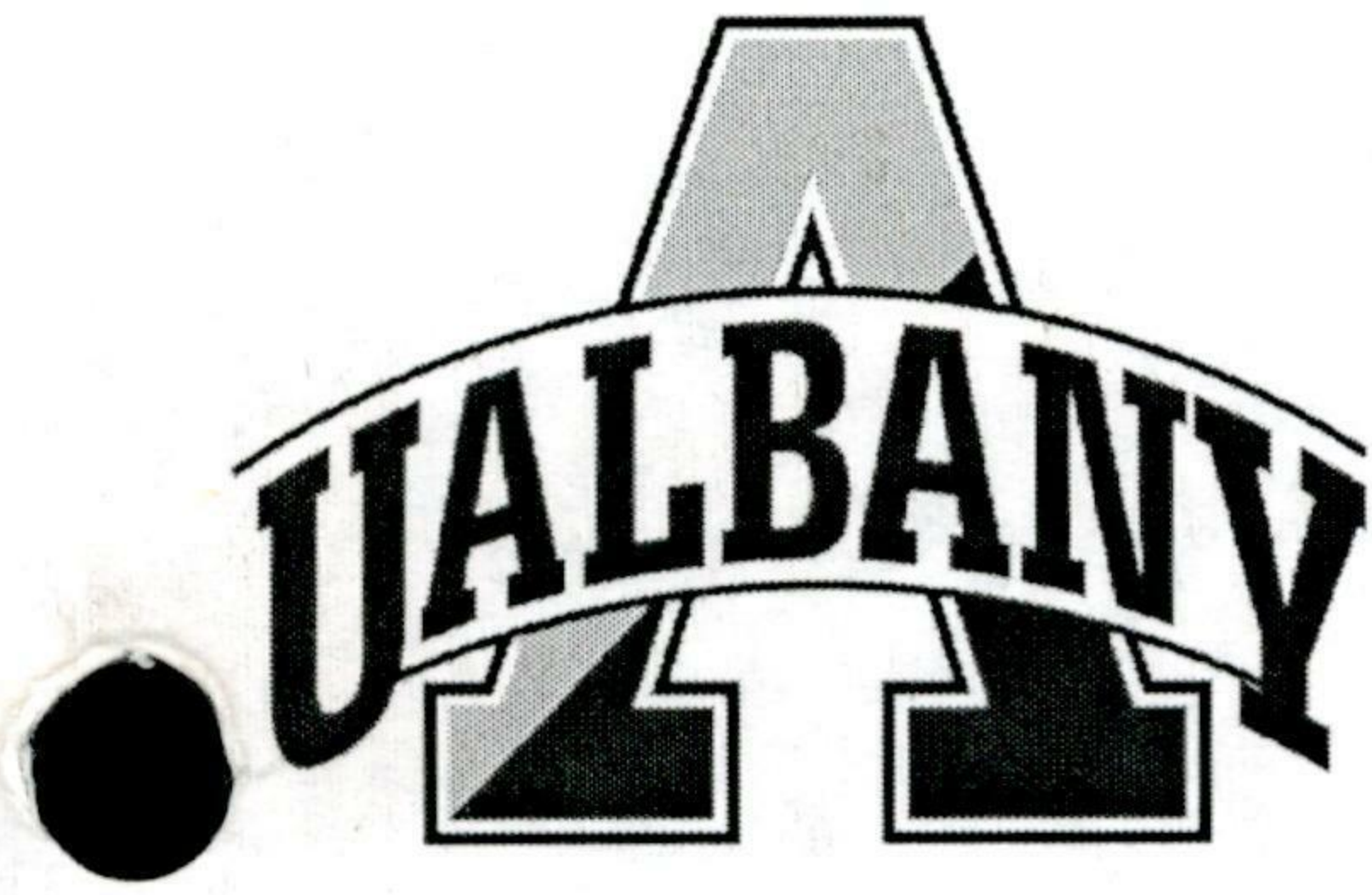


For Immediate Release  
August 2, 2007

For Further Information  
Brianna LaBrecque / 518-442-5733



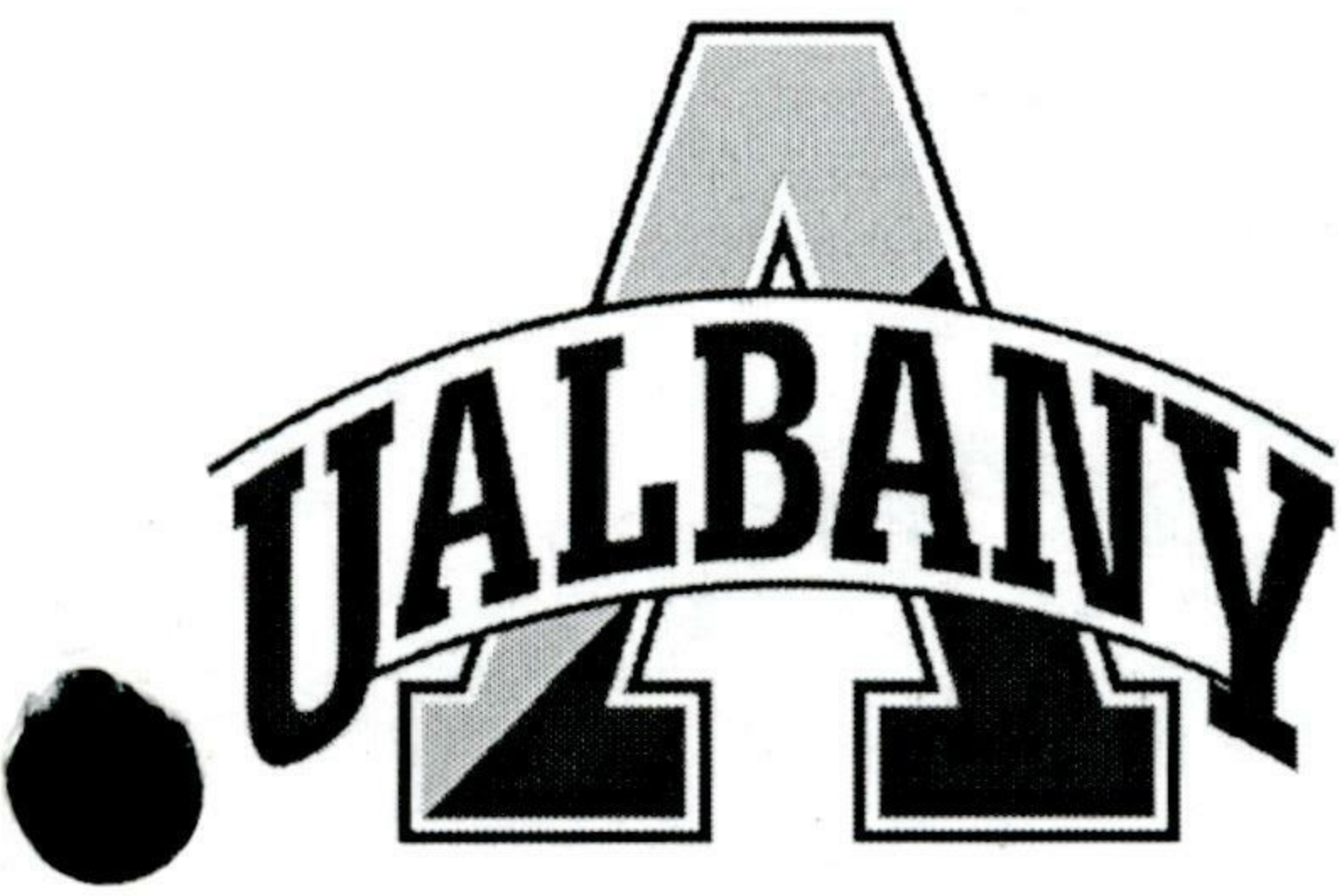
### UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY TENNIS TEAM EARNS ACADEMIC RECOGNITION FROM ITA

Albany, N.Y. – The University at Albany tennis team earned recognition as an Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Academic Team for last season. In addition, five student athletes were honored by the ITA as individual scholar-athletes. Amanda Hall, Aimee Kern, Christina Suarez, Kim Weltman and Kim Westcott all earned ITA Scholar-Athlete status.

The ITA All-Academic Team award is open to any ITA program that has a cumulative team grade point average of 3.20 or above (on a 4.00 scale). All eligible student-athletes whose names appear on the NCAA/NAIA/NJCAA eligibility form and have competed in one or more varsity matches must average into the GPA for the current academic year (including fall 2006 and spring 2007).

In order to earn ITA Scholar-Athlete status a player must be a varsity letter winner, have a grade point average of at least 3.50 (on a 4.00 scale) for the current academic year, and have been enrolled at their present school for at least two semesters.

The Great Danes posted a 3.72 team GPA, which was the highest grade point average of any team in the America East Conference.



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August, 2007

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## AVCA RECOGNIZES UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

Albany, N.Y. – The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) has recognized the University at Albany program with the GamePlan™/AVCA Team Academic Award for the 2006-2007 season.

The award, initiated in the 1992-93 academic year, honors collegiate and high school teams that displayed excellence in the classroom by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale and a 4.10 cumulative team GPA on a 5.0 scale during the school year. Nominating head coaches must be AVCA members. Each school will receive a plaque, and each player a certificate commemorating the designation.

