
University at Albany

Sports Information Office Fax Cover Sheet

To: Sports Department
Company: Albany Times-Union

From: Brian DePasquale
Company: Assistant A.D./Media Relations
Office Phone: (518) 442-3072
Fax: (518) 442-3139

Date: 12-31-97 (Wednesday)
Pages including this
cover page: 1

Comments: College Football

LOREN BAKER ON FOOTBALL GAZETTE ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Brookfield, Ill. -- University at Albany's Loren Baker (Gloversville H.S.) has been named to the 1997 Football Gazette Division II All-America Team as an honorable mention selection.

Baker, a 6-foot-3, 290-pound offensive tackle, was earlier chosen first-team all-Northeast Region, all-ECAC-North, all-Eastern Football Conference, and was voted the EFC's best offensive lineman.

He allowed no sacks and graded 90 percent or better in nine of 12 games for an offense which was among the nation's leaders in scoring (39.0 points per game) and total yards (419.6 pg).

Albany's multiple-attack established single-season records for points (468), total yards (5,035) and passing yards (2,651) en route to an EFC championship and a school-record 11-1 campaign.

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From: Brian DePasquale
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Date: 12-29-97 (Monday)
Pages including this
cover page: 2

Comments: Women's Basketball (Box Score Attached)

Miami Shores, Fla. -- Donita Mays scored 19 points and Tinita Vick added 16 as St. Augustine's rallied in the second half for a 68-58 victory over Albany in the opening round of the Converse New Year's Classic on Monday evening at Barry University's Health and Sports Center.

In a first half which featured five ties and four lead changes, Albany (6-4) led 29-28 at the break. The Great Danes went on to built a 46-36 advantage with 11:54 remaining, when freshman Liz Tucker, who had 12 points off the bench, hit a jumper from the top of the key.

St. Augustine's, a Division II school located in Raleigh, N.C., still trailed 50-45 nearly four minutes later, but then ran off eight straight points to go in front for good. Mays, a 6-foot-1 senior, buried an 8-foot jumper to give her club a 51-50 lead with 7:00 left.

The Lady Falcons, who improved to 6-3 overall, held a slim 55-54 margin with 3:47 to play, but pulled away behind Anastacia Sands' six consecutive points. Sands, a junior center who had a team-high 11 rebounds, made four free throws and 10-foot shot in the lane.

Megan Buchanan was the only other Great Dane in double figures with 12 points, while Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.) added seven points, seven assists and four steals. Albany plays in Tuesday's consolation at 5:30 p.m.

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Comments: College Sports

(Track & Field)

New York, N.Y. -- University at Albany's Greg Miller and Ellakisha Williamson, a pair of Albany High School graduates, established school records in the men's and women's 60-meter dash, respectively, at the Christmas Festival Meet in the New York City Armory.

Williamson sprinted 7.57 seconds to finish first in the women's 60-meter event, and was fourth in the 60-meter hurdles in 8.55. Miller, a freshman, placed second in the men's 60-dash in 7.08.

Jayson Vazquez (Amsterdam H.S.) was among four Albany men to capture individual events with his first-place time of 8.58 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles. John Morris won the high jump (6-8), while Stephen Pinckney took the 35-pound weight throw (49-1). Harold Valestin, a junior defensive back on the Albany football team, was a winner in the triple jump (45-1).

Christmas Festival Individual
NYC Armory

EW 60m 7.57 1ST
S-R

EW 60m-H 8.55 4th S-R

J. Morris High Jump 6'8" 1ST

S Pickney 35 WT 49' 1" 1ST

J. Vas 60-H 8.58 1ST

J. Jaeneta Sh Put 45-4 2ND
H. Val. Triple Jug 45-1 1ST

G. A. Miller 2ND 60m 7.08
S-R

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Pages including this
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Comments: College Sports

BRYAN GRABON NAMED TO ALL-NEW YORK REGION SOCCER TEAM

Albany, N.Y.. -- University at Albany's Bryan Grabon has been chosen to the 1997 All-New York Region first-team by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Grabon, a freshman forward from East Aurora, N.Y., led the Great Danes in scoring with 10 goals and one assist, and was a starter in all 18 matches.

Albany, an NCAA Division II program, finished with a 10-7-1 record and earned an ECAC tournament berth.

