over St. Francis, Pa. in season-opening action for both teams on Saturday afternoon. The two squads will meet again this season in Albany on Oct. 6th.

Senior forward **Allison Mann** snapped a 1-1 tie with 11 minutes and one second remaining, as she scored on a rebound shot in front of the St. Francis net. Morris, who tallied her first goals as a collegian, found the cage off a penalty corner for insurance.

Albany (1-0) took a 1-0 lead in the 13th minute of play, when Morris beat freshman goalkeeper **Monica Nicoles**. St. Francis, Pa. (0-1) drew even nearly two minutes later, as **Brandy Feldman** scored on a breakaway.

Sophomore Megan Akstin totaled nine saves for the Great Danes, who face LaSalle in Philadelphia on Sunday. Nicoles stopped five shots.

-agate-

#### Albany 3, St. Francis, Pa. 1

|                        |   |   |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Albany (1-0)           | 1 | 2 | - | 3 |
| St. Francis, Pa. (0-1) | 1 | 0 | - | 1 |

Albany: Amber Morris 2-0, Allison Mann 1-0, Lisa Burline 0-1;  
Goalkeeper(s): Megan Akstin (70:00, 9 saves, 1 GA).

St. Francis, Pa.: Brandy Feldman 1-0; Goalkeeper(s): Monica Nicoles (70:00, 5 saves, 3 GA).



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**Date:** 8-30-02 (Friday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments: College Sports**

### **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS OPENER FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1997**

Albany, N.Y. – Freshman outside hitter **Alexis Bowens** had 21 kills and posted an .875 hitting percentage to lead Albany to a 3-0 victory over Lafayette in the first round of the Great Dane Invitational on Friday evening at University Gymnasium. The Great Danes, who registered their first season-opening win since 1997, won by scores of 30-15, 30-14, 30-23.

Freshman **Eileen Nicole Rodriguez** added 10 kills and nine services aces. **Alissa Gibbs** (Shenendehowa), an All-America East Conference outside hitter, totaled seven kills and seven digs. **Caroline Eshman** led Lafayette with eight kills.

Albany meets Marist in the tournament's second round on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

-agate-

Great Dane Invitational  
Albany def. Lafayette, 30-15, 30-14, 30-23

Saturday's Schedule  
Great Dane Invitational  
(University Gymnasium, Albany, N.Y.)  
Lafayette vs. Marist, 1:00 p.m.  
Albany vs. Marist, 7:00 p.m.



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**Date:** 8-30-02 (Friday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2

**Comments:** College Sports (Football, Soccer)

### **UALBANY PLAYERS ON FOOTBALL GAZETTE PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM**

Westmont, Ill. – Senior linebacker **Josh Bazan** leads a group of five University at Albany players who were named today to the Football Gazette NCAA I-AA Mid-Major All-America Preseason squad. Offensive guard **Alex Argulewicz** and tight end **Greg Sigler** joined Bazan on the first team. Free safety **Samson Brown** and defensive end **John Bolt** (Watervliet H.S.) were second-team selection.

Bazan, a two-time Football Gazette Linebacker of the Year, and Argulewicz were earlier named to The Sports Network Preseason All-America unit. Bazan totaled 103 tackles, including 17 hits for a loss and 4.0 sacks, last year. Argulewicz, a 6-foot-1, 295-pound left guard, has made 21 consecutive starts on the UAlbany offensive line.

Sigler, a 6-foot-4, 255-pound tight end, caught 10 passes for 80 yards and three touchdowns as a junior. He helped the Great Danes lead the Northeast Conference in rushing for the third straight year at 182.6 yards per game.

Brown led UAlbany with five interceptions and 10 pass break-ups last season. A 6-foot, 207-pound athlete, Brown is a three-time All-NEC selection. Bolt, at 6-foot-4 and 245 pounds, led the defense with 5.0 sacks for minus-21 yards. He posted 29 tackles in his first year as a starter.

The Great Danes, who were chosen fifth in Football Gazette's I-AA Mid-Major Poll, meet defending NCAA Division I-AA national champion Montana to open the schedule on Saturday, Sept. 7.

### **Football Gazette Preseason NCAA I-AA Mid-Major Poll**

1. Dayton, 2. Duquesne, 3. Robert Morris, 4. St. Peter's, 5. **Albany**, 6. Morehead State, 7. Sacred Heart, 8. San Diego, 9. Monmouth, 10. Davidson.

### **WOMEN'S SOCCER BEGINS WITH SCORELESS OVERTIME TIE**

Albany, N.Y. – Goalkeepers **Erika Van Zandt** (Tamarac H.S.) and **Beth Spinelli** combined on the shutout, as Albany played Wagner to a scoreless tie in double overtime on Friday in the season opener for both teams at Varsity Field.

**MORE**



## ALBANY SPORTS 2-2-2

Albany (0-0-1) had two excellent scoring chances in the overtime periods. Wagner's **Dana Honcharuk**, who recorded 25 saves, tipped **Sara Rickard's** blast off the crossbar in the seventh minute of the first extra session. In the second OT, sophomore midfielder **Julie Hirsch's** drive went off the crossbar with 53 seconds remaining.

The Great Danes, who host Army on Monday, Sept. 2 at 1:00 p.m., outshot Wagner (0-0-1) by a 35-14 margin.

-agate-

### Albany 0, Wagner 0 (2OT)

|                |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wagner (0-0-1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Albany (0-0-1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |

Wagner – No Scoring; Goalkeeper(s): Dana Honcharuk (110:00, 25 saves, 0 GA).  
Albany – No Scoring; Goalkeeper(s): Beth Spinelli (45:00, 4 saves, 0 GA), Erika Van Zandt (65:00, 6 saves, 0 GA).



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## Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

**To:** Sports  
**Organization:** Times Union

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**Date:** 8-29-02 (Thursday)

**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:**

### AMERICA EAST RELEASES PRESEASON VOLLEYBALL COACHES POLL

Boston, Mass. – New Hampshire and defending conference champion Northeastern were chosen as the America East's top volleyball teams, according to a vote of the league's head coaches. New Hampshire, which lost in last season's championship match, received four first-place votes and 46 points overall. Northeastern, the 2001 champion, earned 44 points and garnered the remaining three first-place votes. UAlbany, in its second season in the conference, was tabbed to finish in fifth place.

The Great Danes enter their second season in the America East Conference with three players remaining from the 2001 squad. Second-year head coach **Kelly Sheffield** brought in seven student-athletes from four states (Indiana, Missouri, New York, Texas) and one foreign country (Puerto Rico) to form his first recruiting class at UAlbany.

Heading the list of returnees is All-America East outside hitter **Alissa Gibbs**, who was second among the conference leaders last season at 5.01 kills per game and ranked 15th nationally in that category. She led all players in kills per conference game, averaging 5.74, and was selected Spalding Player of the Week on two occasions. She had the fifth-best single-season kills performance in school history with 463.

Gibbs ranks among the school's all-time leaders in kills, kills per game, digs and service aces, and leads all players in those categories since the program's elevation to the Division I level. Currently, Gibbs is sixth on the career kills list with 947, 10th with 697 digs, 11th with 101 service aces. She is fourth in kills per game, averaging 3.69 during her three-year career.

Joining Gibbs among the returning Albany players are 2001 starters **Jill Dombrowski** (setter) and **Susan Spierre** (middle hitter). The freshman tandem, along with Gibbs, were the only players to see action in all 87 games last season.

In her first season with the program, Dombrowski posted the school's fourth-best single-season assist total (823). She averaged 9.46 assists per game, ranking her fifth among the America East leaders. Spierre had a solid all-around freshman season, ranking third on the team in kills (1.39 per game) and tying for the lead in total blocks. The 6-foot middle hitter had seven solo blocks and assisted on 30 others for a total of 37 blocks.

The Great Danes will play home matches in University Gymnasium on 13 of their 26 competition dates, including two home tournaments. UAlbany hosts the season-opening Great Dane Invitational August 30-31, while the Albany Invitational is Sept. 20-21.

UAlbany opens its 12-game America East Conference schedule at Binghamton on Tuesday, October 8, and the Great Danes host their first home conference match against Hartford on October 18. Northeastern, which earned the conference's NCAA Tournament berth, comes to Albany on Nov. 8.

#### America East Conference Preseason Volleyball Poll

1. New Hampshire, (4), 46; 2. Northeastern, (3), 44; 3. Maine, 35; 4. Stony Brook, 27; 5. Albany, 18; 6. Binghamton, 14; 7. Hartford, 12.



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**Date:** 8-28-02 (Wednesday)

**Pages w/cover:** 1

### **Comments: College Sports**

#### **AMERICA EAST FIELD HOCKEY PRESEASON POLL ANNOUNCED**

Boston, Mass. – Defending America East Conference champion Northeastern University has been chosen by a vote of the league's head coaches to win this year's title. The Huskies, who have won seven America East championships over the last 12 years, received four of a possible six first-place votes. UAlbany was selected to finish sixth.

Head coach **Deborah Fiore**, who has a 76-40-1 record in seven seasons with the Albany program, will have nine letterwinners back from last year's squad. Senior co-captain **Allison Mann** is the top returning scorer with six goals and three assists for 15 points. **Lisa Burline**, a junior co-captain, added five goals and one assist despite missing three games with a broken thumb. **Alexis Johnson** turned in a solid freshman campaign with five goals and two assists.

**Rhonda Corcoran** and sophomore goalkeeper **Megan Akstin** will lead the Albany defense. Corcoran, a junior, was a starter in 15 of 16 games played. Akstin posted 96 saves with a 3.03 goals against average in her first season as a collegian. Sophomores **Amber Wade** and **Danielle Costello** earned valuable playing experience as midfielders last fall.

Coach Fiore has recruited a diversified class of 10 freshman players. **Tina Bryson**, who has 21 goals and 13 assists as a senior, led her high school team to the New York State Class A championship.

The Great Danes, who finished with a 5-12-0 record in their first year of America East play, begin the 2002 season on Saturday, Aug. 31 at St. Francis, Pa. UAlbany's non-conference schedule includes, Stanford (Sept. 5), Syracuse (Sept. 11), Providence (Sept. 20), Colgate (Oct. 16) and Cornell (Oct. 20). The conference opener is slated for Sept. 25 at Vermont.

#### **America East Conference Preseason Women's Field Hockey Poll**

1. Northeastern, (4), 34; 2. Boston U. (1), 27; 3. Maine, 24; 4. New Hampshire (1), 22; 5. Vermont, 12; 6. Albany, 7.



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**Date:** 8-27-02 (Tuesday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2

### **Comments: College Sports**

#### **UALBANY NAMES FOOTBALL CAPTAINS FOR 2002 SEASON**

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany head football coach Bob Ford announced today that **Josh Bazan, Samson Brown, Ryan Roeder** and **Jon George** have been voted team captains for the 2002 season. The Great Danes open their schedule on Saturday, September 7 at defending Division I-AA national champion Montana. Kickoff is 3:05 p.m. ET.

Bazan, the 2000 and 2001 *Football Gazette* I-AA Mid-Major Linebacker of the Year, will serve in a captain's role for the second straight year. He was recently named to The Sports Network Preseason I-AA All-America squad. Bazan, a senior, recorded 103 tackles last year, the second consecutive season he has topped the 100-mark.

Brown, a senior free safety, is the only returning player in the Northeast Conference to earn first-team all-league honors three times. He led UAlbany with five interceptions and 10 pass break-ups, plus totaled 44 tackles. Roeder, a senior quarterback, passed for 1,019 yards and seven touchdowns. He ranks fifth in passing yards on the school's all-time list with 2,198.

George, a junior fullback, is the team's top returning rusher. He had 38 carries for 201 yards and four touchdowns, plus caught five passes for 37 yards. Albany reached the seven-win mark for the fifth time in the last six years with a 7-3 record in 2001.