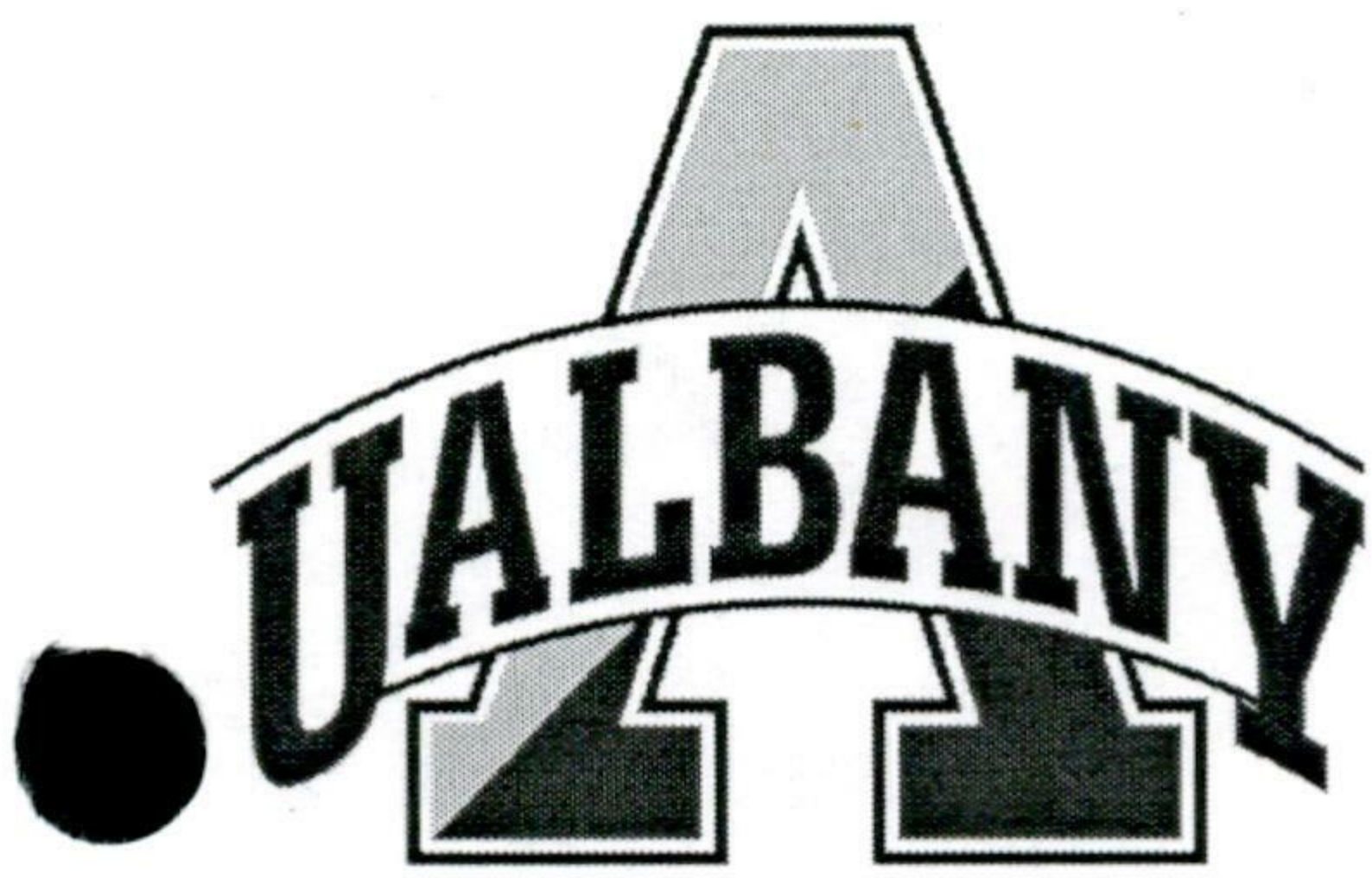
UAlbany was led both on the court and in the classroom by recent graduates Blair Buchanan, Ashley DeNeal and Shelby Goldman. The three student-athletes, who were all members of the America East Conference First Team as seniors, also earned spots on the conference's all-academic squad.

DeNeal, the America East Tournament's most outstanding player, was also a Chancellor's Scholar-Athlete Award winner and earned the ECAC Merit Medal as the school's top senior student athlete. DeNeal finished her four-year career as the program's all-time digs leader.

Buchanan, UAlbany's career assists leader, became the first player in NCAA Division I history to earn her conference's player and setter of the year awards for three consecutive seasons. Buchanan was also a two-time Division I Honorable Mention All-American, and a three-time AVCA All-Northeast Region honoree.

Goldman became the program's all-time kills leader as a senior, en route to her third straight all-conference first team award. She is a two-time member of the America East all-academic team and earned her second AVCA All-Northeast Region accolades last season.

The Great Danes, who became the first program in UAlbany's Division I history to host an NCAA Tournament event, won their second America East championship in the last three seasons with a thrilling 3-2 victory over UMBC in the final. UAlbany will kick off the 2007 season at the Hilton Garden Inn NAU Invitational in Flagstaff, Ariz. on Friday, August 24.



For Immediate Release  
August 31, 2007

For Further Information  
Craig Lane / 518-442-3359

### UALBANY MEN'S SOCCER OPENS SEASON WITH 2-1 VICTORY

Richmond, Va. – Junior captain Erik DiLorenzo scored the gamewinner 11 minutes into the second half to lead the University at Albany men's soccer team to a season opening 2-1 victory over Adelphi at Virginia Commonwealth's Sports Backers Stadium on Friday evening in the opening match of the Nike/Alltel Classic.

The Panthers got on the board just over one minute into the game on a tally by Mark Hoffman off a pass from Kemalie Preston.

UAlbany responded 13 and a half minutes later on a goal by freshman forward Shaun Kane. Senior goalkeeper Steward Ceus was credited with the first assist of his career on the goal. The Great Danes and Adelphi played the remainder of the half scoreless, to head into intermission knotted at one apiece.

The Great Danes took the lead 2-1 on a goal by DiLorenzo in the 56<sup>th</sup> minute of the match off a feed from freshman Colin Veney.

UAlbany was outshot by the Panthers 14-9, but held a 6-5 advantage in shots on goal. The Panthers held a 6-4 edge in corner kicks.

Ceus registered four saves in recording his 13<sup>th</sup> career victory. Shane Flanagan recorded three saves in between the pipes for Adelphi (0-1).

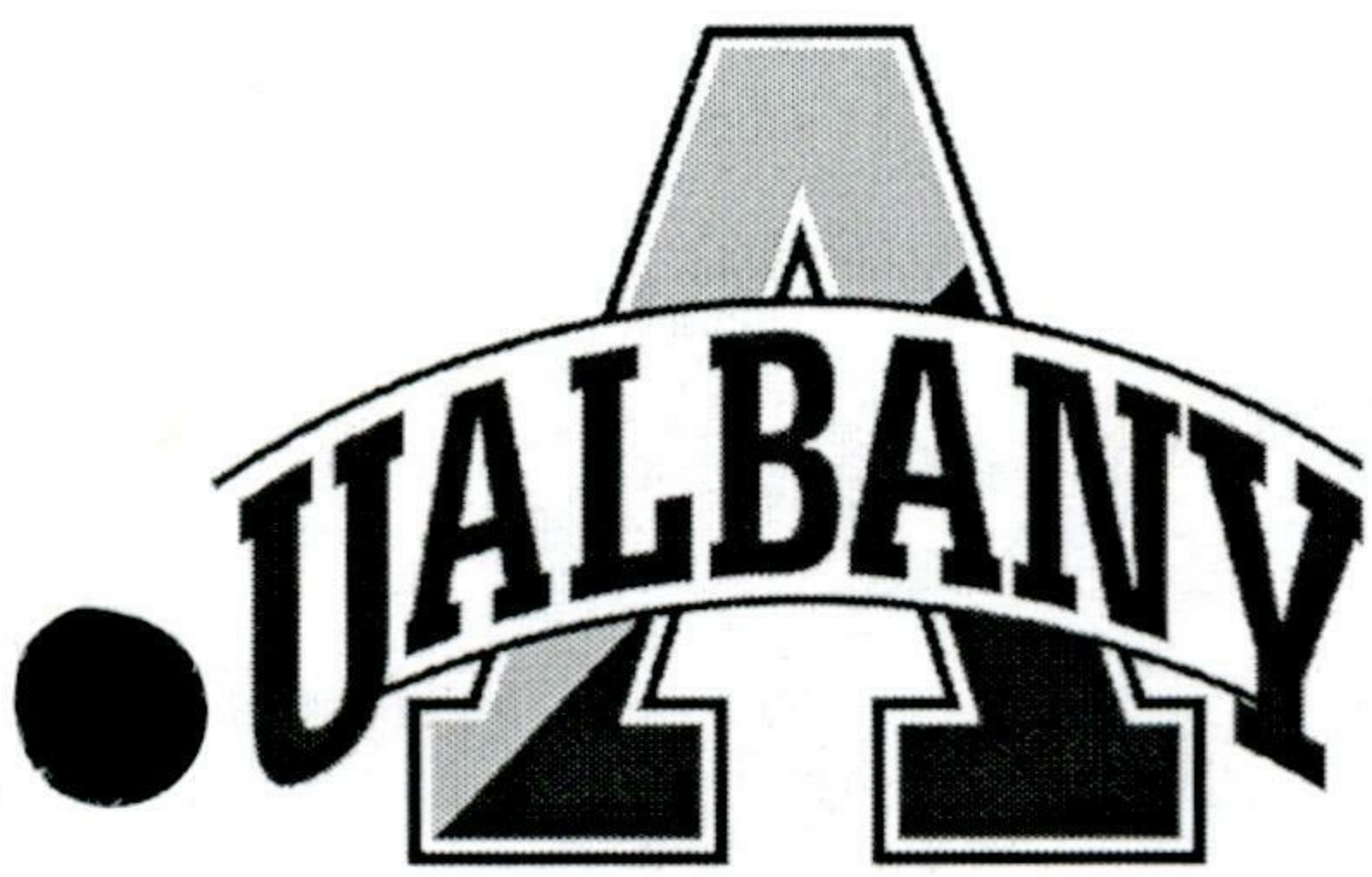
UAlbany (1-0) will return to action on Sunday, September 2, against host VCU in a non-conference match at 3:30 p.m.