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Date: 12-15-97 (Monday)
Pages including this
cover page: 2

Comments: College Football (All-ECAC Team Attached)

JOE SAVINO NAMED ECAC-NORTH DIVISION II PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Centerville, Mass. -- University at Albany's Joe Savino has been named the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division II North Player of the Year in voting by ECAC head coaches and sports information directors.

Savino, a senior from Norwood, N.J., and New Haven's Cazzie Kosciulek shared first-team quarterback honors. Five other Great Danes were on the All-ECAC-North team, including offensive tackle Loren Baker (Gloversville H.S.), split end Dan Gmelin, tight end Seth Thomas, linebacker Mike Grever, and defensive end Matt Caliandro.

Savino passed for 2,377 yards and 22 touchdowns, both Albany single-season records, and rushed for 10 scores. He was among the nation's leaders in total offense (229.3 yards/game) and passing efficiency with a 156.4 rating. The 5-foot-9 signal-caller finished his career with 7,660 total yards, including 7,015 passing, and was responsible for ~~56~~⁷⁴ career touchdowns.

Savino will be honored as the ECAC Player of the Year, presented by Spalding Sports Worldwide, at the Eastern College Football Awards Banquet to be held in mid-February at the Giants Stadium Club in the Meadowlands Sports Complex in East Rutherford, N.J. Albany, the 1997 Eastern Football Conference champion, finished with a school-record 11-1 campaign.

1997 Eastern College Athletic Conference Division II North All-Stars
Presented by Spalding Sports Worldwide

OFFENSE

Quarterback:	Joe Savino Cazzie Kosciolk	Albany New Haven	Senior Senior
Running Backs:	Matt Rapoza Emile Fann Rashaan Dumas	Bentley C.W. Post So. Connecticut	Junior Senior Sophomore
Wide Receivers:	Dan Gmelin Adam Roman	Albany New Haven	Senior Junior
Tight End:	Seth Thomas	Albany	Senior
Offensive Line:	Loren Baker Ray Shuster Mario DiDino Mike Johnstone Josh Skurnik	Albany AIC New Haven New Haven Stony Brook	Senior Junior Senior Senior Senior

DEFENSE

Defensive Line:	Matt Caliandro Mike Duggan Steve Baptiste Ben Nassar Ty Wilson Jon Sorbera	Albany AIC AIC Bentley So. Connecticut Stony Brook	Junior Senior Junior Senior Senior Senior
Linebackers:	Mike Grever Willie Bethea Adam LaVallee Shane McNeely Lidz Eugene	Albany AIC C.W. Post New Haven New Haven	Sophomore Senior Sophomore Senior Junior
Defensive Backs:	Brian Herbert Troy Appling Mark Rebeiro Richard White	C.W. Post New Haven So. Connecticut Stonehill	Senior Sophomore Sophomore Senior

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker:	Frank Biancamano	So. Connecticut	Senior
Punter:	Frank Biancamano	So. Connecticut	Senior
Return Specialist:	Adam DeSanctis	Merrimack	Sophomore

Player of the Year	Joe Savino	Albany	Senior
Rookie of the Year	Charles Thomas	So. Connecticut	Freshman

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, December 13

---BOX SCORE ATTACHED---

MEN

Albany 83, East Stroudsburg 78 (OT)

Albany, N.Y. -- Senior forward Andre Duncan scored a career-high 28 points, including 10 in overtime, to lead Albany to an 83-78 non-conference victory over East Stroudsburg on Saturday afternoon at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (7-3) built a 58-42 advantage midway through the second half on a three-pointer by Matthew Haggarty, who netted a career-high 13 points.

However, East Stroudsburg (3-5) worked its way back into the contest with 13 of the game's next 15 points. Spencer Poulson, a junior point guard, tallied six of his 13 markers in that stretch.

The Warriors still trailed 67-61 in the final minute of regulation, but used the three-point arc to force an extra period. Guard Donovan Crosby hit a long-range jumper from the left corner and Poulson drilled a 21-footer with 19.6 seconds left to complete the comeback.

Albany's Duncan, who added 10 rebounds, and became the school's all-time blocked shot leader with four rejections, scored his club's first seven points in overtime. He converted baskets in the lane on his team's first two possessions, and then was fouled on a slam dunk in transition. His three-point play gave the Great Danes a 74-69 lead.