**\*\*\*UAlbany's football media luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 28. 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 11:45 a.m. Albany's coaching staff, team captains, and other selected players will be in attendance.**

#### **AMERICA EAST WOMEN'S SOCCER PRESEASON POLL ANNOUNCED**

Boston, Mass. – Boston University, the two-time America East Conference defending champion, is again the preseason choice to win this year's women's soccer title, according to a vote of the conference's head coaches. The Terriers received six of a possible nine first-place votes. UAlbany was picked to finish ninth.

**MORE**



## **ALBANY SPORTS 2-2-2**

The Great Danes enter their second season in the America East Conference with 15 holdovers from the 2001 squad. Third-year head coach **Joanna Tomasino** brought in six freshmen to form the basis of her second recruiting class at the school. Eighteen of the team's 21 players are sophomores and freshmen.

However, Tomasino's club returns 10 of 11 starters from last season, including its top four scorers. Among the returnees is sophomore **Sara Rickard**, who led the way last season with seven goals. Her 14 points tied the sixth-best performance in school history, and was the most by any player since the program's move to the NCAA Division I level.

The 2002 Great Danes will be captained by a pair of experienced defenders. **Jen Schroeckenthaler** is a three-year letterwinner on defense, while junior **Vanessa Vukov** has played in 34 career matches. Joining the captains as upperclassmen is senior midfielder **Erin Stanek**, the team's leading scorer in 2000.

The Great Danes, who finished 1-16-1 overall last season, play a challenging schedule, with road dates at both 2001 America East Champion Boston University (Nov. 3) as well as second-place Hartford (Oct. 20). The team plays home conference games versus New Hampshire (Sept. 22), Vermont (Sept. 29), Stony Brook (Oct. 6) and Maine (Oct. 24).

UAlbany opens its season with back-to-back home games on Labor Day weekend, against Wagner (Aug. 30) and Army (Sept. 2). For the third year in a row, the team will host the Governor's Cup at Varsity Field (Sept. 14-15).

### **America East Conference Preseason Women's Soccer Poll**

1. Boston U. (6), 76; 2. Hartford (3), 75; 3. Maine, 53; 3. New Hampshire, 46; 5. Northeastern, 45; 6. Stony Brook, 44; 7. Binghamton, 28; 8. Vermont, 26; 9. Albany, 10.



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**Date:** 8-26-02 (Monday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Soccer.

### **UALBANY PICKED SIXTH IN PRESEASON AMERICA EAST SOCCER POLL**

Boston, Mass. – Defending America East Conference regular-season champion Boston University is the preseason favorite to win the men's soccer title, according to a vote of the conference's head coaches. The Terriers received seven of a possible nine first-place votes.

UAlbany, who narrowly missed qualifying for the America East postseason tournament in its first year as a conference member, was chosen to finish sixth. Head coach **Johan Aarnio** has nine starters returning from a squad that went 8-9-0 overall and 5-6-0 in conference play.

The Great Danes return three of their top four scorers. **Greg Chevalier** and **Ashtian Holmes**, a pair of seniors, each scored seven goals and three assists for 17 points in 2001. **Steven Procknal** added five goals, including the game-winner against conference foe Vermont.

Senior goalkeeper **Trevor Serraro** started 15 of 16 matches played. He posted a 2.00 goals against average and a .735 saves percentage. **Lucas Machado**, a sophomore forward, was a member of last year's America East All-Rookie Team.

Aarnio has added eleven newcomers to his roster. Defender **Rodrigo Marion** played on the Bolivian national team. UAlbany's midfield will be improved with the addition of Kentucky transfer **Savvas Theofilou**, a native of Cyprus, and **Geza Teleky**, who transferred from Connecticut.

The Great Danes begin their 2002 season on Sunday, Sept. 1 at Marist. Albany's home schedule includes visits to Varsity Field by Oregon State (Sept. 25) and San Diego (Oct. 6). Conference play opens with a trip to Maine on Oct. 2.

### **America East Conference Preseason Men's Soccer Poll**

1. Boston U. (7), 78; 2. Hartford (2), 73; 3. Northeastern, 62; 3. New Hampshire, 41; 5. Stony Brook, 39; 6. Albany, 38; 7. Vermont, 37; 8. Binghamton, 21; 9. Maine 16.





# UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS & RECREATION

For Immediate Release  
Sunday, August 25, 2002

Contact: Brian DePasquale  
(518) 442-3072

### UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY ANNOUNCES MEN'S LACROSSE SIGNINGS FOR 2002-03

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany head men's lacrosse coach Scott Marr announced today that six student-athletes have signed national letters of intent to play for the Great Danes in 2002-03. Defenseman **Ryan Olmstead** has also transferred to UAlbany from Hofstra University.

**Matthew Green**, a 6-foot, 195-pound midfielder from Canandaigua, N.Y., earned high school All-America honors by U.S. Lacrosse. Green totaled 29 goals and 13 assists as a senior, plus was second on the team in ground balls with 67. **Chris Martocchia** was an All-Nassau County attacker on Long Island. Martocchia, who is also an inside linebacker on the UAlbany football squad, scored 41 goals and 20 assists last spring. Martocchia (6-2, 225) registered 130 career goals as a scholastic player.

**Kevin Gallagher**, a first-team New Jersey Interscholastic Lacrosse League B Division midfielder, scored 223 career points. He recorded 33 goals and 33 assists as a senior, and posted nine multiple-goal performances. **Eric Dunne** was an honorable mention All-Nassau County defenseman. **Jim Stankard**, a 6-foot-3, 185-pound midfielder, tallied 13 goals and five assists last year. Stankard's Massapequa squads won three Conference A-1 championships.

The Great Danes have picked up two transfers who should have an immediate impact. **Bakary Janneh**, a 6-foot-2 midfielder from Binghamton, N.Y., played for two years at Hudson Valley Community College. Olmstead (6-3, 205) comes to UAlbany from Hofstra, the nation's sixth-ranked team in 2002. Olmstead, who will have three years of athletic eligibility remaining, was an All-Section I performer at Yorktown High School.

UAlbany posted the best one-year turnaround in the program's history by following a 3-8 season with a 9-7 record in 2002. The Great Danes won the America East Conference's regular-season title and advanced to the conference tournament championship final.

#### University at Albany Men's Lacrosse Newcomers

| Name                                      | Pos. | Cl. | Ht.  | Wt. | High School/Hometown                  |
|---|------|-----|------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| Eric Dunne                                | Def. | Fr. | 5-10 | 180 | Wantagh/Wantagh, N.Y.                 |
| Kevin Gallagher                           | Mid. | Fr. | 6-1  | 200 | Kinnelon/Kinnelon, N.J.               |
| Matthew Green                             | Mid. | Fr. | 6-0  | 195 | Canandaigua Academy/Canandaigua, N.Y. |
| +Bakary Janneh                            | Mid. | Jr. | 6-2  | 201 | Binghamton/Binghamton, N.Y.           |
| Chris Martocchia                          | Att. | Fr. | 6-2  | 225 | Wantagh/Wantagh, N.Y.                 |
| *Ryan Olmstead                            | Def. | So. | 6-3  | 205 | Yorktown/Yorktown Heights, N.Y.       |
| Jim Stankard                              | Mid. | Fr. | 6-3  | 185 | Massapequa/Massapequa, N.Y.           |
| +Hudson Valley Community College transfer |      |     |      |     |                                       |
| *Hofstra University transfer              |      |     |      |     |                                       |







# UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS & RECREATION

For Immediate Release  
Thursday, August 22, 2002

Contact: Brian DePasquale  
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### UALBANY ANNOUNCES 2002-03 MEN'S & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

Albany, N.Y. -- University at Albany Director of Athletics and Recreation Lee McElroy announced today the school's men's and women's basketball schedules for the 2002-03 season. The Great Danes, who moved to the Division I level in 1999-2000, will compete in the America East Conference for the second straight year.

The UAlbany men's program begins its America East schedule on January 4 at Maine. The season concludes with the America East Conference Tournament on March 9, 10 and 15 at Boston University's Walter Brown Arena.

The Great Danes' non-conference slate is highlighted by the first meeting with Notre Dame on Nov. 30 in South Bend, Ind. The Fighting Irish reached 2002 NCAA Tournament's second round, and finished with a 22-11 record. UAlbany will also battle Syracuse at the Carrier Dome on Dec. 28, and face crosstown-rival Siena in the season opener on Nov. 22 at Pepsi Arena. Albany plays a 14-game home schedule at the Recreation and Convocation Center. In addition to the America East teams, Colgate and Bucknell, of the Patriot League, Robert Morris, Long Island and Quinnipiac, of the Northeast Conference, and Ivy League foe Dartmouth visit the RACC.

Head coach **Will Brown** has seven letterwinners returning, including senior guard **Antione Johnson**, who averaged 11.3 points. **Earv Opong**, a 5-foot-7 point guard, contributed 8.2 points in his first season with the program. He was ranked among the conference leaders in assists (3.4 pg) and steals (1.8 pg).

The UAlbany women's basketball program begins America East Conference play against Boston University on January 9. The conference tournament is scheduled for March 13, 14 & 15 at Chase Family Arena in Hartford, Conn.

The Great Danes open the season against Siena, a 2002 WNIT participant, on Nov. 22 at Pepsi Arena. UAlbany is entered in the Cornell Classic on Dec. 6-7. The tournament field includes Colgate and Long Island. A 13-game home schedule at the RACC begins with Ivy League opponent Yale on Nov. 26.

First-year head coach **Trina Thomas Patterson** welcomes four starters back from last year's squad. **Becky Ayers** (12.2 ppg) and **Danielle Hutcheson** had solid freshman campaigns. Hutcheson, a 6-foot-4 center, averaged 11.1 points and was third among the America East leaders in rebounding at 8.0 per game. Senior guard **Jess McGinlay** also scored in double figures with an 11.4 average.

Three home doubleheaders are scheduled, November 26 (M-Bucknell, W-Yale), January 2 (M-Colgate, W-Lafayette) and February 8 (M&W-Maine), this season. The February 8th doubleheader features Big Purple Growl, the University's Winter Homecoming.

**MORE**



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**2002-03 Albany Men's Basketball Schedule**

**November**

22 (Fri.), at Siena (Pepsi Arena), 8:00; 26 (Tue.), **Bucknell**, 7:30; 30 (Sat.), at Notre Dame, 2:00.

**December**

9 (Mon.), at Army, 7:00; 11 (Wed.), **Long Island**, 7:00; 21 (Sat.), **Robert Morris**, 1:00; 23 (Mon.), **Quinnipiac**, 7:00; 28 (Sat.), at Syracuse, 7:00; 30 (Mon.), at Lafayette, 7:30.

**January**

2 (Thu.), **Colgate**, 7:30; 4 (Sat.), at Maine\*, TBA; 8 (Wed.), **Boston U.\***, 7:00; 11 (Sat.), **New Hampshire\***, 1:00; 15 (Wed.), **Vermont\***, 7:00; 18 (Sat.), at Stony Brook\*, TBA; 21 (Tue.), at Binghamton\*, 7:00; 25 (Sat.), **Dartmouth**, 1:00; 29 (Wed.), at Hartford\*, 7:00.

**February**

2 (Sun.), **Northeastern\***, 1:00; 5 (Wed.), at Boston U.\*, 7:00; 8 (Sat.), **Maine\***, 7:30+; 14 (Fri.), **Stony Brook\***, 7:00; 16 (Sun.), at New Hampshire\*, 1:00; 20 (Thu.), **Binghamton\***, 7:00; 22 (Sat.), **Hartford\***, 1:00; 26 (Wed.), at Northeastern\*, TBA.

**March**

2 (Sun.), at Vermont\*, 1:00; 9, 10 & 15, America East Conference Tournament (Walter Brown Arena, Boston, Mass.).

\*America East Conference Opponent

+Big Purple Growl

**2002-03 Albany Women's Basketball Schedule**

**November**

22 (Fri.), at Siena (Pepsi Arena), 6:00; 26 (Tue.), **Yale**, 5:00.