-agate-

UAlbany (1-0)	1	1	-	2
Adelphi (0-1)	1	0	-	1

UAlbany: Scoring - Shaun Kane (1-0); Erik DiLorenzo (1-0); Steward Ceus (0-1); Colin Veney (0-1).  
Goalkeeping – Steward Ceus (90:00, 1 GA, 4 saves).

Adelphi: Scoring - Mark Hoffman (1-0); Kemalie Preston (0-1). Goalkeeping – Shane Flanagan (90:00, 2 GA, 3 saves).



For Immediate Release  
August 31, 2007

For Further Information  
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**UALBANY FIELD HOCKEY SHUTS OUT No. 11 INDIANA, 2-0**

Bloomington, Ind. – Nicole Savage and Jess Lindsey both scored unassisted goals off penalty corners to lead the UAlbany field hockey team to a 2-0 win over No. 11 Indiana on Friday afternoon at the IU Field Hockey Field.

After a scoreless first half, Lindsey tallied her first goal of the season nine minutes into the second stanza. The Great Danes doubled their advantage in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute, as Savage capitalized on a rebound in front of the cage for her second goal of the season.

UAlbany's Ashley Ross went the distance in the cage, making four saves. Haley Exner made three stops in her 70-minute performance for Indiana (2-1). The Hoosiers produced nine shots, while the Great Danes had six, and also led in penalty corners with a 6-5 advantage.

UAlbany (2-1) will continue its current road stretch with a game at Louisville on Sunday, Sept. 2 at 1 p.m.

-agate-

UAlbany (2-1)	0	2	-	2
Indiana (2-1)	0	0	-	0

UAlbany: Scoring – Jess Lindsey (1-0), Nicole Savage (1-0); Goalkeeper – Ashley Ross (70:00, 0 GA, 4 saves).

Indiana: Scoring – None.; Goalkeeper – Haley Exner (70:00, 2 GA, 3 saves).

**UALBANY WOMEN'S SOCCER FALLS 3-0 TO COLGATE IN SEASON OPENER**

Albany, N.Y. – The University at Albany women's soccer team dropped their season opener by a 3-0 decision against Colgate at Varsity Field on Friday afternoon. The Raiders' Josie Johnson netted a pair of goals in the victory.

The Great Danes (0-1) had an opportunity early in the first half to take the lead, but were unable to capitalize when freshman Teresa Boring just missed a diving header off of a chip from the midfield.

Colgate (1-0) broke onto the scoreboard in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute when Beth Clifford scored from a redirect off of a corner kick. Jillian Arnault and Liz Polido were credited with the assists and the Raiders would take a 1-0 lead into the second half. Johnson tallied in the 51<sup>st</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup> minutes to give Colgate the 3-0 win.

UAlbany recorded 10 shots in the contest, while Colgate took 15 shots. The Raiders also had an 11-5 edge in corner kicks.

Carly Sousa earned the win in net for Colgate, making six saves. UAlbany's Maria Liguori made two stops in the contest.

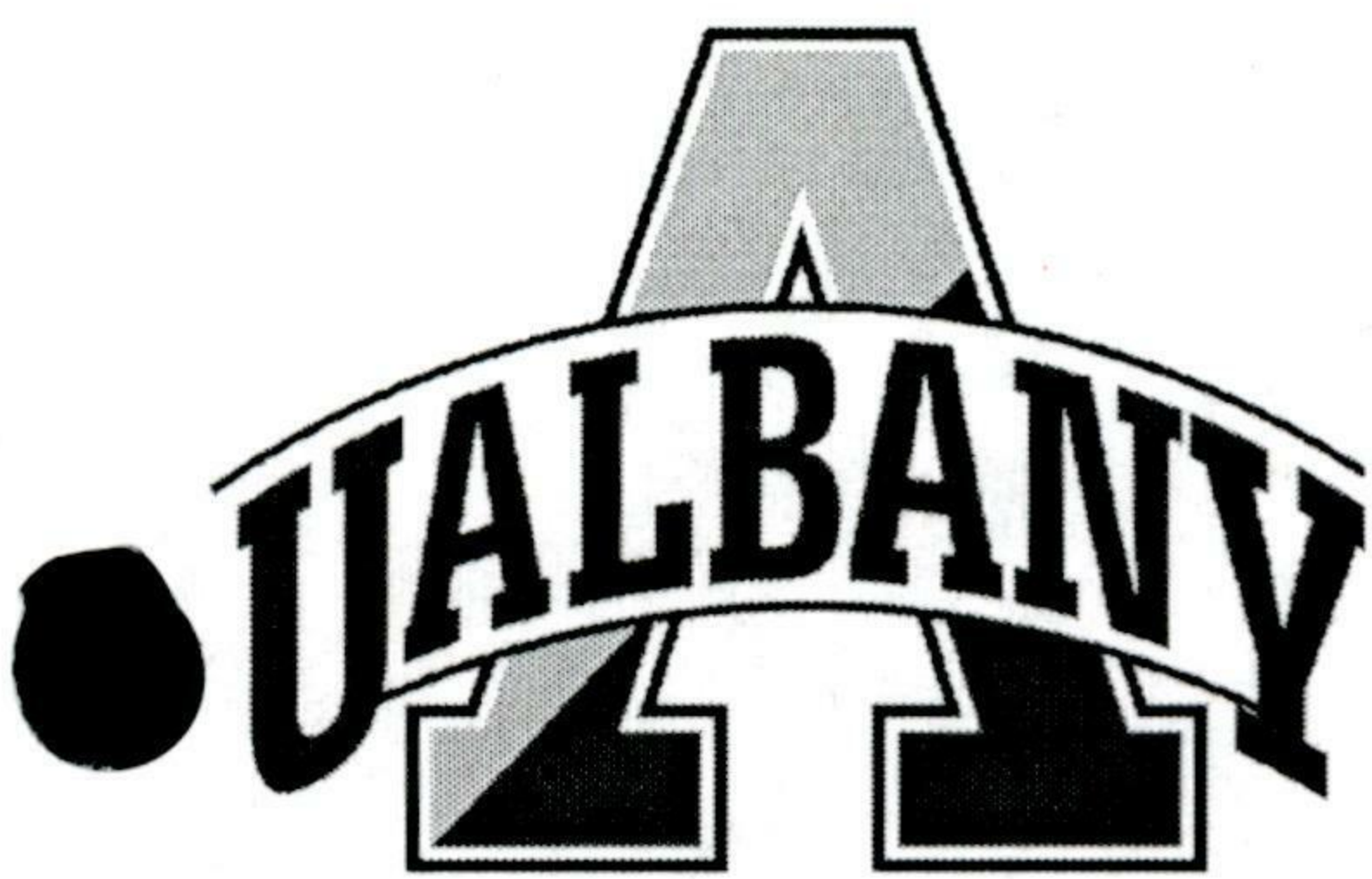
The Great Danes will return to action on Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, as they host Holy Cross in a non-conference match at 2:00 p.m.

-agate-

UAlbany (0-1)	0	0	-	0
Colgate (1-0)	1	2	-	3

UAlbany: Scoring- None; Goalkeeper- Maria Liguori (90:00 minutes, 3 GA, 2 Saves).

Colgate: Scoring- Josie Johnson (2-0), Beth Clifford (1-0), Jillian Arnault (0-1), Liz Polido (0-1), Franny Iacuzzi (0-1), Jessica Bitsack (0-1), Vera Carrington (0-1); Goalkeeper- Carly Sousa (81:46, 0 GA, 6 Saves), Brittany Pearsall (8:14, 0 GA, 0 Saves).



Attn: Sports Department

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For Immediate Release  
August 31, 2007