Chris Diller made one of two free-throw attempts to close ESU within 78-75, before Duncan was fouled on a driving layup with 21.9 seconds remaining. His second three-point play ended any doubt about the outcome.

Darrin Jahnel (Schalmont H.S.) added 17 points for the Great Danes, while Tom McGoldrick had 10 points and 10 rebounds. Duncan's 158 career blocks surpasses John Dieckelman (former CBA High standout) as the school's career leader.

Al Munford, a 6-foot-4 senior, had 22 points and 10 rebounds for East Stroudsburg, while Crosby was the third Warrior in double figures with 15.

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Comments: College Basketball

(WOMEN) Massachusetts-Lowell 73, Albany 57

Lowell, Mass. -- Sheila Knower and Maureen Jennings each scored 17 points to lead Massachusetts-Lowell to a 73-57 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Albany at Costello Gymnasium.

Massachusetts-Lowell (4-4, NECC 3-0) leaped to a 12-2 lead in the opening five minutes, as Jennings canned three 3-point field goals in that outburst. The River Hawks, who upended Albany on this same floor in the conference championship finale last March, led by as much as 20 points in the period en route to a 49-31 halftime advantage.

Albany (6-3, NECC 2-2) closed to within 55-47 with 13:52 remaining in the second half on a driving layup by Kelly Paolino (Schalmont H.S.), who scored a team-high 17 to go with five assists and four rebounds.

However, the River Hawks slammed the door with 10 straight points, as Knower hit a 10-foot jumper and a layup in that stretch. UML's Jessica Bruce added 16 points and 11 rebounds, while Aliya Cox and Marsha Blaylock scored 11 and 10, respectively.

Melissa Schoonover, a 6-foot-1 sophomore, was the only other Great Dane in double figures with 11 points. Albany allowed more than 70 points in a game for the first time this season, and has dropped six of seven meetings with Mass.-Lowell.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday, December 9

---BOX SCORE ATTACHED---

MEN

Albany 74, Teikyo Post 64

Albany, N.Y. -- Andre Duncan tied a season-high with 22 points to pace four players in double figures in Albany's 74-64 non-conference victory over Teikyo Post on Tuesday at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (6-3) has won four of its last five starts, while Teikyo Post, an NAIA-II school located in Waterbury, Conn., falls to 5-4.

The Great Danes, who connected on 17 of 34 field goal attempts in the opening period, used a 15-2 run early in the first half to take command. Freshman Petr Burda sparked the outburst with a 10-foot jumper in the lane, and then later buried a three-pointer to give his club a 23-8 cushion.

Albany, which needed overtime to beat Teikyo Post, 100-88, last January in Connecticut, upped its advantage to 20 points at halftime, and moved out to a 55-34 second-half lead on an inside basket by Duncan, who added seven rebounds and three blocks on the night.

Teikyo Post got as close as 69-60 with 1:26 remaining, but Duncan hit a pair of free throws and Matthew Haggarty made a three-pointer to end the threat.

Rasuel McKune, a 6-foot-5 senior, had a game-high 25 points and 12 rebounds for the Eagles. Todd Cetnar (Amsterdam H.S.) added 12 points and four steals for the Great Danes, while Haggarty also scored 12.

Albany is home on Saturday against East Stroudsburg at 4:00 p.m.

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Comments: College Basketball

LIZ TUCKER NAMED ECAC-NORTH ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Centerville, Mass. -- University at Albany's Liz Tucker has been selected as the ECAC-North Division II Rookie of the Week in women's basketball (Nov. 30-Dec. 6).

Tucker, a 5-foot-10 forward, averaged 13.0 points, 7.3 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 2.0 steals in three games. She scored a season-high 15 in a 74-66 overtime victory at New Haven, and posted her first double-double as a collegian with 13 points and 11 rebounds against Southern Connecticut State.

Albany (6-2, NECC 2-1) travels to Massachusetts-Lowell on Wednesday. Tip-off is 7:00 p.m.