**December**

1 (Sun.), at Sacred Heart, TBA; 6-7 (Fri.-Sat.), at Cornell Classic (Albany, Colgate, Cornell, Long Island), TBA; 12 (Thu.), **Army**, 7:00; 15 (Sun.), **Wagner**, 1:00; 21 (Sat.), at St. Francis, N.Y., 1:00; 28 (Sat.), **Towson**, 11:00 a.m.

**January**

2 (Thu.), **Lafayette**, 5:00; 5 (Sun.), at Navy, 2:00; 9 (Thu.), at Boston U.\*, 7:00; 12 (Sun.), at New Hampshire\*, 1:00; 15 (Wed.), at Vermont\*, 7:00; 18 (Sat.), **Stony Brook\***, 1:00; 22 (Wed.), **Binghamton\***, 7:00; 29 (Wed.), **Hartford\***, 7:00.

**February**

1 (Sat.), at Northeastern\*, 1:00; 6 (Thu.), **Boston U.\***, 7:00; 8 (Sat.), **Maine\***, 5:00+; 12 (Wed.), **Northeastern\***, 7:00; 15 (Sat.), **New Hampshire\***, 1:00; 19 (Wed.), at Binghamton\*, 7:00; 22 (Sat.), at Hartford\*, 2:00; 26 (Wed.), at Maine\*, TBA.

**March**

1 (Sat.), **Vermont\***, 1:00; 5 (Wed.), at Stony Brook\*, 7:00; 13, 14 & 15, America East Conference Tournament (Chase Family Arena, Hartford, Conn.).

\*America East Conference Opponent

+Big Purple Growl



# Northeast Conference

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For Immediate Release

August 20, 2002

## 2002 Preseason All-Northeast Conference Football Team Announced

### *Albany Places NEC-High Seven Players On Squad*

**Somerset, NJ** -- The Northeast Conference announced its 2002 preseason all-NEC football team, which was selected in voting conducted by the league's eight head coaches. Preseason favorite Albany landed seven spots on the squad, followed by Monmouth and Robert Morris with five apiece. Defending NEC champion Sacred Heart totaled three players and Central Connecticut State added two, while St. Francis (PA) and Stony Brook each placed a single player on the team.

Albany senior **Ryan Roeder (Bethlehem, PA/Bethlehem Catholic)** is the coaches pick at quarterback. In 2001, Roeder shared time with the now departed Marcus Rotondi, throwing for 1,019 yards and seven touchdowns. He finished fourth in the conference in completion percentage (53.1%) and fifth in passing efficiency (131.8 points).

The league's top two returning ground gainers - Robert Morris senior **Sam Dorsett (Hollywood, FL/Flanagan)** and Central Connecticut State senior **Clinton Dunston (New Bedford, MA/New Bedford)** - comprise the preseason all-NEC backfield. Dorsett led the conference in rushing for the second straight season with 1,166 yards, scored ten touchdowns and averaged a league-high 6.0 yards per carry to earn first-team all-NEC honors for the second straight season. Dorsett was also voted to the 2001 Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major All-America team. In just two seasons, the speedy tailback has vaulted to second on the NEC career rushing list with 2,709 yards. Dunston, who ranks eighth on the NEC career chart with 2,053 yards, has been the Blue Devils' leading rusher in each of his three seasons with the club. Dunston galloped for 761 yards (fourth in the conference) and five touchdowns in 2001.

Stony Brook junior **Londre Blocker (Manhasset, NY/Manhasset)** and Robert Morris sophomore **Stephen McNair (Miami, FL/Miami Edison)** both have just one year of experience under their belt, but that did not prevent NEC coaches from selecting them as the league's premier returning wide receivers. Blocker, the 2001 NEC Offensive Rookie of the Year, collected 31 passes for 482 yards and five touchdowns. He served notice in just his third collegiate game, snaring nine passes for 216 yards and three touchdowns in a win over Wagner. The fleet-footed McNair came on strong late in the season and averaged 18.7 yards on his 15 receptions, two of which went for touchdowns.

Albany senior **Greg Sigler (Vero Beach, FL/Vero Beach)** earns the nod at tight end. Sigler caught just ten passes last season, but three of them were for scores. At 6-4, 255 lbs., Sigler's blocking has helped spark an Albany running attack that has led the NEC in each of the last three years.

Four returning all-stars comprise the preseason all-NEC offensive line. Albany senior guard **Alex Argulewicz (Wallkill, NY/Wallkill Central)**, a Sports Network All-American, and Robert Morris junior center **Kevin Wachhaus (Lancaster, PA/Manheim)** were both NEC first team picks a year ago, following their second team selections in 2000. Joining the duo are two 2001 second team picks, Albany sophomore tackle **Geir Gudmundsen (Saugerties, NY/Saugerties)** and Sacred Heart senior tackle **Jason St. John (Oakville, CT/Watertown)**. Rounding out the unit is Robert Morris senior tackle **Scott Konchek (Coatesville, PA/Coatesville)**.

(1-of-3; 2002 NEC Football Preseason All-Conference Team Release)

Central Connecticut State University • Fairleigh Dickinson University • Long Island University  
University of Maryland Baltimore County • Monmouth University • Mount St. Mary's College  
Quinnipiac University • Robert Morris University • Sacred Heart University • St. Francis (NY) College  
St. Francis (PA) University • Wagner College



All 11 members of the 2002 preseason all-NEC defensive unit have been selected on at least one occasion as a league all-star.

Sacred Heart senior **Shaun Hubbard (Neptune, NJ/Fort Scott CC)**, a 2001 Sports Network All-America, highlights the defensive line, joining Central Connecticut State senior **Mike Kirk (Stormville, CT/Carmel)**, Monmouth senior **Chris Ammacher (Hawthorne, NJ/Hawthorne)** and Albany junior **John Bolt (Watervliet, NY/Watervliet)**. Hubbard, Kirk and Ammacher were first team all-conference performers a year ago, while Bolt was named to the second team. Ammacher and Hubbard tied for the league lead with 8.5 sacks last season and also recorded 16 hits apiece behind the line of scrimmage. Kirk, a run stopper, joins Ammacher as members of the Sports Network preseason All-America team. Bolt totaled 5.0 sacks in 2001.

A superb group of linebackers is headed by the two-time NEC Defensive Player of the Year, Sacred Heart senior **Kayode Mayowa (Providence, RI/LaSalle Academy)**. He is joined by Albany senior **Josh Bazan (Bronx, NY/Cardinal Spellman)** and Monmouth senior **Joe Sentipal (Hasbrouck Heights, NJ/Hasbrouck Heights)**. One of the most decorated defensive players in league history and a 2001 Sports Network All-America, Mayowa amassed 93 tackles, 4.0 sacks, three interceptions and recovered five fumbles for the defending NEC and mid-major champion Pioneers. He enters his final campaign second on the league's career tackles for losses chart (50) and ranks third in stops (334) and ninth in sacks (15.5). Bazan, a 2001 Sports Network All-America and a first team all-NEC honoree the last two seasons, paced the conference with four forced fumbles and finished fourth with 100 tackles. Sentipal garnered first team accolades two years ago, but had his 2001 season cut short due to a bout with mononucleosis. As a junior, Sentipal landed a spot in the NEC record book when he established a league single-season record with 15.5 sacks.

Albany senior free safety **Samson Brown (Bronx, NY/Cardinal Spellman)**, Monmouth senior cornerback **Michael Pitts (Tenafly, NJ/Tenafly)**, Robert Morris senior cornerback **Corey Oaks (Pittsburgh, PA/Perry)** and St. Francis (PA) senior strong safety **Daunte Neal (Marbury, MD/Lackey)** comprise the preseason all-NEC secondary. Brown is the lone three-time returning all-star in the conference, earning first team honors each year. Last season, he picked off five passes, second in the NEC, and broke up five others. Pitts and Oaks posted identical stats - three interceptions and eight passes defended - to earn second team all-league recognition in 2001. Two seasons ago, Neal set an NEC single-season record with 139 tackles and added 72 more in 2001.

Monmouth claims two of the three spots on the special teams unit with senior placekicker **Ryan Peterson (Monroeville, NJ/Delsea Regional)** and senior return specialist **Kevin Faulkner (Spotswood, NJ/Spotswood)**. Albany senior **Billy Pike (Lawrence, NY/Lawrence)**, a first team all-NEC competitor in 2001, is the pick at punter. Peterson booted an NEC-high ten field goals (in 15 attempts) and ranked ninth in the conference in scoring with 52 points a year ago. Faulkner was the third most prolific punt returner in the conference last season, averaging 8.9 yards per return. He brought back a punt 53 yards for a touchdown in a win over Canisius. Pike dropped an NEC-high 19 punts inside the opponents' 20 yard line and ranked second in the league with 34.5 yards per kick in 2001.



## 2002 NEC Football Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Albany (4)
2. Robert Morris (3)
3. Sacred Heart (1)
4. Monmouth
5. Central Connecticut State
6. Stony Brook
7. Wagner
8. St. Francis (PA)

## 2002 NEC Football Preseason All-Conference Team

### Offense

| Pos | Name            |      | School                    | Ht   | Wt  | Yr | Hometown/High School             |
|-----|-----------------|------|---------------------------|------|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB  | Ryan Roeder     |      | Albany                    | 6-1  | 195 | Sr | Bethlehem, PA/Bethlehem Catholic |
| RB  | Clinton Dunston |      | Central Connecticut State | 5-10 | 190 | Sr | New Bedford, MA/New Bedford      |
| RB  | Sam Dorsett     | \$*  | Robert Morris             | 5-9  | 190 | Sr | Hollywood, FL/Flanagan           |
| WR  | Stephen McNair  |      | Robert Morris             | 5-6  | 150 | So | Miami, FL/Miami Edison           |
| WR  | Londre Blocker  |      | Stony Brook               | 6-1  | 180 | Jr | Manhasset, NY/Manhasset          |
| TE  | Greg Sigler     |      | Albany                    | 6-4  | 255 | Sr | Vero Beach, FL/Vero Beach        |
| OL  | Alex Argulewicz | \$ ^ | Albany                    | 6-1  | 295 | Sr | Wallkill, NY/Wallkill Central    |
| OL  | Geir Gudmundsen | !    | Albany                    | 6-6  | 310 | So | Saugerties, NY/Saugerties        |
| OL  | Scott Konchek   |      | Robert Morris             | 6-8  | 320 | Sr | Coatesville, PA/Coatesville      |
| OL  | Kevin Wachhaus  | \$ ^ | Robert Morris             | 6-4  | 265 | Jr | Lancaster, PA/Manheim            |
| OL  | Jason St. John  | !    | Sacred Heart              | 6-5  | 282 | Sr | Oakville, CT/Watertown           |

### Defense

| Pos | Name           |      | School                    | Ht   | Wt  | Yr | Hometown/High School                    |
|-----|----------------|------|---------------------------|------|-----|----|---|
| DL  | John Bolt      | !    | Albany                    | 6-4  | 240 | Jr | Watervliet/Watervliet, NY               |
| DL  | Mike Kirk      | \$   | Central Connecticut State | 6-0  | 250 | Sr | Stormville, NY/Carmel                   |
| DL  | Chris Ammacher | \$   | Monmouth                  | 6-4  | 240 | Sr | Hawthorne, NJ/Hawthorne                 |
| DL  | Shaun Hubbard  | \$ ^ | Sacred Heart              | 6-3  | 240 | Sr | Neptune, NJ/Fort Scott CC               |
| LB  | Josh Bazan     | \$*  | Albany                    | 6-0  | 210 | Sr | Bronx, NY/Cardinal Spellman             |
| LB  | Joe Sentipal   | *    | Monmouth                  | 5-11 | 225 | Sr | Hasbrouck Heights, NJ/Hasbrouck Heights |
| LB  | Kayode Mayowa  | \$*  | Sacred Heart              | 6-0  | 222 | Sr | Providence, RI/LaSalle Academy          |
| DB  | Samson Brown   | \$*# | Albany                    | 6-0  | 207 | Sr | Bronx, NY/Cardinal Spellman             |
| DB  | Michael Pitts  | !    | Monmouth                  | 5-11 | 190 | Sr | Tenafly, NJ/Tenafly                     |
| DB  | Corey Oaks     | !    | Robert Morris             | 5-11 | 191 | Sr | Pittsburgh, PA/Perry                    |
| DB  | Daunte Neal    | ^    | St. Francis (PA)          | 6-1  | 180 | Sr | Marbury, MD/Lackey                      |

### Special Teams

| Pos | Name           |    | School   | Ht  | Wt  | Yr | Hometown/High School            |
|-----|----------------|----|----------|-----|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| K   | Ryan Peterson  |    | Monmouth | 6-0 | 170 | Sr | Monroeville, NJ/Delsea Regional |
| P   | Billy Pike     | \$ | Albany   | 6-1 | 200 | Sr | Lawrence, NY/Lawrence           |
| RS  | Kevin Faulkner |    | Monmouth | 5-8 | 175 | Sr | Spotswood, NJ/Spotswood         |

\$ 2001 First Team All-NEC Selection  
 \* 2000 First Team All-NEC Selection  
 # 1999 First Team All-NEC Selection

! 2001 Second Team All-NEC Selection  
 ^ 2000 Second Team All-NEC Selection



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For Immediate Release

August 20, 2002

## Albany Tabbed To Capture Northeast Conference Football Championship *Great Danes Seek First-Ever NEC Title*

Somerset, NJ -- A perennial contender for the NEC football championship, Albany has emerged as the favorite to collect its first league crown, according to a preseason poll of NEC head coaches. The Great Danes were awarded four first place votes, narrowly edging out Robert Morris, which received three votes. Defending NEC and I-AA Mid-Major champion Sacred Heart was selected third, earning a single first place nod. Monmouth claimed the fourth spot in the poll, followed by Central Connecticut State, Stony Brook, Wagner and St. Francis (PA).