For Further Information  
Brian DePasquale / 518-442-3072

## UALBANY'S COLIN DISCH NAMED TO BUCK BUCHANAN AWARD WATCH LIST

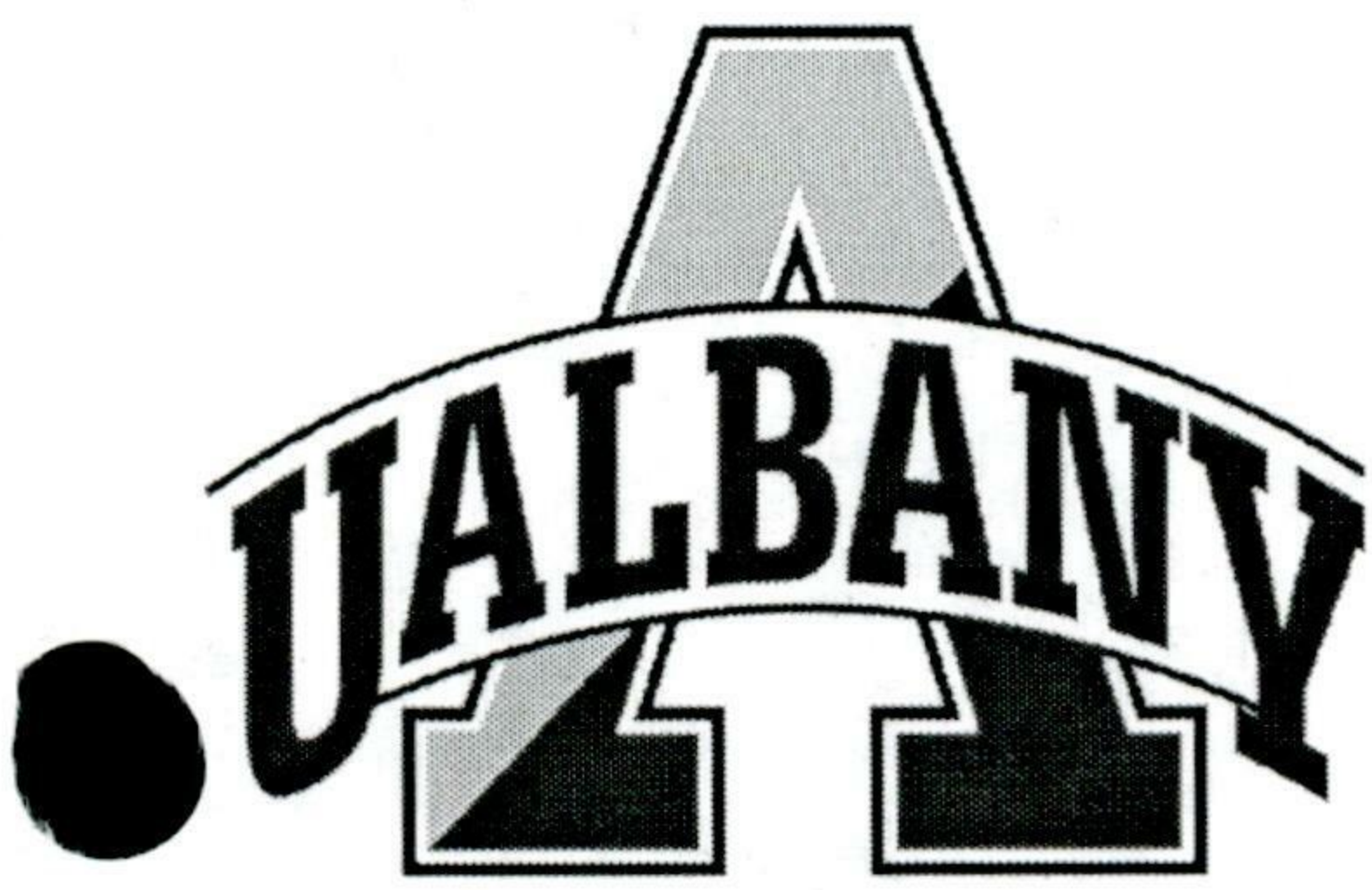
Philadelphia, Pa. – University at Albany's Colin Disch, an All-America linebacker, has been selected to the Buck Buchanan Award watch list. The Buck Buchanan Award is presented to the most outstanding defensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision (Division I FCS).

Disch was previously named to Street & Smith's preseason FCS All-America first team, and was a second-team selection by The Sports Network and College Sporting News. A two-time Northeast Conference defensive player of the year, Disch racked up 100 or more tackles for the third consecutive season in 2006. He was chosen to the American Football Coaches Association All-America first team and was Football Gazette's FCS Mid-Major Linebacker of the Year.

Disch, a first-team All-NEC choice on three occasions, is one of seven linebackers on the 16-player list. Buck Buchanan, an All-America defensive lineman from Grambling State University who passed away in 1992, is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He led the Kansas City Chiefs to the Super Bowl IV title. Previous Buchanan Award winners include Appalachian State's Dexter Coakley, who played for both Dallas and St. Louis from 1997-2006.

**2007 Buck Buchanan Award Watch List:** Kroy Biermann (Sr., DE, Montana), Colin Disch (Sr., ILB, Albany), Mike Gallihugh (Sr., LB, Colgate), Jarmaul George (Sr., S, Southern), Jason Hatchell (Sr., LB, Massachusetts), Brian Johnston (Sr., DE, Gardner-Webb), Kendall Langford (Sr., DE, Hampton), Tony LeZotte (Sr., FS, James Madison), Corey Lynch (Sr., FS, Appalachian State), Joe Mays (Sr., LB, North Dakota State), Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (Sr., DB, Tennessee State), Bryan Smith (Sr., DE, McNeese State), Kye Stewart (Sr., LB, Illinois State), Donald Thomas (Sr., LB, Eastern Illinois), Bobbie Williams (Sr., FS, Bethune-Cookman).

**FOOTBALL NOTES:** UAlbany travels to Colgate for the season opener on Saturday, Sept. 1 ... kickoff is 1:06 p.m. ... the game will be televised in Central New York on Time Warner Sports – Channel 26 and seen locally on Time Warner Cable (TW3) ... the contest can be heard on Fox Sports Radio AM 980 (WOFX) ...



For Immediate Release  
August 29, 2007

For Further Information  
Brian DePasquale / 518-442-3072

### UALBANY FOOTBALL RANKED THIRD IN SPORTS NETWORK FCS MID-MAJOR POLL

Philadelphia, Pa. – UAlbany football is ranked third in The Sports Network’s preseason FCS Mid-Major Top-10 poll as announced on Wednesday. The Great Danes, who are the coaches’ pick to win this year’s Northeast Conference title, received one first-place vote. San Diego, the winner of two consecutive Sports Network Cups as the top Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) mid-major program, was the top pick on 15 of 17 ballots. Drake is second in the poll.

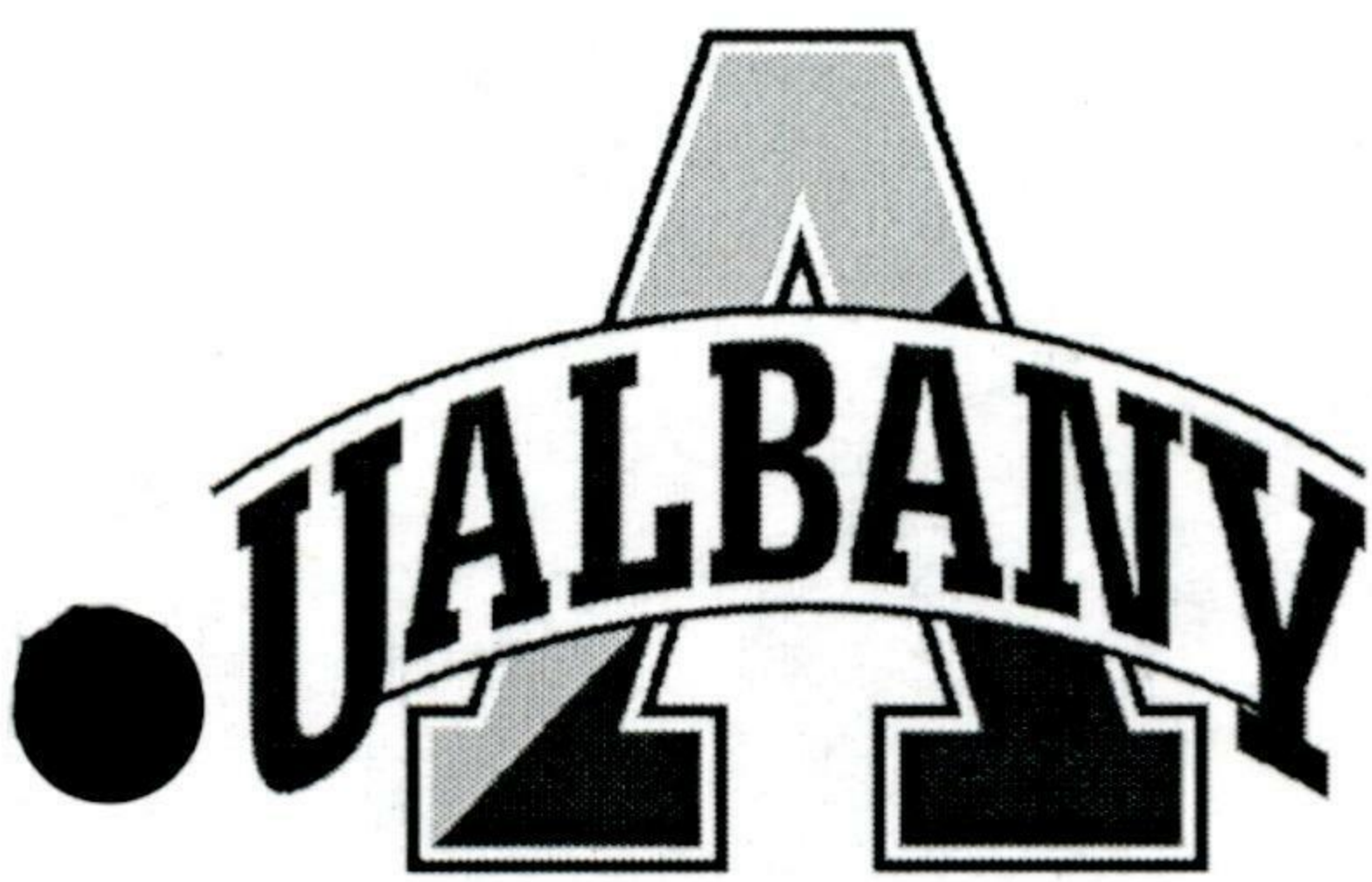
The Great Danes, who posted a 7-4 record one year ago, are coming off their best defensive campaign since moving to the Division I FCS level. UAlbany ranked among the top-five nationally in three categories, including points allowed (13.0 pg) and total defense at 240.8 yards per game. All-America linebacker Colin Disch and All-NEC defensive tackle Michael Dungey are among eleven returning starters. Offensive guard Sam Pagano earned All-NEC honors for a unit that averaged more than 190 rushing yards against conference opponents. Placekicker Jason Fralicker booted a school-record 13 field goals and all-league specialist Chris Lynch averaged nearly 39 yards per punt.

### The Sports Network FCS Top-10 Mid-Major Poll

Team (First-place votes)	Record	Points	Previous Rank
1. San Diego Toreros (15)	11-1	167	1
2. Drake Bulldogs	9-2	124	3
3. Albany Great Danes (1)	7-4	115	5
4. Monmouth Hawks (1)	10-2	112	2
5. Duquesne Dukes	7-3	102	6
6. Central Conn State Blue Devils	8-3	100	4
7. Robert Morris Colonials	7-4	73	7
8. Davidson Wildcats	6-4	48	8
9. Dayton Flyers	4-6	30	NR
10. Jacksonville Dolphins	4-6	25	10

Others receiving votes (in order of points): Stony Brook 17, Marist 16, Iona 4, Wagner 2.