DARRIN JAHNEL ONE OF EIGHT PLAYERS ON ECAC HONOR ROLL

Centerville, Mass. -- University at Albany's Darrin Jahnel (Schalmont H.S.) was one of eight players named to this week's ECAC-North Division II Honor Roll. Jahnel averaged 17.0 points and 4.0 rebounds in three games for the Great Danes.

The 6-foot-2 senior scored a career-high 31 points, the most by an Albany player since the 1993-94 season, in Saturday's overtime loss at Southern Connecticut State. Jahnel tied a UA single-game record with eight 3-point field goals. Albany (5-3, NECC 3-1) hosts Teikyo Post at the RACC on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

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Comments: College Basketball BOX SCORE ATTACHED

(Women) Southern Connecticut 66, Albany 57

New Haven, Conn. -- Kristen Breen scored 21 points and Rena Goble added 16 to lead Southern Connecticut State to a 66-57 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Albany Saturday afternoon at Moore Fieldhouse.

SCSU (6-2, 1-2) broke a seven-all tie with seven straight points. Kim Bowen, who had 13 points hit a basket to end that stretch. The Owls built a 28-16 advantage after Breen hit one of her four three-pointers in the contest. Albany (6-2, 2-1) which had a four-game win streak snapped, struggled in the first half against the SCSU matchup-zone and halfcourt trap. The Great Danes connected on just 6 of 32 field goal attempts from the field in the first half. The Owls increased their lead to 52-33 midway through the second half on Ali Walsh's jumper. But the Great Danes rallied and closed within 61-55 on a steal and layup by Alison Bowe with 2:29 left. SCSU canned five free throws in the stretch to maintain their lead. Kelly Paolino (Schalmont) and Liz Tucker each had 13 points in defeat for Albany.

(Men) Southern Connecticut, 84, Albany 75 (OT)

New Haven, Conn. -- Jeritt Lewis scored 30 points including six in overtime to lead Southern Connecticut State to an 84-75 New England Collegiate Conference victory over Albany at Moore Fieldhouse.

Lewis, a senior guard who scored 20 after the intermission, buried a three-pointer from the top of the key and a nineteen-foot jumper in the circle on his team's first two possessions in the extra period. The Owls made 16 of 19 free throws in overtime to hold the lead.

Albany (5-3, 3-1) led 53-46 with 8:17 to play but SCSU ripped off 10 unanswered points to take their first lead. Lewis was fouled on a driving layup and converted the subsequent free throw for a 56-53 advantage. The contest seesawed in the stretch, and the Great Danes tied the game in regulation at 61 apiece when Chris Zeisler tipped in Andre Duncan's missed free throw with 2.9 seconds remaining.

Darrin Jahnel (Schalmont) scored a career high 31 points and tied a school record with eight three point field goals. Duncan was the only other Albany player in double figures with 13.

SCSU (5-3, 2-0) got 22 points from junior transfer Ernie Evans, while P.J. Trambolie added 16.

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Comments: TRACK & FIELD

Hamilton, N.Y. -- Sophomore Ellakisha Williamson (Albany High) won two events to lead the Albany women's team to victory at Colgate University on Saturday afternoon. Williamson captured the 55-meter dash in 7.23 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 25.24 seconds. The Albany women won both the 4x100 (4:00.55) and 4x800 (9:49.59) relays.

The men's team was led by senior Halim Wise who won two events, the 200-meter dash (22.61) and the 400-meter dash (49.66).

Other first place finishers were Jayson Vazquez (Amsterdam H.S.) in the 55-meter hurdles (7.75) and Robert Naughter (Guilderland H.S.) in the 1,000-meter (2:33.38) run.

-agate-

Track & Field at Colgate University

MEN

1.Albany 206, 2.Buffalo 147, 3.Colgate 101, 4. Canisius 78

Men - Individual

55 - Charles (Colgate), 6.49; 200 - Halim Wise (Albany), 22.61; 400 - Halim Wise (Albany), 49.66; 800 - Ryan Kurkoba (Albany), 1:07.56; 1,000 - Robert Naughter (Albany), 2:33.38; 1- Mile Run - Benjamin Wright (Albany), 4:20.54; 55 Hurdles - Jayson Vazquez (Albany), 7.75; 4x400 Relay - Buffalo,3:24.15; 4x800 Relay - Albany, 8:11.27; High Jump - John Morris (Albany), 6'07.50"; Pole Vault - Eric Guitierrez (Albany), 14'06.00"; Long Jump - Luis Soto (Albany), 22'01.00"; Shot Put - Jason Jaconetti (Albany), 42'07.50"; Weight Throw - Luigi Cannata (Canisius), 49'11.75"