Albany (7-3, 5-2 NEC) has knocked on the door in each of its three years as a member of the NEC, but has yet to cash in with its first conference championship. In 2001, the Great Danes remained in title contention until a late season loss to Robert Morris forced head coach Bob Ford and his charges to settle for third place. With many of the pieces returning this season, Albany has emerged as the preseason NEC favorite and will likely retain its status as an elite contender for the NEC crown.

While the Great Danes have led the NEC rushing offense the last three seasons, they must find a way to replace Brian Manigault, who finished his career fourth on the school's all-time rushing list and gained 946 yards in 2001. Junior **Dustin Wilson (Kirkwood, NY/Susquehanna Valley)** served as Manigault's understudy at tailback, but seems ready to emerge in his own right this season. He will compete for a starting spot with sophomore **Rohann Vidal (Laurelton, NY/Holy Cross)** and Hudson Valley CC transfer **Gary Jones (Ravena, NY/Hudson CC)**. At fullback, junior **Jon George (Scotia, NY/Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake)** is as steady as they come. Senior **Ryan Roeder (Bethlehem, PA/Bethlehem Catholic)** appears ready to take over on a full-time basis at quarterback after sharing duties with Marcus Rotondi in each of the past two seasons. Despite missing two games following off-season surgery, Roeder passed for 1,019 yards and seven touchdowns. With stellar wideouts Chris Phillis (a three-time all-NEC performer) and Jay McFarlane lost to graduation, Ford spent the spring season searching for their replacements. One possibility is **Shawn Miller (Troy, NY/Hudson Valley CC)**, a first-team All-America receiver at Hudson Valley CC, who caught 41 passes and nine touchdowns in 2001. The Great Danes are solid up front with the return of Sports Network Preseason All-America guard **Alex Argulewicz (Wallkill, NY/Wallkill Central)** and second team all-NEC left tackle **Geir Gudmundsen (Saugerties, NY/Saugerties)**.

Albany lowered its scoring defense by more than nine points per game last season, relying on the terrific all-around play of **Josh Bazan (Bronx, NY/Cardinal Spellman)**, the Football Gazette Mid-Major Linebacker of the Year. Bazan caused an NEC-high four forced fumbles and led the Great Danes in tackles (103) and hits for a loss (17). The senior is a two-time first team all-NEC pick. The ringleader of the Albany secondary is senior free safety **Samson Brown (Bronx, NY/Cardinal Spellman)**, a three-time NEC all-star. Brown ranked second in the conference last season with five interceptions. One of three returnees on the defensive line, second team all-NEC selection **John Bolt (Watervliet, NY/Watervliet)** paced the Great Danes with five sacks and bolstered a run defense that finished 17th nationally.

Though the departure of Bryan Bagstad - whose 22 career field goals ranks him third in NEC history - has left a void at placekicker, senior **Billy Pike (Lawrence, NY/Lawrence)** returns to handle punting chores. Pike was named to the all-NEC second team in 2001 after placing an NEC-high 19 punts inside the opponents' 20 yard line.

(1-of-5; 2002 NEC Football Preseason Poll Release/Season Preview)

Central Connecticut State University • Fairleigh Dickinson University • Long Island University  
University of Maryland Baltimore County • Monmouth University • Mount St. Mary's College  
Quinnipiac University • Robert Morris University • Sacred Heart University • St. Francis (NY) College  
St. Francis (PA) University • Wagner College

### Northeast Conference 2002 Football Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Albany (4)
2. Robert Morris (3)
3. Sacred Heart (1)
4. Monmouth
5. Central Connecticut State
6. Stony Brook
7. Wagner
8. St. Francis (PA)

First place votes in parentheses.



**Robert Morris (6-3, 6-1 NEC)** found itself in a completely unfamiliar position at the conclusion of the 2001 season - second place. After five straight years of either sharing or winning the NEC championship outright, Robert Morris succumbed to I-AA Mid-Major Champion Sacred Heart, which defeated the Colonials, 44-31, in an early season matchup of the two best teams in the conference. However, there are many who believe the head-to-head result may have been different had the contest taken place later in the season when the Colonials regrouped after an 0-3 start to win their final seven games, all in dominating fashion. With just four starters returning on a defense that ranked eighth in the NEC and a key loss on offense, head coach Joe Walton has his work cut out for him as Robert Morris heads into battle to reclaim its crown. There is no other way to describe the graduation of Tim Levcik - the all-time leading passer in both Robert Morris and NEC history - as anything other than devastating. Levcik was a two-time NEC Offensive Player of the Year and the Colonials posted a brilliant 29-11 record during his tenure. While Levcik attempts to earn a roster spot with the Miami Dolphins after signing as a free agent, Walton spent most of the spring looking for a new quarterback. Sophomore **Richard Demaio (Pittsburgh, PA/Chartiers Valley)**, who did not see any time behind center in 2001, appears to be the favorite, but he will be pushed by a number of candidates including senior **Shawn Martin (Jamaica, NY/Canarsie)**, who caught 25 passes at wide receiver last season. While quarterback will be a huge question mark, there is no such trepidation at running back, where senior **Sam Dorsett (Hollywood, FL/Flanagan)** returns for his senior campaign. Dorsett, a two-time all-NEC honoree who was named a I-AA Mid-Major All-America, is a lightning quick tailback who has posted back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons to lead the NEC in rushing yardage in 2000 and 2001. Junior **Dante Settles (Washington, D.C./Northwestern)** made a smooth transition from running back to wide receiver in 2001, grabbing 16 passes. He will be joined by sophomore **Stephen McNair (Miami, FL/Miami Edison)**, a speedy wideout and preseason all-NEC pick who made an impact as a long ball threat as a freshman. The offensive line features junior center **Kevin Wachhaus (Lancaster, PA/Manheim)**, a two-time NEC all-star and the 6-8, 320 lb. **Scott Konchek (Coatesville, PA/Coatesville)**, a senior who is a preseason all-NEC selection. A number of new faces will be integrated into Dan Radakovich's defense this season. Junior defensive end **Alex Wilson (Staten Island, NY/St. Peter's)** is the most experienced hand on a young defensive line, while sophomore linebackers **Jon LeDonne (Aliquippa, PA/Aliquippa)** and **Justin Marino (Uniontown, OH/Green)** will look to pick up some of the slack left by the graduation of Reggie Chambers, a first team all-NEC standout. Senior **Jason Hempstead (Richmond, VA/Highland Springs)** enters his fourth year as a starter at strong safety. He is the team's leading returning tackler (66). Preseason all-NEC senior cornerback **Corey Oaks (Pittsburgh, PA/Perry)** picked off a team-best three passes to earn second team status in 2001. Walton will also have to find a way to replace placekicker Jeff Carlo, the NEC's all-time leader with 35 field goals.

The golden era of football at defending I-AA Mid-Major champion **Sacred Heart (11-0, 8-0 NEC)** has a new man at the controls. Bill Lacey, who handled offensive coordinator duties the last two seasons, will attempt to follow in the footsteps of Jim Fleming, who in two seasons at the helm of the Pioneers posted a superb 21-1 record, and in 2001 presided over the program's first NEC championship and ECAC Football Classic victory over Duquesne before landing a job as secondary and special teams coach at North Carolina. While this will be Lacey's first opportunity as head coach, he does not enter the season empty-handed. Sacred Heart returns 51 players from last season's 11-0 squad, though Lacey will have to fill gaping holes at quarterback, running back and wide receiver where NEC all-stars Justin Holtfreter, Marvin Royal and DeVeren Johnson (a sixth round pick of the Dallas Cowboys) helped the Pioneers average a league record 40.9 points per game but were all lost to graduation. Vying for the quarterback position are sophomores **Steve Clayton (Pontiac, MI/Pontiac Central)** and **EJ Nemeth (Mercerville, NJ/Notre Dame)**, both of whom come off strong spring practice seasons. Also in the running is **Joe Kroells (Burbank, CA/Glendale CC)**, a transfer from Glendale (CA) Community College. Junior **Jason Bonadies (Southbridge, MA/Southbridge)**, who was productive in limited action last season, will attempt to fill Royal's shoes at running back, while wideouts **Doug Geoffrey (Meriden, CT/O.H. Platt)** and **Andrew Gonzalez (Willimantic, CT/Windham)** are veterans who combined for 49 receptions and five touchdowns in 2001. The offensive line is headed by preseason all-NEC senior tackle **Jason St. John (Oakville, CT/Watertown)**. Defense should continue to be a strong suit for the Pioneers - the team paced the NEC in scoring defense (15.2 ppg) and interceptions (24) last season - with two-time NEC Defensive Player of the Year **Kayode Mayowa (Providence, RI/Lasalle Academy)** returning for his senior campaign. Mayowa, who plugs holes at middle linebacker, is a terrific athlete whose pursues the ball as well as anyone in the conference. He is joined at linebacker by **Craig Capurso (Bristol, CT/Bristol Central)**, who appears primed for a big senior season after finishing fourth on the team in tackles in 2001. All four starters return on the defensive line, including first team all-NEC standout **Shaun Hubbard (Neptune, NJ/Fort Scott CC)**, whose 8.5 sacks tied for the league lead. In the secondary, senior **Blake Neri (Dover, NH/Dover)** led the league with six pickoffs and was voted to the all-NEC second team, while 2000 NEC Rookie of the Year **Brian Pawlowski (Branchburg, NJ/Immaculata)** broke up ten passes, including three interceptions. Senior **Tim Redican (Meriden, CT/Maloney)** booted nine field goals last season and led all NEC placekickers with 76 points.