**UALBANY NOTES:** Time Warner Cable (TW3) is scheduled to televise three games during the 2007 season ... TW3 will air this Saturday’s contest at Colgate, the home opener on Sept. 15 against Hofstra, and the match-up with conference-rival Sacred Heart as part of Homecoming & Family Weekend on Oct. 13 ... **Rodger Wyland** and **Greg Tobben** will handle the play-by-play and color analyst roles, respectively, on the home broadcasts ... Fox Sports Radio AM 980 will again air the entire UAlbany football schedule ... UAlbany and Colgate are meeting for the first time on the gridiron ... **Bob Ford** is second among active Division I FCS head coach in career victories with 217 ... ILB **Colin Disch** has been named to The Sports Network FCS Preseason All-America second team ... Disch, who has 346 career tackles, needs nine to become the program’s all-time leader ... DT **Michael Dungey**, OG **Sam Pagano** and P **Chris Lynch** joined Disch on the preseason All-Northeast Conference squad ... The Great Danes have reached the seven-win mark in eight of the last 11 seasons after posting a 7-4 record in 2006 ...



Attn: Sports Department

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For Immediate Release

August 25, 2007

For Further Information

Brianna LaBrecque / 518-442-5733

### UALBANY FIELD HOCKEY DROPS 2-1 DECISION TO JAMES MADISON

Harrisonburg, Va. – Delores de Rooij slipped the gamewinning goal past UAlbany goalkeeper Ashley Ross just five minutes into the second half to lead James Madison to a 2-1 win over the Great Danes in non-conference field hockey action at the Field Hockey/Track & Field Complex on Sunday afternoon.

de Rooij drove across the cage and shot her unassisted tally past Ross on the left side of the cage to give the Dukes a 2-0 lead. UAlbany sophomore Nicole Savage cut the deficit in half at the 43:55 mark, taking a breakaway pass from freshman Sarah Deane to score her first goal of the season.

James Madison (2-0) took a 1-0 lead in the first half, as Melissa Walls capitalized on a pass from Lauren Walls on a penalty corner, hitting the back of the cage from the left side of the circle. Goalkeeper Kelsey Cutchins made four saves in the cage for the Dukes.

Ross stopped three shots in the net for UAlbany (1-1).

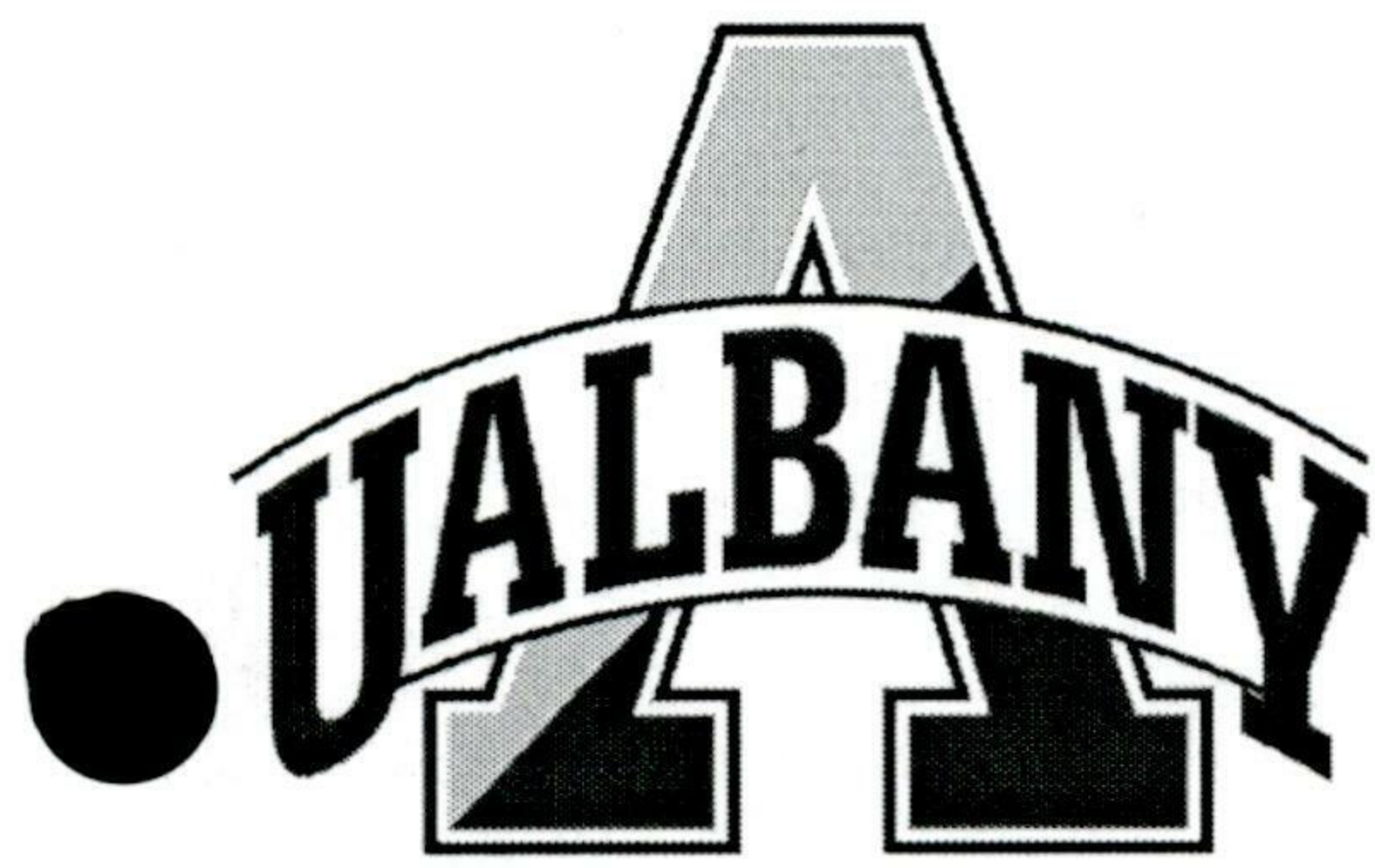
The Great Danes will visit Indiana for a non-conference contest on Friday, August 31 at 3 p.m.

-agate-

UAlbany (1-1)	0	1	-	1
James Madison (2-0)	1	1	-	2

UAlbany: Scoring – Nicole Savage (1-0), Sarah Deane (0-1); Goalkeeper – Ashley Ross (70:00, 2 GA, 3 saves).

James Madison: Scoring – Melissa Walls (1-0), Delores de Rooij (1-0), Lauren Walls (0-1); Goalkeeper – Kelsey Cutchins (70:00, 1 GA, 4 saves).



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For Immediate Release  
August 25, 2007

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## UALBANY VOLLEYBALL SPLITS MATCHES ON SECOND DAY OF NAU TOURNAMENT

Flagstaff, Ariz. – The University at Albany volleyball team split two matches on the second day of play at the Northern Arizona Tournament. In the first match of the day, against the host Lumberjacks, the Great Danes dropped a 3-1 decision with scores of 27-30, 30-23, 30-27 and 30-26. In UAlbany's second match versus the University of California-Davis, the Great Danes swept the Aggies, 3-0, with scores of 30-21, 30-27 and 30-23.

In the three-game sweep, UAlbany (1-2) had three players reach double-digit kill totals, led by senior middle blocker Ashley Crenshaw, who added four total blocks in the match. Freshman outside hitter Amanda Cowdrey added 11 kills and 10 digs for her first collegiate double-double while junior middle blocker Kamisha Kellam recorded 10 kills and a match-high seven blocks.

UC Davis (0-3) was led by Kayla Varney with 12 kills. Avreeta Singh led the Aggies defensively with 13 digs while Carson Lowden tallied a match-high 31 assists.

UAlbany dropped the first match despite a career-high 28 kills from Crenshaw. Crenshaw, who also tied a career-best with six digs, recorded a match-high six total blocks. The Great Danes were led defensively by sophomore outside hitter Kate Eckhardt, who tallied 15 digs, and freshman libero Tawny Dahmes, who added 13 digs.

Northern Arizona (2-0) received a team-best 20 kills from Kim Babcock, who completed a double-double with 14 digs. Emily Osiadacz added 15 kills while Kelly Verboom had a match-high 52 assists. Brittany Stowers tallied a match-best 20 digs.

UAlbany will travel to Buffalo for the Western New York Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 1 and Sunday, Sept. 2.

-agate-

Northern Arizona def. UAlbany, 3-1 (27-30, 30-23, 30-27, 30-26)

UAlbany def. UC Davis, 3-0 (30-21, 30-27, 30-23)

## UALBANY FIELD HOCKEY OPENS SEASON WITH 2-0 WIN OVER APPALACHIAN STATE

Harrisonburg, Va. – The University at Albany field hockey team opened the 2007 season with a 2-0 win over Appalachian State at James Madison's Field Hockey/Track & Field Complex. Michelle Simpson and Kristen Holder each scored for the Great Danes.

The game was stopped seven minutes into play and was delayed for almost four hours due to inclement weather, before restarting at 5:30 p.m. The contest suffered another 25-minute delay later on in the game because of storms.

Simpson scored the games first goal, an unassisted tally, at the 22:27 mark of the first half, as she drove into the circle and drove a head on shot from eight yards out. Holder capitalized on an assist from Michele Polizois with 26:52 on the clock. Junior goalkeeper Ashley Ross made one save for the Great Danes.

Denise Adams made eight stops in the cage for Appalachian State (0-1).

UAlbany, which received votes in the STX/NFHCA Division I Preseason Poll, (1-0) will take on James Madison on Sunday, starting at 1 p.m. The Bulldogs were ranked 11th in the preseason poll.