WOMEN

1. Albany 167, 2. Buffalo 151, 3. Canisius 116, 4. Colgate 100

Women - Individual

55 - Ellaskisha Williamson (Albany), 7.23; 200 - Ellakisha Williamson (Albany), 25.24; 400 - Lisa Kragbe (Buffalo), 59.66; 500 - Tamara Dieudonne (Albany), 1:21.58; 800 - Jennifer Dott (Albany), 2:25.77; 1,000 - Allison Carr (Canisius), 3:07.40; 1 - Mile Run - Lisa Murphy (Canisius), 5:26.00; 5,000 - Laura Folekemer (Buffalo), 10:54.78; 55 Hurdles - Tara Bialy (Albany), 8.34; 4x100 Relay - Albany, 4:00.55; 4x800 Relay - Albany, 9:49.59; Distance Medley Relay - Colgate, 11:47.43; Pole Vault - Meline MacCurdy (Colgate), 6'06.00"; Long Jump - Janna Johnston (Albany), 16'11.50"; Triple Jump - Jen Kilborn (Buffalo), 36'00.75"; Shot Put - Brooke Fineis (Canisius), 37'06.50"; Weight Throw - Ruth Conlon (Buffalo), 50'.06.25"

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Comments: College Basketball

BOX SCORE ATTACHED

(Men) Albany 73, New Haven 62
West Haven, Conn.--Sophomore guard Todd Cetnar (Amsterdam) scored 14 points to pace five players in double figures and Albany went on for a 73-62 NECC victory over New Haven at Charger gymnasium. Albany (5-2, NECC 3-0) snapped a 54-all tie when Andre Duncan hit a twelve foot jumper with 5:37 remaining. The Great Danes went on to score 10 of the games next 12 points. Cetnar canned two free throws for a 66-56 advantage with less than one minute left.

"We played a great second half," Albany coach Scott Hicks said. "We had problems recognizing their switches and zones. I give the kids credit with Duncan in foul trouble most of the game."

Duncan, who picked up his fourth foul with 8:37 to play, finished with 12 points. Darrin Jahnel (Schalmont), who buried a twenty-two foot three-pointer in the decisive run, and Tom McGoldrick each had 13. Matthew Haggarty was the fifth player in double digits with 12.

New Haven (1-7, 0-2) senior forward Rob Johnson, a transfer from Division 1 Duquesne, led all scorers with 25 points while center Angelo Thomas added 19.

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Comments: College Basketball

BOX SCORE ATTACHED

(Women) Albany 74, New Haven 66 (OT)

West Haven, Conn. -- Junior guard Alison Bowe scored 4 points in overtime and tied the game in regulation with a seventeen foot jumper at the buzzer to lead Albany to a 74-66 New England Collegiate Conference victory over New Haven in the Charger gymnasium.

Albany (6-1, NECC 2-0) trailed 47-38 early in the second half after New Haven began the period with an 11-2 run. Tiesha Grace scored 8 of her game high 20 points in that stretch. The Great Danes slowly worked their way back into the contest and drew even at 61 apiece on a layup by Kerry Ochal (Amsterdam) who tied a career-high with 16 points. Freshman guard Kate Simmons put New Haven up two on a pair of free throws with eight seconds remaining leading to the late game heroics of Bowe who hit a jumper from the right wing at the buzzer. In overtime, Bowe sank two jumpers and Marlana Wheelwright made two free throws as Albany scored the first six points.

Liz Tucker had 15 points while Meghan Buchanan and Marlana Wheelwright each added 10 points for the Great Danes. Becky Snow (Columbia) scored 12 points and Christine Huber contributed 10 points in a losing effort for New Haven (2-6, NECC 0-2).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday, December 2

---BOX SCORES ATTACHED---

MEN

Albany 75, New Hampshire College 66

Albany, N.Y. -- Tom McGoldrick scored a season-high 21 points and Todd Cetnar (Amsterdam H.S.) had 15, as Albany upended New Hampshire College, 75-66, in the Great Danes' home opener at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany (4-2, NECC 2-0) had lost their previous four meetings with the Penmen, including a 84-61 decision last February 4. New Hampshire College (3-4, NECC 0-1) was picked by the coaches as the preseason favorite to win the New England Collegiate Conference title.