One of only three schools to ever win an NEC football crown (the others: Robert Morris and Sacred Heart), **Monmouth (7-3, 5-2 NEC)** reemerged as a title contender last season, relying on a suffocating defense. The Hawks shutout three opponents, allowed 20 or more points in a game just twice and ranked second in the conference in both scoring and total defense. With improved offensive output - the Hawks lifted their scoring average by nearly six points per contest - Monmouth hung in the title race until losing to Sacred Heart on the final weekend of the season. Though head coach Kevin Callahan returns six starters on offense, the most telling loss will be that of running back Matt Merklinger, who ranked second in the conference in all-purpose yardage in 2001. Senior tailback **Chad Smith (Pleasantville, NJ/St. Augustine Prep)** will likely inherit his spot in the lineup. After a strong freshman campaign, Smith saw limited playing time in each of his next two seasons, though he was effective when called upon - witness his 5.6 yards per carry in 2001. Handing the ball to Smith will be strong-armed junior signal caller **Bill Rankin (Toms River, NJ/Toms River South)**, who ranks second on the Monmouth career passing list with 3,179 yards. The Hawks are 12-8 in games he has started over the last two years. Rankin will look to establish new connections in 2002 with just one returning player on the roster - junior wideout **Billy Lynn (Fair Lawn, NJ/Fair Lawn)** - who has caught a collegiate pass. Lynn hauled in 24 aerials



last season. The offensive line suffered a blow with the graduation of all-NEC performers Eric Buraszkeski and Matt Herdman, but the return of a healthy **Mike Vitarello (West Orange, NJ/West Orange)** at right tackle (6-4, 340 lbs.) should help cushion the losses. A terrific defense could even get better in 2002 with nine starters back in the fold. A wealth of talent is spread across the defensive line, including a pair of all-NEC standouts in **Chris Ammacher (Hawthorne, NJ/Hawthorne)** and **Sean Kerr (Summit, NJ/Summit)**. Ammacher, a senior defensive end, tied for the league lead with 8.5 sacks last season, while Kerr, a junior defensive tackle, was effective in plugging the run. The linebacking corps features the return of **Joe Sentipal (Hasbrouck Heights, NJ/Hasbrouck Heights)**, a first team all-NEC pick in 2000 who contracted mono two games into the 2001 campaign. He joins sophomore **Dan Blazosky (Coaldale, PA/Panther Valley)**, a two-time NEC Rookie of the Week last season. In the secondary, All-America free safety Aaron Edwards must be replaced, but Monmouth can rely on second team all-NEC cornerback **Michael Pitts (Tenafly, NJ/Tenafly)**. Pitts, a senior, picked off a team-high three passes. Senior **Justin Rosato (Old Bridge, NJ/St. John Vianney)** logged 39 solo tackles from his strong safety spot. One of the top placekickers in the conference, senior **Ryan Peterson (Monroeville, PA/Delsea Regional)** was successful on 10-15 attempts, while punter **Glenn Nicholl (Hazlet, NJ/Raritan)** dropped 17 kicks inside the 20-yard line.

After a near complete roster upheaval by Paul Schudel in his first year guiding the **Central Connecticut State (2-7, 2-5 NEC)** program in 2001, the 37-year coaching veteran seems to have the pieces in place for a surge into the upper half of the NEC standings. In compiling a 2-7 record last season, the young Blue Devil squad dropped four games by seven points or less and nearly defeated St. Peter's, which ranked #3 in the final Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major poll. With an abundance of talent at skill positions on offense and nine starters returning on a defense that ranked third in the NEC, the Blue Devils are loaded with potential, but will be challenged immediately with games at Maine and UMass to kickoff the season, followed by road tilts at Albany and Robert Morris. One of the few holdovers on offense last season, senior tailback **Clinton Dunston (New Bedford, MA/New Bedford)** looks to put an exclamation point on his fine career at CCSU. Dunston finished fourth in the conference with 761 yards and scored five touchdowns in 2001. The preseason all-NEC performer has led the Blue Devils in rushing in each of his three seasons and ranks eighth on the NEC career chart with 2,053 yards. Though Dunston has the edge in experience, he will be fighting for the starting tailback position with senior **Major Cole (Buffalo, NY/Alfred JC)**, who galloped for 487 yards and averaged over five yards per carry in 2001. One of the positives to come out of last season was the play of quarterback **Scott Dolch (Finksburg, MD/Hargrave Military)**, who was handed the reigns as a freshman. A pocket quarterback, Dolch threw for 1,113 yards and ten touchdowns. His prime target was classmate **Nick Dresko (Southington, CT/Southington)**, whose 37 receptions tied an NEC single-season record for freshman. Dresko also grabbed five touchdown catches. Senior wideout **Brian Frederick (Meriden, CT/Platt)** and senior tight end **Mike Malone (Williamstown, NJ/Williamstown)** are experienced hands, each of whom caught 18 passes last season. On the offensive line, senior guard **Gaeton Camillo (Sloan, NY/St. Francis)** is a three starter and junior left tackle **Anthony Almeida (Rehoboth, MA/Dighton-Rehoboth)** is a rising star in the conference. Defense was CCSU's strong suit last season, and figures to be once again in 2001. Senior defensive tackle **Michael Kirk (Stormville, NY/Carmel)** is a Sports Network Preseason I-AA Mid-Major All-America selection, coming off a fine junior campaign that saw him effectively bottle the run while making 49 tackles. Seniors **Ramsby Roland (Brooklyn, NY/Nazareth)** and **Travis Lewis (Brentwood, NY/Brentwood)** stood out at linebacker and combined for 131 tackles, 17 of which were for losses. In the secondary, **Chris Blackshear (Fort Pierce, FL/Port St. Lucie)** made an instant impact as a freshman, intercepting four passes and breaking up eight others. Frederick will once again handle double duty by serving as the Blue Devils' placekicker. Senior **Michael Kien (Penfield, NY/Penfield)** averaged 34.2 yards per punt in 2001.

With a brand new, state-of-the-art stadium ready for its unveiling on September 14, **Stony Brook (3-6, 3-5 NEC)** football has generated quite a buzz on Long Island as the Seawolves look for their first winning campaign since 1996. Under the leadership of longtime head coach Sam Kornhauser, Stony Brook may be the sleeper team of the NEC with 17-of-22 starters returning on offense and defense. Kornhauser's decision to start **Scott Bard (Plantsville, CT/Southington)** at quarterback last season was brilliant in retrospect. Bard ranked first in the conference in passing yardage per game (243.3 ypg) and completion percentage (59.2 percent), and gave the Seawolves a legitimate big play threat. Now a senior, Bard is flanked by an array of talented wide receivers, including **Chris McGovern (Deer Park, NY/Deer Park)** and preseason all-NEC pick **Londre Blocker (Manhasset, NY/Manhasset)**. McGovern reeled in 48 passes in 2001 to rank second in the league, while Blocker was named the NEC Offensive Rookie of the Year following a 31-catch campaign. Taking some of the pressure off Bard is junior tailback **Ken Lockhart (Flanders, NJ/Mount Olive)**, who came into his own last season, churning out 618 yards on the ground. After missing the entire 2001 season with injuries, junior running back **Clinton Graham (Milton, MA/Worcester Academy)** returns to the gridiron. Graham displayed vast potential in 2000, gaining 456 yards in a limited role. Four year letterwinner **Adam Sabia (Centereach, NY/Centereach)** anchors the offensive line at center. With ten defensive starters back in the fold, Stony Brook should show marked improvement, especially against the pass where the Seawolves ranked seventh in the conference. Defensive tackle **Chimezie Okobi (Freeport, NY/Freeport)** was one of the top first year defensive players in the league last season and led the team with 6.5 sacks. Senior linebacker **Aden Smith (Rockville Centre, NY/Malverne)** was a second team all-NEC pick in 2001 after topping the conference with 112 tackles. Veteran free safety **Dan Bertzos (Plantsville, CT/Southington)** comes off another solid campaign that saw him finish second on the Seawolves with 81 takedowns. The senior is paired in the secondary with rising star **Ernie Williams (Teaneck, NJ/Teaneck)**, a sophomore cornerback who picked off two passes last season. Junior **Mike Soto (East Rockaway, NY/East Rockaway)** is a dependable placekicker who booted six field goals in nine attempts.

**Wagner (3-6, 3-5 NEC)** fans may have been caught somewhat off guard in 2001, when the Seahawks dropped under .500 for the first time since 1978 and the only time in Walt Hameline's 21-year tenure as head coach. While Wagner scored with relative ease last season, the team struggled defensively, yielding



nearly 31 points per outing en-route to a 3-6 campaign. Hameline returns ten starters on defense but continued to stockpile defensive talent in the offseason in an attempt to reverse the momentum and return the Seahawks to contender status. After sharing time with Aaron Smith last season, senior **Chris Spina (Marlton, NJ/Cherokee)** will direct Wagner's offense full-time in 2002. Blessed with good football instincts, Spina displayed glimpses of potential in limited action, most notably his three touchdown performance in a 35-30 loss to Albany last September. After losing Jason Bain and Chuck Kinsley - the NEC's all-time pass reception leaders - to graduation following the 2000 campaign, the Seahawks are now faced with replacing All-American tight end Daryn Plummer and all-NEC wideout Lou Simone, who combined for 92 catches and 17 touchdowns last season. Look for newcomers **Sean Simmons (Gilroy, NY/Cal-Northridge)** and **Shaun Grover (Cheshire, CT/Cheshire)** to step into the void. No such problems confront Hameline at running back, where junior **Chris Davis (Windsor, CT/Tabor Academy)** and sophomore **Tyshon Henderson (Neptune, NJ/Neptune)** give the Seahawks one of the better one-two punches in the conference. Davis finished sixth in the league with 627 yards rushing, while the ultra-quick Henderson averaged 5.6 yards per carry. The Seahawks must replace three starters on the offensive line, but do return junior center **Brian Dilworth (Atlantic Highlands, NJ/Middletown South)**. While Wagner finished eighth in the NEC in scoring defense and ninth in passing defense, the building blocks are in place for a turnaround, with several talented performers making their way back. The most recognizable figure is senior linebacker **Jeremy Balina (Neptune, NJ/Neptune)**, a second team all-NEC selection who led the conference with 27 tackles behind the line of scrimmage in 2001. The secondary features senior strong safety **Kharee Shorter (Wyncote, PA/Cheltenham)**, a second team all-league honoree and senior strong safety/linebacker **Ryan Castellani (Peckville, PA/Valley View)**, each of whom picked off three passes last season. On the defensive line, juniors **Luke Schmidt (Lake Oswego, OR/Lakeridge)** and **Franklin Bright (Waltham, MA/Belmont)** combined for 30 TFL's, while senior **John Harrison (Hart, CA/College of the Canyons JC)** tied for the team lead with five sacks. Castellani has led the NEC in punt return average in each of the last two seasons and maintains a career mark of 13.1 yards per return. Junior **Robbie Pate (Huntington Beach, CA/Orange Coast College)** will step in and take over placekicking duties.

On the heels of two consecutive winless campaigns, **St. Francis (PA) (0-10, 0-7 NEC)** opted for a change in leadership in the offseason, hiring Dave Opfar as the 24th head coach in the program's football history dating back to 1909. Opfar brings a legacy of success to Loretto, going back to his playing days at Penn State, where he was a starting defensive tackle on the Nittany Lions' 1982 national championship team. Most recently, he concluded a successful three year stint as defensive coordinator at Washington & Jefferson, where he helped lead the Presidents to a 29-6 record during his tenure. While Opfar's objective is to inject new life into the struggling program, he may be forced to take a trial-by-fire approach with just eight seniors listed on the 2002 roster. With a year of experience under his belt, sophomore signal caller **Kevin McCray (Jacksonville, FL/Stanton College Prep)** has a leg up on the competition. An option quarterback with excellent athletic instincts, McCray threw for over 900 yards as a freshman. He will contend with newcomers **Nathan Coughlin (San Diego, CA/Scripps Ranch)** and **Derek Border (Huntingdon, PA/Huntingdon)** for the starting position as the Red Flash look to improve on their scoring production (7.8 ppg in 2001). Juniors **Michael Hall (Baltimore, MD/Parkville)** and **Tim Smith (Brooklyn, NY/Holy Cross)**, along with sophomore **Ryan Williams (Southfield, MI/Southfield-Lathrup)** are expected to carry the load at running back. Hall has led the team in rushing in each of his first two seasons, while Williams paced the Red Flash in all-purpose offense in his first year with the club. Smith has seen limited playing time, but comes off an outstanding spring season. Veteran **Cedric Hudson (Harrisburg, PA/Bishop McDevitt)** is a long ball threat at wideout and will team with junior **Matt Rychlicki (Greensburg, PA/Hempfield)**, the team's leading receiver in 2000 who returns to the gridiron after a year away from the program. Senior **Albert Hammers (Warriors Mark, PA/Tyrone)** is a three-year starter on the offensive line. The Red Flash had trouble keeping teams out of its own end zone last season, allowing a league-high 38.1 ppg. With that in mind, Opfar will look to his secondary to shoulder much of the burden in 2002. Senior **Daunte Neal (Marbury, MD/Lackey)**, an all-NEC pick two seasons ago and a 2002 preseason all-league honoree, will be switched from free safety to strong safety. He has made a team-high 210 stops over the last two years. Junior **Marcus Haines (Pittsburgh, PA/Westinghouse)**, who led the Red Flash with 77 tackles in 2001, will take over at free safety. Junior cornerback **Jimmy Landrom (Pontiac, MI/Pontiac Northern)** is also back after leading last year's squad with four interceptions. Senior **Joe Ott (Lehigh, PA/Marian Catholic)** is a mainstay at inside linebacker for St. Francis, while junior defensive end **Aaron Herring (Pontiac, MI/Pontiac Northern)** and sophomore defensive tackle **Jason Dean (Nanjemoy, MD/Lackey)** are steady hands on the defensive line.