-agate-

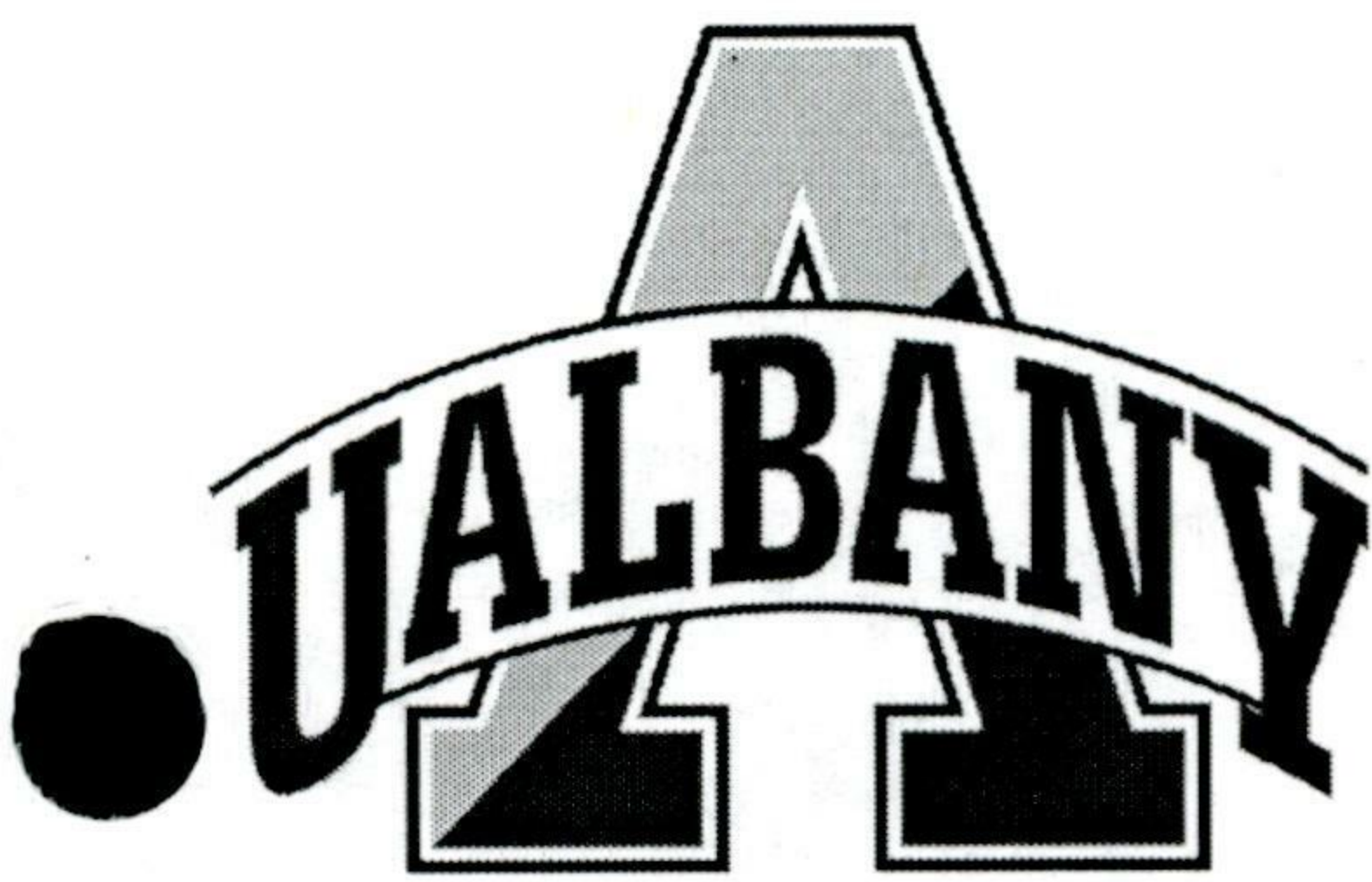
UAlbany (1-0)                    2      0      -      2

Appalachian State (0-1)    0      0      -      0

UAlbany: Scoring – Michelle Simpson (1-0), Kristen Holder (1-0), Michele Polizois (0-1); Goalkeeper – Ashley Ross (70:00, 0 GA, 1 save).

Appalachian State: Scoring – None; Goalkeeper – Denise Adams (70:00, 2 GA, 8 saves).





Attn: Sports Department

No. of Pages: 1

For Immediate Release  
August 24, 2007

For Further Information  
Brianna LaBrecque / 518-442-5733

## UALBANY VOLLEYBALL OPENS SEASON WITH LOSS TO NEW MEXICO STATE

Flagstaff, Ariz. – The University at Albany volleyball team opened the 2007 season with a 3-0 loss to New Mexico State on the first day of play at the Northern Arizona Tournament. The Aggies swept the Great Danes with scores of 30-27, 30-22 and 30-25.

UAlbany built up an 18-13 lead in the first game on a kill by freshman outside hitter Amanda Cowdrey before New Mexico State scored five unanswered points to tie the score at 18-18. The teams traded points until the Aggies broke a 20-20 tie with four straight points, before going on to lead the remainder of the game.

New Mexico State took an early 6-2 lead in game two before building up a seven-point lead, 21-14, later in the game. UAlbany tried to force a fourth game by getting ahead 19-13 in game three on three service points from sophomore Kate Eckhardt. The Aggies would mount a comeback on three points of their own on Lindsey Yon's serve, building up a 24-23 lead. After Cowdrey cut the lead to three, 29-26, on a kill off an assist from sophomore Samantha Jacobson, New Mexico State's Kim Oguh took an assist from Brynja Rodgers for the match point.

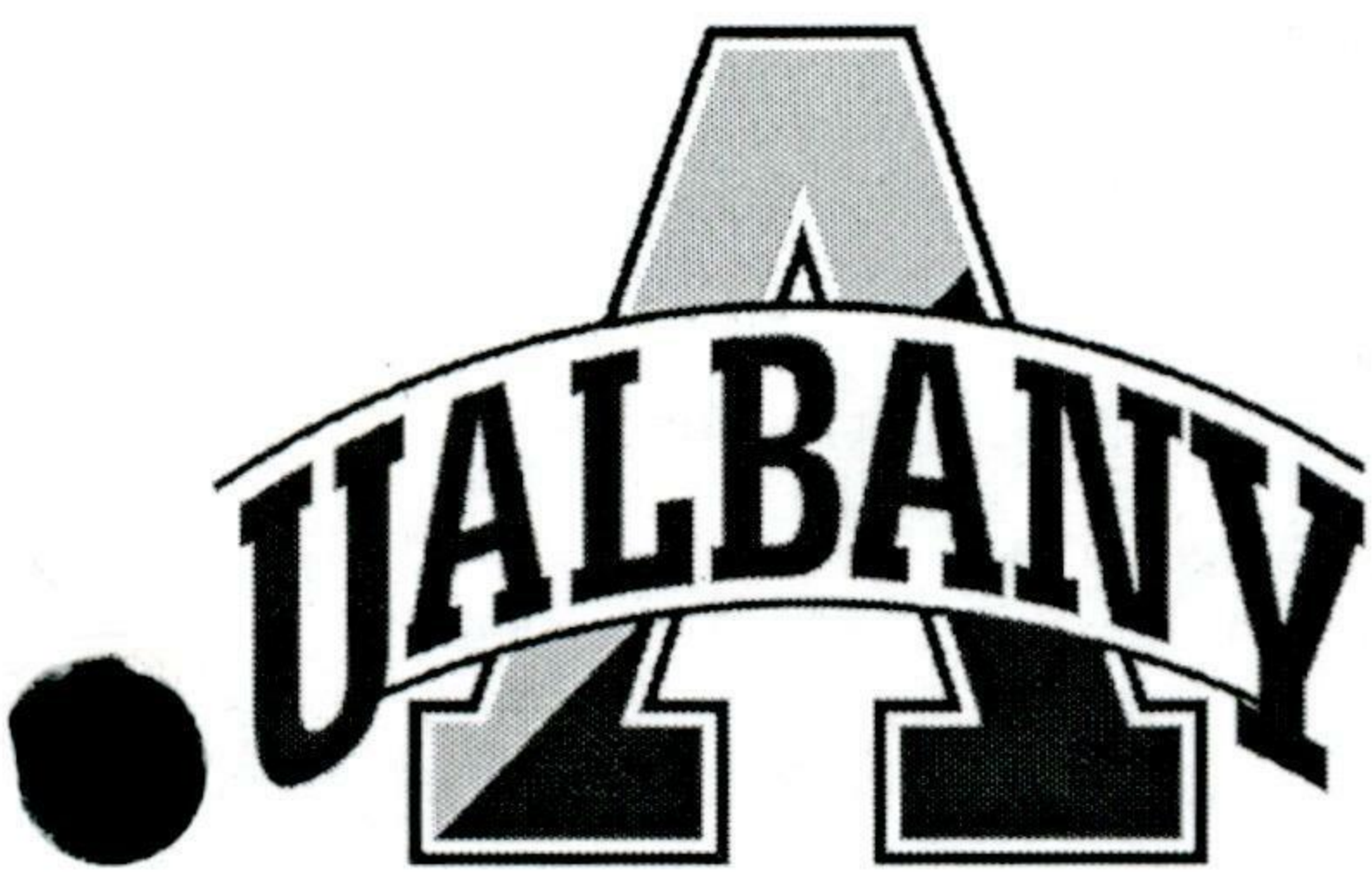
UAlbany (0-1) was led by senior middle blocker Ashley Crenshaw and Cowdrey, who finished with seven kills apiece. Eckhardt added six kills and a team-high six kills and four total blocks. Freshman setter Brooke Stanley recorded a team-best 17 assists while also notching three service aces and five digs in her first collegiate contest.