In a game which featured 10 lead changes and 10 ties, the Great Danes snapped a 63-all deadlock and went in front for good when McGoldrick scored on the left baseline with 6:10 remaining. McGoldrick, who added five rebounds and three blocks, later made four consecutive free throws for a 71-65 advantage with 49.7 seconds to play.

Cetnar and McGoldrick each canned a pair of foul shots in the stretch to hold the lead.

Orlando Ranson, a first-team all-conference guard, led the Penmen with 16 points, while sophomore Bobby Miller had 12. Robert Foster recorded a double-double with 10 points and a game-high 15 rebounds.

Andre Duncan had 12 points and seven rebounds for the Great Danes, who play at New Haven on Thursday.

WOMEN

Albany 71, New Hampshire College 50

Albany, N.Y. -- Megan Buchanan scored a career-high 17 points, and Kerry Ochal (Amsterdam H.S.) added 16 in leading Albany to a 71-50 victory over New Hampshire College in the New England Collegiate Conference opener for both teams on Tuesday at the Recreation and Convocation Center.

Albany, which held its sixth straight opponent to less than 60 points, is off to a 5-1 start for the first time since 1991-92, while the Penwomen fall to 0-5 overall.

The Great Danes jumped out to an 18-6 lead, and never trailed in the contest. Buchanan, a sophomore forward, drilled a three-pointer, and scored on a baseline drive to end the outburst.

Ochal, who had 10 of her 16 markers in the second half, grabbed a team-high seven rebounds. Freshman Liz Tucker was the third Albany player in double figures with 11. Tynae Gaston had 14 points, while Steph Meyer added 10 for New Hampshire College.

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Comments: College Football

BOB FORD NAMED GTE REGION I COACH OF THE YEAR

Waco, Texas -- University at Albany's Bob Ford has been selected as the GTE Region I Coach of the Year in Division II as voted by the American Football Coaches Association membership. Region I consists of the Eastern Seaboard from Maine to West Virginia.

Ford, who last month was named the Eastern Football Conference's top coach, guided the Great Danes to a 11-1 record and the EFC championship. He has been Albany's only head coach since the creation of the program as a club team in 1970. His record at Albany is 147-99 in 25 varsity campaigns, and he has 157 career victories in 29 seasons overall.

(see attached release)

BAKER AND THOMAS ON DAKTRONICS ALL-NORTHEAST REGION TEAM

Millersville, Pa. -- Offensive tackle Loren Baker (Gloversville H.S.) and tight end Seth Thomas have been chosen to the 1997 Daktronics, Inc. Division II All-Northeast Region Team, as selected by the sports information directors of NCAA-II member institutions. Baker and Thomas were first-team selections, while defensive end Matt Caliandro was a second-team member.

(MORE)

Albany Football 2-2-2-2

Baker, a 6-foot-3, 290-pound athlete, was a first-team all-Eastern Football Conference choice, and voted the EFC's best offensive lineman. He blocked for an offense which established single-season records for total yards (5,035), points (468) and passing yards (2,651).

Thomas, a first-team all-EFC selection, caught 39 passes for 656 yards and six touchdowns. The 6-foot-4, 260-pound receiver has already been picked to play in the 1998 Snow Bowl as a member of the Division II East All-Star team.

GTE Coach of the Year

Selected by the American Football Coaches Association

American Football Coaches Association • 5900 Old McGregor Road • Waco, Texas 76712 • (254) 776-5900 • Fax: (254) 776-3744

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 2, 1997

AFCA CONTACT: Todd Bell, Director of Publications and Publicity (254 776-5900)

The Sponsor

GTE has been the title sponsor for the American Football Coaches Association's Coach of the Year program since 1996.

The company is one of the world's pre-eminent telecommunications companies. It also is the largest U.S.-based local telephone company and a leading cellular service provider.