## NEC Football Head Coaches Answer The Question:

### *What will it take for your team to be successful in 2002?*

#### **Bob Ford, Albany**

*"We have every right to believe that we are a contender for the conference title and will make a solid run. However, there are several factors that will be the keys to the season. The defensive line, especially at the tackle positions, must continue to improve. We were devastated by graduation at receiver, so the younger players and several newcomers must pick up the offensive scheme immediately. Finally, Ryan Roeder must stay healthy at the quarterback position."*

#### **Paul Schudel, Central Connecticut State**

*"In order for us to be contenders, we must play with more intensity and eliminate the turnovers that cost us the chance to win four more games in 2001."*

#### **Kevin Callahan, Monmouth**

*"A key to any success we will have this season will be the ability of our offense to control the ball and score points. Our defense should be just as strong as it has been over the last two seasons, but we have our third offensive coordinator in three years, so we will be looking to get on the same page in fall practice and score some points. It is going to be fun watching our defense play if we can keep everyone healthy. Mix in Joe Sentipal, who missed most of last season with mono, with Chris Ammacher, Sean Kerr, Michael Pitts and Justin Rosato, and we should have one of the best defenses in the league."*

#### **Joe Walton, Robert Morris**

*"A lot of times seasons are made in the locker room, and our players are going to have to gel as a team. What kind of leadership and chemistry we have is extremely important this year, because it's going to be a young football team. The NEC is not an easy conference, and every year it's a battle. It's always important to get off to a good start and it's important we establish ourselves out of the blocks, especially with so many home games the first month of the season. It's going to be a real challenge coming out of training camp, especially for our younger players, because you don't want to waste those home games. There isn't a sense of urgency, and there should be a lot of motivation for our team to get back to where we were."*

#### **Bill Lacey, Sacred Heart**

*"We will need our experienced defense and special teams to carry us through our first four or five games until the offense gets settled in. The offense will have a little catching up to do with the graduation of such veterans as Justin Holtfreter, DeVeren Johnson and Marvin Royal."*

#### **Dave Opfar, St. Francis (PA)**

*"We need to build a strong foundation with this incoming freshman class, with the understanding that this group will be here for four years. Players in this program must be sound academically as well as athletically. If we do the groundwork now, in three years there will be no question as to what we need to do to be successful. Saint Francis has been starting over with freshmen every season and you can't expect to be successful when you are reloading every year. We realize that building a program and keeping players involved for four years is our number one objective. Once we establish continuity from year to year, the Red Flash football program will become one of the mainstays in the NEC."*

#### **Sam Kornhauser, Stony Brook**

*"We need to stay healthy and our special teams have to improve significantly over last year. Offensively, we have to control the ball for a longer period of time. Defensively, we need to create turnovers which lead to scoring opportunities. Our experience should also prove to be a valuable asset in close games this year."*

#### **Walt Hameline, Wagner**

*"I expect us to work our way back into the mix and be a surprise with the top teams in the Northeast Conference. With a solid corps of defensive players and a large group of talented newcomers, I don't see why we can't compete very strongly in league play."*



# University at Albany

## Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

**To:** Sports Department  
**Organization:** Albany Times Union  
**From:** Brian DePasquale  
**Office:** Athletic Media Relations  
**Phone:** (518) 442-3072  
**Fax:** (518) 442-3139  
**E-Mail:** [bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu)

**Date:** 8-20-02 (Tuesday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2

### **Comments: College Football**

#### **UALBANY FOOTBALL PICKED TO WIN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE Eight Great Danes on Preseason All-Conference Squad**

Somerset, N.J. – A preseason poll by the Northeast Conference head coaches has tabbed the University at Albany as the favorite to win its first conference football championship. The Great Danes were awarded four first-place votes, and narrowly edged Robert Morris, who received three votes. Defending NEC and Division I-AA Mid-Major champion Sacred Heart was elected third and earned a single first-place nod.

“It’s always better to be No. 1 than No. 8,” commented Albany coach Bob Ford, who is preparing his team for its 30th season of varsity competition. “I am glad that everyone has respect for us, but at the same time we have not played a down.”

UALbany returns 38 lettermen, including 14 starters, off last year’s 7-3 team. The Great Danes finished in a tie for third in the conference standings with a 5-2 record. “We have every right to believe that we a contender for the conference title and will make a solid run, Ford stated. “However, there are several factors that will be keys to the season. The defensive line, especially at the tackle positions, must continue to improve. We were devastated by graduation at receiver, so the younger players and several newcomers must pick up the offensive scheme immediately. Finally, Ryan Roeder must stay healthy at the quarterback position.”

#### **Northeast Conference 2002 Football Preseason Coaches Poll**

1. Albany (4)
  2. Robert Morris (3)
  3. Sacred Heart (1)
  4. Monmouth
  5. Central Connecticut State
  6. Stony Brook
  7. Wagner
  8. St. Francis (PA)
- First place votes in parentheses.

**MORE**



## ALBANY FOOTBALL 2-2-2

Eight Albany players were named to the 2002 Preseason All-Northeast Conference football team, including 2001 All-America selections **Josh Bazan** and **Alex Argulewicz**. Bazan, a senior, is a two-time *Football Gazette* I-AA Mid-Major Linebacker of the Year. He led the Great Danes in tackles (103), hits for a loss (17), fumbles recovered (3) and fumbles forced (4), plus added 4.0 sacks and six pass break-ups. Argulewicz, a 6-foot-1, 295-pound left guard, is one reason why the Great Danes have led the NEC in rushing the last three seasons. A two-time all-conference choice, he has made 21 consecutive starts on the offensive line.

Free safety **Samson Brown** is the lone three-time returning all-star in the conference, a first-team pick every year. Last season, he recorded five interceptions, 10 pass break-ups and 44 tackles.

Senior **Ryan Roeder** is the coaches' choice at quarterback. He passed for 1,019 yards and seven touchdowns in a two-QB system last year. Roeder finished fourth among the NEC leaders in completion percentage (.531) and fifth in passing efficiency (131.8 rating).

Left tackle **Geir Gudmundsen** (6-6, 310) and defensive end **John Bolt** (6-4, 245) were second-team all-conference players last fall. Punter **Billy Pike**, who averaged 34.5 yards per attempt and placed 19 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line, earned first-team honors one year ago. Tight end **Greg Sigler**, a devastating blocker, caught 10 passes for 80 yards and three touchdowns as a junior.

### 2002 NEC Football Preseason All-Conference Team

#### Offense

| Pos | Name                | School        | Ht   | Wt  | Yr | Hometown/High School             |
|-----|---------------------|---------------|------|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB  | Ryan Roeder         | Albany        | 6-1  | 195 | Sr | Bethlehem, PA/Bethlehem Catholic |
| RB  | Clinton Dunston     | Central Conn. | 5-10 | 190 | Sr | New Bedford, MA/New Bedford      |
| RB  | Sam Dorsett \$*     | Robert Morris | 5-9  | 190 | Sr | Hollywood, FL/Flanagan           |
| WR  | Stephen McNair      | Robert Morris | 5-6  | 150 | So | Miami, FL/Miami Edison           |
| WR  | Londre Blocker      | Stony Brook   | 6-1  | 180 | Jr | Manhasset, NY/Manhasset          |
| TE  | Greg Sigler         | Albany        | 6-4  | 255 | Sr | Vero Beach, FL/Vero Beach        |
| OL  | Alex Argulewicz \$^ | Albany        | 6-1  | 295 | Sr | Wallkill, NY/Wallkill Central    |
| OL  | Geir Gudmundsen !   | Albany        | 6-6  | 310 | So | Saugerties, NY/Saugerties        |
| OL  | Scott Konchek       | Robert Morris | 6-8  | 320 | Sr | Coatesville, PA/Coatesville      |
| OL  | Kevin Wachhaus \$^  | Robert Morris | 6-4  | 265 | Jr | Lancaster, PA/Manheim            |
| OL  | Jason St. John !    | Sacred Heart  | 6-5  | 282 | Sr | Oakville, CT/Watertown           |

#### Defense

| Pos | Name              | School           | Ht   | Wt  | Yr | Hometown/High School                 |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|------|-----|----|--------------------------------------|
| DL  | John Bolt !       | Albany           | 6-4  | 245 | Jr | Watervliet/Watervliet, NY            |
| DL  | Mike Kirk \$      | Central Conn.    | 6-0  | 250 | Sr | Stormville, NY/Carmel                |
| DL  | Chris Ammacher \$ | Monmouth         | 6-4  | 240 | Sr | Hawthorne, NJ/Hawthorne              |
| DL  | Shaun Hubbard \$^ | Sacred Heart     | 6-3  | 240 | Sr | Neptune, NJ/Fort Scott CC            |
| LB  | Josh Bazan \$*    | Albany           | 6-0  | 210 | Sr | Bronx, NY/Cardinal Spellman          |
| LB  | Joe Sentipal *    | Monmouth         | 5-11 | 225 | Sr | Hasbrouck Heights, NJ/Hasbrouck Hts. |
| LB  | Kayode Mayowa \$* | Sacred Heart     | 6-0  | 222 | Sr | Providence, RI/LaSalle Academy       |
| DB  | Samson Brown \$*# | Albany           | 6-0  | 207 | Sr | Bronx, NY/Cardinal Spellman          |
| DB  | Michael Pitts !   | Monmouth         | 5-11 | 190 | Sr | Tenafly, NJ/Tenafly                  |
| DB  | Corey Oaks !      | Robert Morris    | 5-11 | 191 | Sr | Pittsburgh, PA/Perry                 |
| DB  | Daunte Neal ^     | St. Francis (PA) | 6-1  | 180 | Sr | Marbury, MD/Lackey                   |

#### Special Teams

| Pos | Name           | School   | Ht  | Wt  | Yr | Hometown/High School            |
|-----|----------------|----------|-----|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| K   | Ryan Peterson  | Monmouth | 6-0 | 170 | Sr | Monroeville, NJ/Delsea Regional |
| P   | Billy Pike \$  | Albany   | 6-1 | 200 | Sr | Lawrence, NY/Lawrence           |
| RS  | Kevin Faulkner | Monmouth | 5-8 | 175 | Sr | Spotswood, NJ/Spotswood         |

\$ 2001 First Team All-NEC Selection ! 2001 Second Team All-NEC Selection  
 \* 2000 First Team All-NEC Selection ^ 2000 Second Team All-NEC Selection  
 # 1999 First Team All-NEC Selection





# UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS & RECREATION

For Immediate Release  
Monday, August 19, 2002

Contact: Brian DePasquale  
(518) 442-3072

### E.J. GALLUP RETURNS TO UALBANY MEN'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany head men's basketball coach Will Brown announced today that **E.J. Gallup** has returned to the program and will resume his academic studies, beginning with the 2002 fall semester. Gallup will have two years of athletic eligibility remaining.