New Mexico State (1-0) had three players in double-digit kill totals, led by Oguh, who recorded a match-high 15. Yon added 12 kills while Amber Simpson notched 10 kills for the Aggies. Krystal Torres led New Mexico State defensively, tallying 15 digs. Alyssa Gintant finished with 33 assists for the Aggies.

UAlbany will continue tournament play on Saturday, facing the host Lumberjacks at 3:30 p.m. before taking on UC Davis at 7:30 p.m.

-agate-

New Mexico State def. UAlbany, 3-0 (30-27, 20-22, 30-25)



Attn: Sports Department

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For Immediate Release  
August 23, 2007

For Further Information  
Brian DePasquale / 518-442-3072

### **UALBANY MEN'S BASKETBALL WILL PARTICIPATE IN BRACKETBUSTERS ON FEB. 22-23**

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany Vice President and Director of Athletics Lee McElroy announced today that the men's basketball has been invited to play in the sixth annual O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters series on Feb. 22-23, 2008. The Great Danes, who are participating for the third consecutive year, are among 100 teams selected to the pool. UAlbany, the defending America East Conference champion, is joined in the field by conference members Boston University, Vermont and Binghamton.

"BracketBusters has been a good event for our program and the University," said UAlbany coach Will Brown, whose team has been involved in a pair of thrilling finishes against Virginia Commonwealth and Boise State the previous two years. "The game has provided great exposure, as our team has been featured on national television twice. It also allows us the opportunity to play a quality opponent that would not normally be on our schedule."

In its sixth year, BracketBusters is an ESPN television property that provides potential NCAA Tournament-caliber teams a chance to meet in a two-day, 50-game event. A minimum of 12 of the 50 matchups will be televised nationally, highlighted by a total of six games on ESPN2. An additional five games will be aired on ESPNU – ESPN's 24-hour collegiate sports network which launched on March 4, 2005 – and one on ESPN Classic.

The match-ups for the BracketBusters series will be determined by ESPN in conjunction with the conference approximately three weeks prior to the event. As part of the agreement, home teams will play a "return" game at the home facility of their BracketBusters series opponent in November or December of the following season. UAlbany has been tabbed as a "road" team for the 2008 event, which will result in a home game versus its selected opponent during the 2008-09 season. The Great Danes have appeared on ESPNU in each of the last two BracketBusters, suffering an 83-82 loss at Boise State last February after falling 70-67 at Virginia Commonwealth in 2006.

In 2006-07, UAlbany reached the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season as the America East Conference champion. Brent Wilson, a third-team all-conference forward, leads a group of seven letterwinners who are back from last year's 23-10 squad. Brian Lillis, the league's defensive player of the year, and Jon Iati, one of the program's all-time leading three-point shooters, also return. This year's roster includes six newcomers.



# MEN'S BASKETBALL

215 First Street, Suite 140  
Cambridge, MA 02142  
Phone: 617.695.6369  
Fax: 617.695.6385

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

August 23, 2007  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Tom Wilkins

## AMERICA EAST RECORD FOUR TEAMS SELECTED TO ESPN'S BRACKETBUSTERS POOL

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The University at Albany, Binghamton University, Boston University and University of Vermont men's basketball teams have been selected to the pool of teams to participate in the sixth-annual O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters series, which will be televised on ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPN Classic on Friday-Saturday, February 22-23.

The four teams represents the largest number of America East teams selected to the pool in the series' six-year history. America East is one of only seven conferences to have had at least one team selected for the BracketBusters event in each of the last three years. Albany played Boise State in 2007 and Virginia Commonwealth in 2006, while Vermont played Nevada in 2005.

In all, a total of 100 teams will compete in the 50-game, two-day event. A minimum of 12 of the 50 match-ups pitting potential NCAA Tournament hopefuls against each other will be televised nationally, highlighted by a total of six games on ESPN2. An additional five games will be aired on ESPNU -- ESPN's 24-hour collegiate sports network which launched on March 4, 2005 -- and one on ESPN Classic.

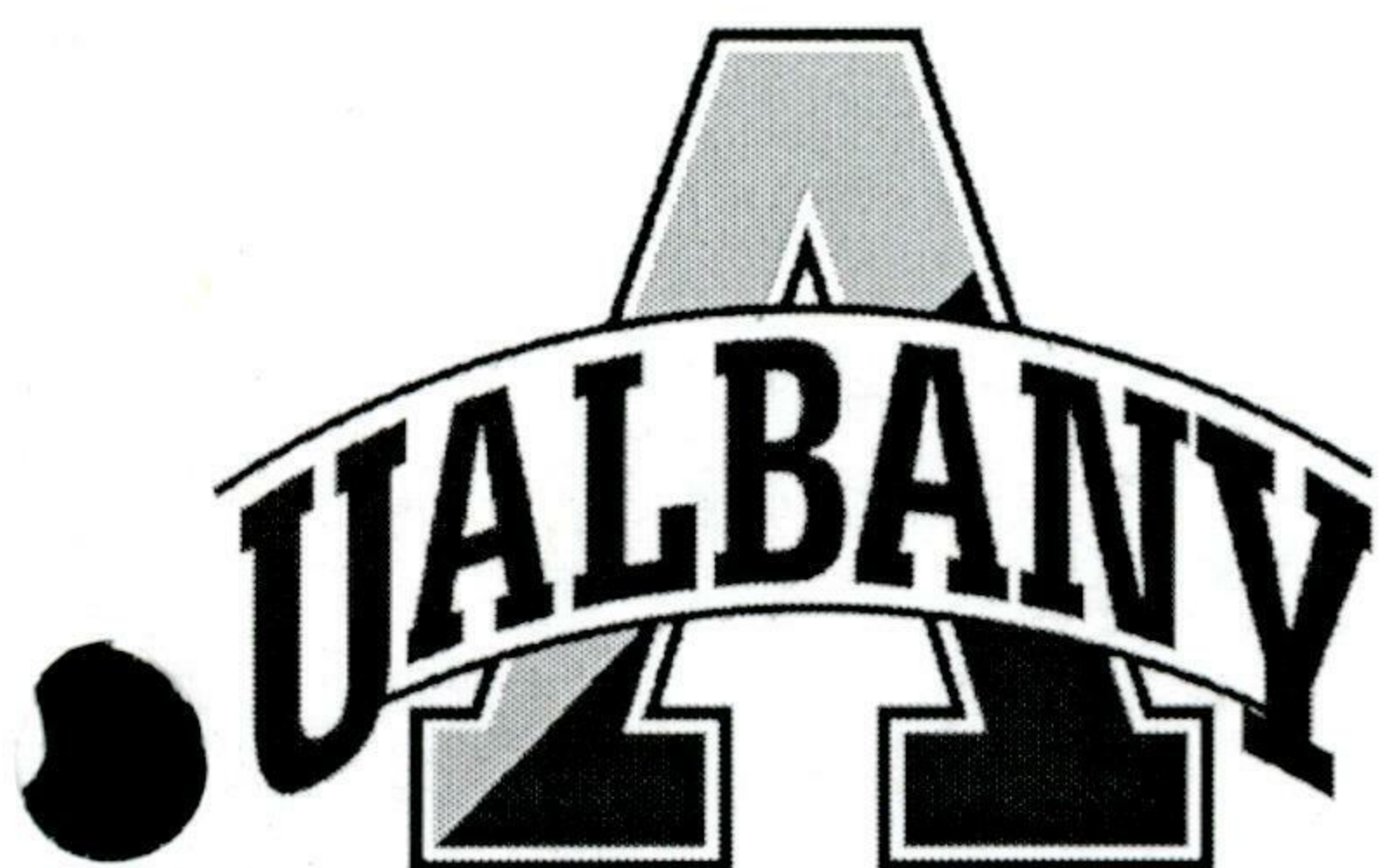
"We are excited to have a record four teams chosen to this year's BracketBusters pool. I think these four programs being selected is a sign of our growth and improvement as a conference," said America East Commissioner Patrick Nero. "America East and our membership relishes the opportunity to gain national exposure through ESPN and its family of networks during the BracketBusters series."

Albany has appeared on ESPNU in each of the last two BracketBusters, suffering an 83-82 loss at Boise State last season after falling 70-67 at Virginia Commonwealth in 2006. Vermont traveled to Nevada for the event's marquee game on ESPN2 in 2005. The Catamounts dropped a 74-64 decision to the Wolfpack, but advanced to the NCAA Tournament two weeks later where they upset Syracuse, 60-57, in the first round.

The match-ups for the BracketBusters series will be determined by ESPN in conjunction with the conferences approximately three weeks prior to the event. As part of the agreement, home teams will play a "return" game at the home facility of their BracketBusters series opponent in November or December of the following season. All four America East teams have been tabbed "road" teams for the 2008 event, which will result in a home game versus their selected opponent during the 2008-09 season.

This year's BracketBusters pool features teams with 74 appearances in the last five NCAA Tournaments, including a team in the Final Four - George Mason (2006); and seven Sweet Sixteen squads - Butler (2007), Southern Illinois (2007), Bradley (2006), Wichita State (2006), UW-Milwaukee (2005), Nevada (2004) and Butler (2003).

In an effort to provide a greater opportunity for NCAA Tournament-caliber teams, the event has expanded its pool of teams (18 in 2003, 46 in 2004, 64 in 2005, 100 in 2006) each year to produce a better cross section of squads for the basketball bonanza.



For Immediate Release

August 21, 2007

For Further Information

Craig Lane / 518-442-4511

## UALBANY MEN'S SOCCER PICKED EIGHTH IN AMERICA EAST PRESEASON POLL

Cambridge, Mass. - The University at Albany men's soccer team has been picked to finish eighth in the America East Conference in the 2007 preseason poll, as determined by a vote of the conference's head coaches. Defending champion Binghamton received three first place votes and 54 total points to narrowly edge out Boston University and Vermont for first in the conference.