National Coach of the Year Winners to Earn Scholarships for Their Schools

The American Football Coaches Association Board of Trustees recently approved using money derived from the preseason Pigskin Classic Football Classic to give a total of \$165,000 in academic aid to athletic departments in all divisions of college football.

Part of that scholarship money will go to the four schools represented by the GTE National Coach of the Year winners.

The four schools represented by the GTE National Coach of the Year winners will each receive a \$10,000 academic scholarship that can be used at the discretion of the athletic director to benefit the athletic department and its athletes.

The AFCA will also present \$20,000 scholarships to the national championship football teams in the NCAA and NAIA (five schools) and \$5,000 scholarships to the schools of each of the AFCA's Assistant Coach of the Year Winners.

"One of the primary goals of the AFCA has always been to preserve and protect the game of football," AFCA Executive Director Grant Teaff said. "Our Board of Trustees views this scholarship and education program as another way to achieve those goals and assist a number of schools at several levels of college football."

ALBANY'S BOB FORD AMONG 1997 GTE REGIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR WINNERS

WACO, TEX. — University at Albany Head Coach Bob Ford has been selected as one of the American Football Coaches Association's 1997 GTE Regional Coach of the Year winners as voted by the AFCA membership.

"What makes this award so special is that these men are being recognized by their peers as the top coaches in their regions," AFCA Executive Director Grant Teaff said. "They were selected by the coaches they compete with and against on a daily basis."

The AFCA recognizes five GTE Regional Coach of the Year winners in each of the Association's four divisions: I-A, I-AA; Division II (NCAA Division II and all NAIA schools) and Division III (NCAA Division III schools). The winners are selected by Active members of the Association who vote for coaches in their respective districts and divisions.

Region 1 of AFCA Division II consists of the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia.

The Winners: Albany's **Bob Ford** earned GTE Regional Coach of the Year honors for the first time in 1997. He led Albany to an 11-1 record and the Eastern Football Conference championship. Ford has been Albany's only head coach since the creation of the program as a club team in 1970. Joining Ford in Division II are **Ken Sparks** of Carson-Newman (Region 2); **Roger Thomas** of North Dakota (Region 3); **Mel Tjeerdsma** of Northwest Missouri State (Region 4) and **Dan Hawkins** of Willamette (Region 5).

In Division I-A the winners are **Mack Brown** of North Carolina (Region 1), **Hal Mumme** of Kentucky (Region 2); **Joe Tiller** of Purdue (Region 3); **Bob Simmons** of Oklahoma State (Region 4) and **Mike Price** of Washington State (Region 5).

In Division I-AA the winners are **Andy Talley** of Villanova (Region 1); **Paul Johnson** of Georgia Southern (Region 2); **Jack Harbaugh** of Western Kentucky (Region 3); **Jim Tressel** of Youngstown State (Region 4) and **Mike Kramer** of Eastern Washington (Region 5).

In Division III the winners are **Chuck Mills** of the Coast Guard Academy (Region 1); **Chris Smith** of Grove City (Region 2); **Steve Mohr** of Trinity (Texas) (Region 3); **Larry Kehres** of Mount Union (Region 4) and **Jim Williams** of Simpson (Region 5).

Repeat Winners: Five of this year's GTE Regional Coach of the Year winners have earned the award for the second straight year: **Joe Tiller**, Purdue; **Hal Mumme**, Kentucky; **Mel Tjeerdsma**, Northwest Missouri State; **Steve Mohr**, Trinity (Texas) and **Larry Kehres**, Mount Union.

Two Years, Two Schools: Purdue's **Tiller** and Kentucky's **Mumme** are only the fourth and fifth coaches to win GTE Regional Coach of the Year honors in consecutive years at two different schools. **Tiller** earned GTE Division I Region 4 honors at Wyoming last year. **Mumme** was the GTE Division II Region 2 winner while at Valdosta State a season ago. **Mumme** is also only the third coach to earn the award in consecutive years after changing both schools and divisions. The others are:

Fred Akers: 1976 Wyoming, I-A District 8; 1977 Texas, I-A District 7

Dick Sheridan: 1985 Furman, I-AA, Region 2; 1986 North Carolina St., I-A, Region 1

Dennis Franchione: 1989 Pittsburg St., AFCA College Division I (now Division II), Region 4; 1990 Southwest Texas State, I-AA, Region 4

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