Gallup, a 6-foot-4, 194-pound guard from Gloversville, N.Y., left the UAlbany basketball team following a 61-58 victory at Robert Morris on December 23, 2001. He led the Great Danes in scoring with an 18.4 average through the opening nine games of last season. Gallup later indicated that he would transfer to another school and was released from his scholarship. He recently expressed to Coach Brown, in written form, his desire to return.

Gallup was one of the top freshman scorers in the nation in 2000-01, when he averaged 17.4 points per game and nearly established the school's frosh scoring record. He earned second-team Division I All-Independent honors, and tied for 10th among the national leaders in three-point field goals at 3.3 per game. As a sophomore, Gallup ranked among the leading scorers in the America East Conference. He netted a career-high 36 points against crosstown-rival Siena at Pepsi Arena in the first meeting between the schools since 1977.

As a scholastic player, Gallup was a first-team All-Foothills Council selection at Gloversville High School, and was a member of the *Albany Times Union*, *Daily Gazette* and *Troy Record* all-area squads. He went on to attend Bridgton Academy in Maine, and averaged 13 points per game in 1999-2000.

UAlbany posted an 8-20 record, including a 5-11 mark in conference play, as a first-year member of the America East Conference in 2001-02.

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### NOTICE OF SPORTS NEWS CONFERENCE

*Date:* Monday, August 26

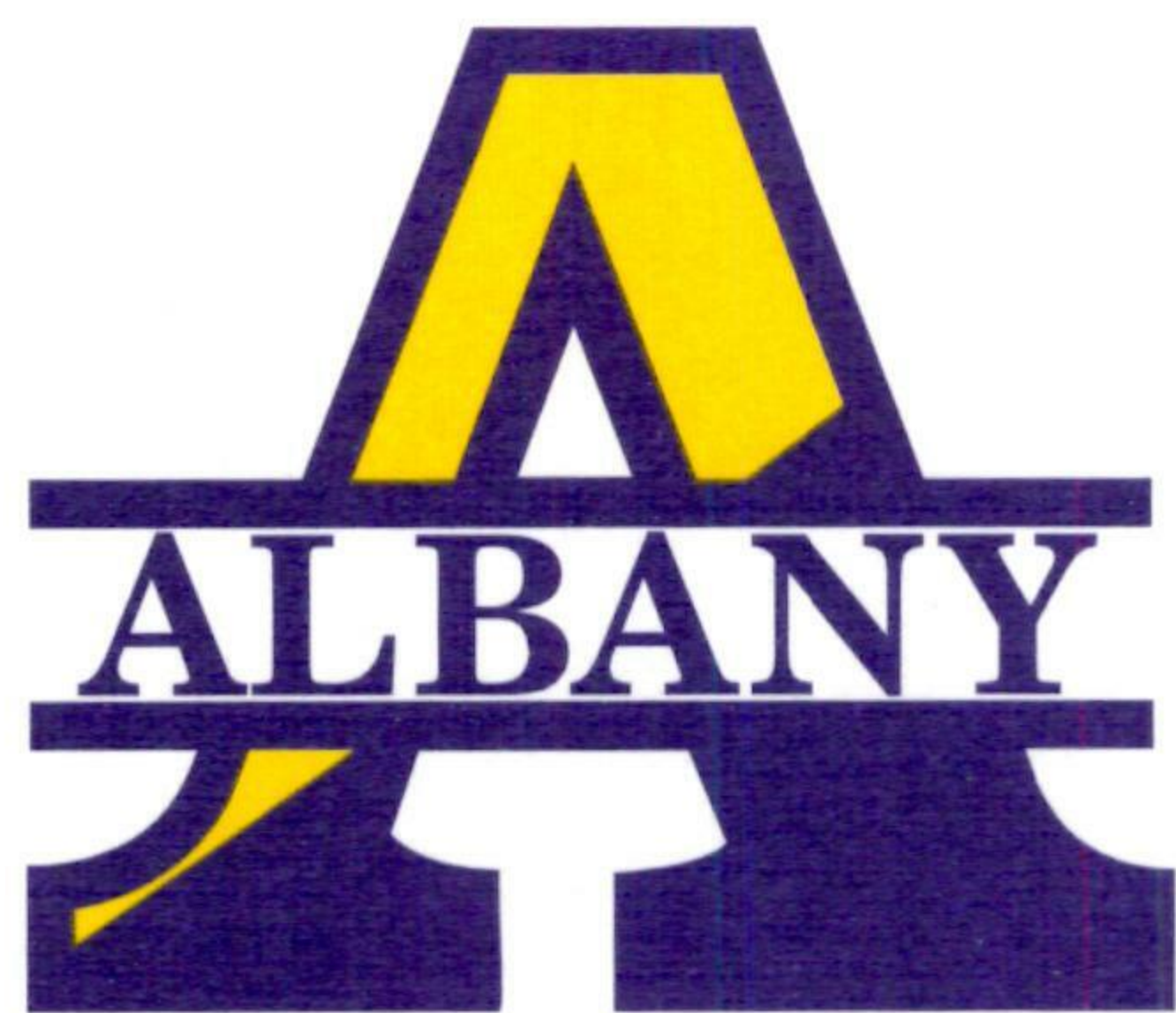
*Time:* 1:00 p.m.

*Location:* Recreation and Convocation Center (Basketball Arena Floor)

*Subject:* E.J. Gallup, Head Coach Will Brown and Director of Athletics Lee McElroy will be available for comments on Gallup's return to the men's basketball program.







# UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS & RECREATION

For Immediate Release  
Friday, August 16, 2002

Contact: Brian DePasquale  
(518) 442-3072

### UALBANY FOOTBALL BEGINS PRESEASON CAMP ON AUGUST 19

ALBANY, N.Y. – Football preseason practice begins at the University at Albany on Monday, August 19. The Great Danes, who compete at the NCAA Division I-AA level, and play in the Northeast Conference, will conduct two practices on opening day from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m. on the campus' Dutch Quad intramural fields. All freshmen and transfers report to camp on Saturday, August 17, while the veteran players arrive the following day.

UALbany travels to defending Division I-AA national champion Montana for the season opener on Saturday, September 7. Kickoff is 3:05 p.m. ET. The Great Danes begin their conference schedule at home against Central Connecticut State on Sept. 14. Football Media Day is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 11:45 a.m.

### 2002 SEASON PREVIEW

For the third consecutive year, Albany was among the top teams in the Northeast Conference. Fourteen starters return off a squad that finished 7-3 overall and tied for third in the conference standings.

"We have every right to believe that we are a contender for the NEC title," says Albany coach **Bob Ford**, whose teams have reached the seven-win mark in five of the last six seasons. "I am cautiously optimistic that we can make a solid run at it."

The Great Danes play an 11-game schedule that includes defending Division I-AA national champion Montana. Albany must travel to Sacred Heart and Robert Morris, who placed one-two in the 2001 conference race.

**OFFENSE:** The Great Danes run a multiple, option scheme that features an inside and outside run attack and spreads the passing game to a multitude of receivers.

**Ryan Roeder** (6-1, 195) is ready to assume full-time control at quarterback after sharing those duties the last two seasons. Roeder, who missed the opening two games while recovering from off-season surgery, completed 68 of 128 passes for 1,019 yards and seven touchdowns.

"Ryan is starting to get back to where he was the previous year," says Ford, who has used a two-quarterback system since 1998. "He struggled after the injury but has clearly become our starter."

Albany is still solid in the trenches where five starters return. **Alex Argulewicz**, at 6-foot-1 and 295 pounds, has made 21 consecutive starts at left guard. He was named to The Sports Network Division I-AA Mid-Major All-America first team.

"He is strong with good quickness," offers Ford, whose team has led the NEC in rushing three straight years. "He has a mean streak and wants to finish every block."

Sophomore **Geir Gudmundsen** (6-6, 310) was a second-team All-NEC selection at left tackle. He will be joined upfront by right guard **Brandon Shaw** (6-0, 275) and right tackle **Mike Laroche** (6-4, 270). **Eric Holzer** (6-2, 270) is the leading candidate at the center position.

Tight end **Greg Sigler** (6-4, 255) has always been a devastating blocker, but has improved his pass-catching skills. He had 10 receptions for 80 yards and three touchdowns last year.

**MORE**





Several players are ready to move into the tailback spot vacated by the graduation of Brian Manigault, who rushed for 2,251 yards and 24 TDs during his career. Junior **Dustin Wilson**, who led the NEC in kickoff returns with a 27.8 average, has 539 rushing yards in his two years in the rotation, but missed spring drills as a UAlbany track team member.

**Gary Jones**, a community college standout who ran for more than 1,000 yards in his final season, moved to the top of the depth chart in the spring. **Rohann Vidal**, a sophomore, will also be in the hunt for playing time. Fullback **Jon George** is the team's top returning rusher with 201 yards and four touchdowns.

Both starters were lost to graduation at the receiver positions, including three-time All-NEC selection Chris Phillis. Flanker **Matt Crudo**, who can also return punts, has playing experience with 10 receptions for 150 yards and two TDs. **Shawn Miller**, a first-team junior college All-American, will be expected to contribute immediately at split end.

"I am concerned about our receiver depth and the ability to run three and four wideouts," Ford explains. "We will also need Ryan Roeder to stay healthy in what is a complicated offensive package."

**DEFENSE:** A defensive unit that ranked 17th against the run and 22nd in scoring among the I-AA national leaders returns eight starters.

**Josh Bazan**, a two-time *Football Gazette* I-AA Mid-Major Linebacker of the Year, is one reason why Albany lowered its scoring defense by nine points per game last fall. Bazan, a 6-foot, 210-pound inside linebacker, led the Great Danes in tackles (103), hits for a loss (17) and fumbles defended (7).

"He does amazing things with the way he sheds a block or hits a lane," Ford states. "He moves well, plays with intensity, and is a student of the game with the time he spends watching film."

**Brian Eidens**, a fifth-year senior, is penciled in at outside linebacker. The special teams veteran has 43 career tackles. Sophomore **James Ducharme** should move alongside Bazan on the inside following a strong spring.

**Ryan MacLean**, who has 176 career tackles, including 23 for losses, will start for the third consecutive season at roverback. "He has all the tools to be a real good player," Ford comments. "He's very aggressive and competitive."

UAlbany's secondary is an experienced group led by **Samson Brown**, a first-team All-NEC free safety for the third straight year. "He has become a confident leader who understands where he has to go to on the field," Ford offers. Brown totaled five interceptions and 10 pass break-ups and made 44 tackles as a junior.

Cornerbacks **Fred Frese** and **Kurt Campbell** helped the defense record a plus-four turnover margin. Frese, a two-year starter, totaled 46 tackles, eight pass break-ups and two interceptions. Campbell had 35 tackles and defended five passes as a redshirt freshman. CB **Cliff Prince**, who had 19 tackles and one interception, gained more playing time as the season progressed.

The continued improvement of Albany's line play will make the defense even better. All-NEC defensive end **John Bolt** (6-4, 240) is among three regulars returning. He made 29 tackles and led the team with 5.0 sacks for minus-21 yards.

Defensive tackle **David Parks** (6-0, 265) had 23 tackles and 2.5 sacks last season. Senior **Josh MacAnn**, a converted outside linebacker, compiled 41 total hits and 3.0 sacks at the other end position. Sophomores **Matt Kryzak** (5-11, 295) and **Vinny Fuschetto** (6-2, 240) bolster the tackle spots.

**KICKING GAME:** All-Conference punter **Billy Pike** averaged 34.5 yards per attempt, and placed 19 punts inside the opponents' 20-yard line. **Stan Zylinski** and **Salomon Belilty** are the top candidates for the place-kicking duties.



# University at Albany

## Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

**To:** Sports Department  
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**Date:** 8-14-02 (Wednesday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 2  
**Comments:** College Sports

### UALBANY VOLLEYBALL WELCOMES SEVEN NEWCOMERS FOR 2002 SEASON

Albany, N.Y.—Head Coach **Kelly Sheffield** and the UAlbany volleyball team will welcome seven new student-athletes to the Great Danes' program for the 2002-03 academic year. UAlbany competes in the America East Conference, and opens the season with the Great Dane Classic on August 30-31 at University Gymnasium.

"I could not be happier with the group of young ladies that we have coming in," said Sheffield of his first recruiting class at the school. "From a competition standpoint, I feel good about the athletes that will make up our team. Fans will see a much more athletic and experienced team on the court come September."

**Alexis Bowens** (Pike/Indianapolis, Ind.) will compete for both the volleyball and track & field teams at UAlbany in 2002-03. Bowens, who was all-state in both the discus and shot put, is Pike's career leader in both kills and aces. "Alexis was the first in this class to sign with us," said Sheffield. "She is going to be one of the most powerful hitters in the conference right away." Bowens led her team with 281 kills, 60 aces and a .291 hitting percentage as a senior in 2001. She was also second in digs (271) and total blocks (19).

Sophomore **April Fries** (Bishop Miege/Kansas City, Mo.), a 5-foot-8 setter, comes to Albany from Seward County Community College in Kansas. Fries averaged 10.14 assists and 0.57 blocks per game in three matches last year before a torn anterior cruciate ligament ended her season prematurely. The team was seventh at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tournament, finishing 27-10 and capturing its second consecutive Region VI championship. "April is going to be able to compete for the starting setting position. Not many people enjoy being in the gym competing more than her," said Sheffield.

Dix Hills native **Amanda Kamm** (Half Hollow Hills West H.S.) earned Empire State Games gold medals during her sophomore and junior years. A second-team all-state selection, Kamm led her scholastic team to the New York State Class B championship and a 21-1 record in 2000. She totaled 22 kills and 23 digs in the championship match as her team won the first state volleyball title by a Suffolk County school. "Amanda probably is the most versatile player we have on the team," says Sheffield. "She has a pretty solid base in all skills coming in and can dominate a match in a lot of different areas." Kamm, a 5-foot-10 outside hitter, was fourth-team All-New York as a senior as her team advanced to the state quarterfinals.

Kamm's Long Island Power volleyball club teammate, **Kristin Norton**, is a 5-11 outside hitter from Stony Brook, N.Y. (Ward Melville H.S.). Norton was an All-Suffolk County and fourth-team All-New  
**MORE**



## ALBANY SPORTS 2-2-2-2

York State selection as a senior. She guided her team to the Section XI, Class A championship game where they lost to an eventual state semifinalist. "Kristin is one of the most competitive players that I've been around, plus she has been well-coached," Sheffield commented. "She's one of those players you love to have on your side of the net."

**Ashlee Reed** (Round Rock, Texas) played for one of her state's top club teams, the Austin Juniors. A first-team All-District 14-5A selection in her final two years at Round Rock High School, Reed captained the Dragons to a district championship with a 10-0 record in 2001. Reed was also an academic all-district selection in each of her four seasons at the school. "Ashlee is another player that has a lot of flexibility in where she can contribute," says Sheffield. "We'll look to her to score some points for us this year."

**Eileen Nicole Rodríguez**, a 5-11 outside hitter from Ponce, Puerto Rico (Colegio Ponceño), has played on the Puerto Rican junior national team for three years. In 2002, her squad defeated the United States in the NORCECA Volleyball Confederacion's championship match for the second consecutive year, earning a bid to the World Championships. "Although Eileen is the youngest player on the team, she comes in with probably the most experience and has played with and against the best players in the world in her age group," Sheffield remarked. "I look to her to be a big point scorer for us this year." A left-hander, Rodríguez was selected most valuable player for Colegio Ponceño and has competed internationally in Olympic qualifying.

Joining Sheffield's first recruiting class is walk-on **Danielle Skehan**, a sophomore transfer from Nassau Community College. A native of Wantagh, N.Y., Skehan was an all-county selection as a senior at Wantagh High School. The Warriors were Long Island champions in 1998 and captured the county title in 2000. "Danielle brings a rare commodity to this team," said Sheffield. "College experience. We will look to her, as well as our three returnees, to show the younger players how to approach practice, matches and college life."

UAlbany returns three players from last season's squad. Senior **Alissa Gibbs** was the team's leader in kills, kills per game and aces last year, and ranked 15th nationally in kills per game. Sophomore setter **Jill Dombrowski** led the Great Danes in assists, while classmate **Susan Spierre** was second in total blocks and third in both kills and digs.

### 2002 University at Albany Volleyball Commitments

| Name                    | Pos.  | Cl. | Ht.  | High School/Hometown                   |
|-------------------------|-------|-----|------|--|
| Alexis Bowens           | OH/MH | Fr. | 6-2  | Pike/Indianapolis, Ind.                |
| +April Fries            | S     | So. | 5-8  | Bishop Miege/Kansas City, Mo.          |
| Amanda Kamm             | MH/OH | Fr. | 5-10 | Half Hollow Hills West/Dix Hills, N.Y. |
| Kristin Norton          | OH    | Fr. | 5-11 | Ward Melville/Stony Brook, N.Y.        |
| Ashlee Reed             | MH/OH | Fr. | 5-11 | Round Rock/Round Rock, Texas           |
| Eileen Nicole Rodríguez | OH    | Fr. | 5-11 | Colegio Ponceño/Ponce, Puerto Rico     |
| ^Danielle Skehan        | OH    | So. | 5-10 | Wantagh/Wantagh, N.Y.                  |

+Seward County Community College transfer

^Nassau Community College transfer



# University at Albany

## Athletic Media Relations Fax Cover Sheet

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**Date:** 8-8-02 (Thursday)  
**Pages w/cover:** 1

**Comments:** College Sports

### **EMIL BOVE CHOSEN AMERICA EAST MEN'S SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

Boston, Mass. – **Emil Bove**, a junior co-captain on the University at Albany men's lacrosse team, has been selected as the America East Conference Men's Scholar-Athlete of the Year as announced today by Commissioner Chris Monasch.

Bove, a second-team Verizon national Academic All-America selection, posted a 4.00 cumulative grade point average in a dual major of public policy and economics. A 16-game starter as a long-stick midfielder, Bove totaled 49 ground balls in leading a defense that ranked eighth nationally at 8.06 goals per game.

UAlbany won the America East regular-season title and reached the postseason tournament championship. The Great Danes went 9-7 overall and posted the best one-season turnaround in the program's history.

A native of Seneca Falls, N.Y., Bove is a Presidential Scholar and Dean's List student and a member of the school's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. He has served an internship with the New York State Energy & Development Authority and has worked with the Capital Region Big Brothers & Big Sisters Mentor Program.

Member institutions of the America East Conference for the 2001-02 academic year included Albany, Binghamton, Boston University, Hartford, Maine, New Hampshire, Northeastern, Stony Brook and Vermont.



# University at Albany

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**Pages w/cover:** 2  
**Comments:** College Sports

### **UALBANY MEN'S SOCCER WELCOMES ELEVEN NEWCOMERS FOR 2002 SEASON**

Albany, N.Y.—University at Albany men's soccer coach Johan Aarnio announced today that eleven student-athletes have committed to play for the Great Danes in the 2002-03 academic year.

"This recruiting class should add some experience to our squad," said third-year head coach Johan Aarnio. The 2002 recruiting class features four freshmen and seven transfer students. UAlbany, an America East Conference member, opens its fall schedule on Sept. 1 at Marist College.

**Rodrigo Marion** (Felix Eguino Zaballa H.S.) is a sophomore defender from La Paz, Bolivia. Marion competed for the Bolivian National team versus Brazil in the 2000 "Copa Legendarios" in San Antonio, Texas, and was a member of the under-23 Bolivian National squad in 1999. In 1997, Marion captured an under-17 international championship with Bolivia at the Neyso Alamo Cup in San Antonio, Texas.

**Savvas Theofilou** (Archbishop Makarios III/Nicosia, Cyprus) is a sophomore transfer from the University of Kentucky. Theofilou, a midfielder, saw action in 14 games for the Wildcats in 2000. Kentucky posted an 11-9-2 record that year, and was the first UK team ever to advance beyond the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. Theofilou also competed with Cyprus' under-18 National squad at the UEFA Pan-European Youth Championship in 1997.

University of Connecticut sophomore transfer **Geza Teleky** (Clarkstown North/New City, N.Y.) saw action in one game for the Huskies in 2000. The team went 18-3-2 overall that season en route to winning the NCAA Division I championship. Prior to his career at UConn, Teleky was a four-time letterwinner at Clarkstown North High School.

Four of the incoming recruits are from the Bronx, N.Y., including sophomore goalkeeper **Bouna Coundol** (Martin Luther King, Jr. High School). Coundol transferred from Bethel College in Tennessee, where he was a member of a squad that captured the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title in 2001. Coundol's team lost in the championship match of the NAIA Region XII Tournament, the furthest the school had ever advanced in men's soccer.

Midfielder **Ousmane Toure** (Martin Luther King, Jr./Bronx, N.Y.) is also a sophomore transfer from Bethel College. Born and raised in Mali, West Africa, he came to the United States in 1997 and helped his scholastic team to league championships in 1997, '98 and '99.

Also from the Bronx are Monroe College junior transfers **Mabreco Bowley** (Walton H.S.) and **Patrick Brown** (Wolmers H.S.). Bowley played three years at Walton High School and earned a silver medal while playing in the Westchester Youth Soccer League in 1999. Monroe finished 10-6 in 2001 and totaled a 23-11-1 mark during their two seasons with the program.

**MORE**



## ALBANY SPORTS 2-2-2-2

Freshman **Jonathan Stroud** (Vestal, N.Y.) captained Vestal High School as a senior, leading his squad to an 11-5 record. Stroud scored 11 goals and added 10 assists as a first-team all-division selection in 2001, and posted 19 goals and 30 assists during a four-year varsity career in which the Golden Bears totaled a 47-17 record.

Defender **Tom Lough** (East Syracuse-Minoa/Syracuse, N.Y.) scored 14 goals and assisted on 11 others during his senior season. The two-time captain earned All-National Division honors in his final two seasons at the school, and was the team's most valuable player in each of his three varsity seasons.

North Merrick's **Nick Leddy** captained St. John the Baptist High School to a 16-1 record and a league title during his senior season. The Cougars were 2001 Catholic High School Athletic Association state finalists, as Leddy earned CHSAA All-State honors. He scored 34 goals and added 15 assists during a three-year varsity career.

**Caio Silva** is a freshman forward from Sao Paulo, Brazil (Colegio Objetivo). Silva played on the club level in his native Brazil, leading Jockey Clube with 17 goals in 11 games during a tournament trip to Japan in 2001. He was selected as the most valuable player of the 2000 Paulista Championship, as he guided Sao Paulo to the team title.

### 2002 University at Albany Men's Soccer Commitments

| Name              | Pos. | Cl. | High School/Hometown                     |
|-------------------|------|-----|--|
| #Mabreco Bowley   | M    | Jr. | Walton/Bronx, N.Y.                       |
| #Patrick Brown    | D    | Jr. | Wolmers/Bronx, N.Y.                      |
| +Bouna Coundol    | GK   | So. | Martin Luther King, Jr./Bronx, N.Y.      |
| Nick Leddy        | F    | Fr. | St. John the Baptist/North Merrick, N.Y. |
| Tom Lough         | D    | Fr. | East Syracuse-Minoa/Syracuse, N.Y.       |
| ^Rodrigo Marion   | D    | So. | Felix Eguino Zaballa/La Paz, Bolivia     |
| Caio Silva        | F    | Fr. | Colegio Objetivo/Sao Paulo, Brazil       |
| Jonathan Stroud   | F    | Fr. | Vestal/Vestal, N.Y.                      |
| %Geza Teleky      | M    | So. | Clarkstown North/New City, N.Y.          |
| @Savvas Theofilou | M    | So. | Archbishop Makarios III/Nicosia, Cyprus  |
| +Ousmane Toure    | M    | So. | Martin Luther King, Jr./Bronx, N.Y.      |

# Monroe College transfer

+ Bethel College transfer

^ Catholic University of Bolivia transfer

% University of Connecticut transfer

@ University of Kentucky transfer