Boston U. earned two first place votes and 53 total points to place second in the preseason poll for the second consecutive season. Last season's preseason number one and tournament runner-up Vermont received three first place votes and totaled 52 points to garner third in the poll. New Hampshire earned 38 points, while Stony Brook collected 33 points to fill out the poll's top five.

Hartford received 30 points and was tabbed sixth, with UMBC garnering the ninth and final first place vote and 29 total points for a seventh place finish. UAlbany earned 23 points to place eighth, while Maine collected 11 points to round out the preseason rankings.

UAlbany, which reached the America East quarterfinals each of the past three seasons, was defeated by Boston U. 1-0 in overtime in the conference tournament's opening round last season. Head coach Johan Aarnio returns a cast of experienced players to a team that went 7-10-2 last season. Junior goalkeeper Steward Ceus led the America East in saves with 97 and was fourth in the conference with six shutouts. Junior captain Erik DiLorenzo is the team's returning leading scorer with seven points from his defensive position.

The Great Danes open their regular season slate on Friday, Aug. 31, at the Nike/Alltel Classic in Richmond, Virginia. UAlbany will play Adelphi on Friday and then take on host Virginia Commonwealth on Sunday.

-agate-

### 2007 America East Conference Preseason Men's Soccer Poll

1. Binghamton, (3) 54 points; 2. Boston U., (2) 53 points; 3. Vermont, (3) 52 points; 4. New Hampshire, 38 points; 5. Stony Brook, 33 points; 6. Hartford, 30 points; 7. UMBC, (1) 29 points; 8. UAlbany, 23 points; 9. Maine, 11 points.

\*First place votes in parentheses ( )



Attn: Sports Department

No. of Pages: 1

For Immediate Release  
August 21, 2007

For Further Information  
April Raynovich / 518-442-4511

## UALBANY WOMEN'S SOCCER CHOSEN NINTH IN AMERICA EAST PRESEASON POLL

Cambridge, Mass. – The University at Albany women's soccer team has been picked to finish ninth according to the preseason poll conducted by the head coaches of the America East Conference. Boston University was the unanimous choice to win the conference championship for the fourth consecutive season, receiving all eight first-place votes for 64 points. Defending champion Hartford earned the final first-place vote and finished second in the balloting (54 points).

Maine was chosen third (51 points), followed by Binghamton and New Hampshire, who tied for fourth (38 points). Vermont (28), Stony Brook (25), UMBC (13), and UAlbany (12) rounded out the nine-team poll.

Second-year head coach Mary-Frances Monroe will look to build upon UAlbany's most successful season in the America East, as she returns her top two scorers from last season in junior Diana Barrera (six goals, three assists) and sophomore Jaclyn Rosada (six goals, two assists). Rosada was named to the America East All-Rookie Team as a freshman.

The Great Danes, who finished 5-13-1 a year ago, open the 2007 campaign on Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup> when they host Colgate at 4:00 p.m.

-agate-

### 2007 America East Conference Preseason Women's Soccer Poll

1. Boston U, (8) 64 points;
2. Hartford, (1) 54 points;
3. Maine, 51 points;
- t4. Binghamton, 38 points;
- t4. New Hampshire, 38 points;
6. Vermont, 28 points;
7. Stony Brook, 25 points;
8. UMBC, 13 points;
9. UAlbany, 12 points.

\*First place votes in parentheses ()



Attn: Sports Department

No. of Pages: 1

For Immediate Release

August 20, 2007

For Further Information

Brianna LaBrecque / 518-442-5733

## UALBANY VOLLEYBALL PICKED SECOND IN AMERICA EAST PRESEASON POLL

Boston, Mass. – The University at Albany volleyball team has been picked to finish second in the America East Conference in the 2007 preseason poll, as voted by the conference's head coaches. UMBC, which earned four first-place votes, was chosen to finish first. UAlbany, the defending champions, took first in the poll the previous two years. With 34 total points, the Retrievers replaced the Great Danes, who garnered three first-place votes and 30 total points, atop the poll. New Hampshire (23 points), Binghamton (22 points) and Stony Brook (21 points) filled the top five, while Maine (11 points) and Hartford (6 points) rounded out the poll.

UAlbany, which has won three straight regular-season America East titles, defeated UMBC in the conference championship last season, coming back for a dramatic 3-2 victory. Head coach Kelly Sheffield, the 2006 A-East coach of the year, returns all-conference players Ashley Crenshaw and Kamisha Kellam. Crenshaw led the conference in hitting percentage and was in the top ten performers in kills, blocks and points. Kellam led the conference with 1.37 blocks per game a year ago.

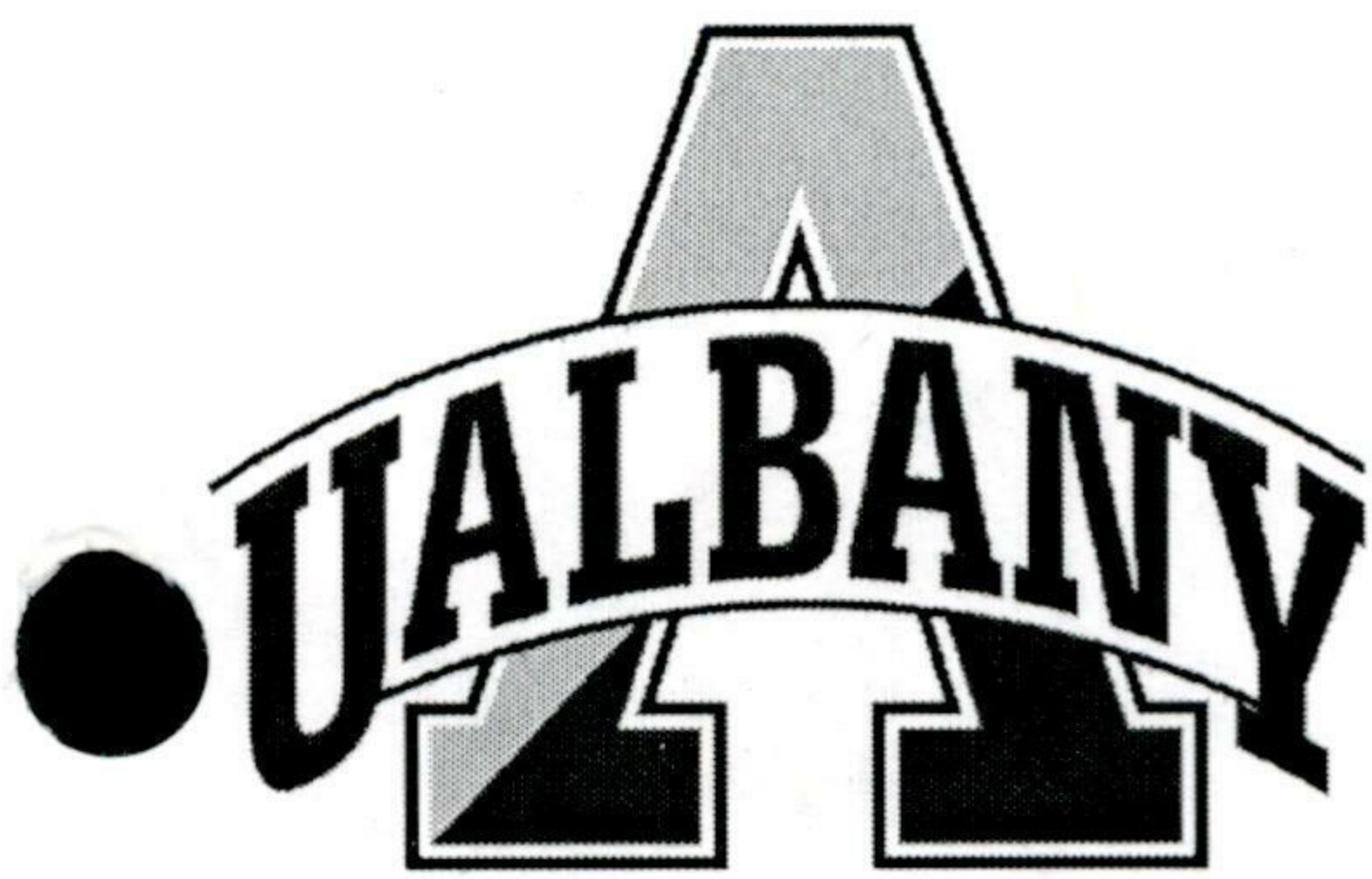
The Great Danes start play on Friday, Aug. 24, at the Northern Arizona Tournament. UAlbany will play New Mexico State on Friday before facing off against the host Lumberjacks and UC Davis on Saturday.

-agate-

2007 America East Conference Preseason Volleyball Poll

1. UMBC, (4) 34 points; 2. UAlbany, (3) 30 points; 3. New Hampshire, 23 points; 4. Binghamton, 22 points; 5. Stony Brook, 21 points; 6. Maine, 11 points; 7. Hartford, 6 points.

\*First place votes in parentheses ()



Attn: Sports Department

No. of Pages: 1

For Immediate Release  
August 17, 2007

For Further Information  
Brian DePasquale / 518-442-3072

## FORMER UALBANY BASKETBALL STAR JAMAR WILSON SET TO PLAY IN BELGIUM

Albany, N.Y. – Former University at Albany basketball standout Jamar Wilson will play professionally in Europe with Verviers-Pepinster, a first division team in Belgium. Verviers-Pepinster reached the Belgian Cup semifinals the last two seasons.

“I am excited to be able to continue my career as a basketball player,” said Wilson, who led the Great Danes to a pair of America East Conference championships and back-to-back NCAA appearances. “Belgium has a lot to offer, the league is competitive, and it is a good place to start. It’s a bonus to get paid well for something you love to do.”

Wilson, a 6-foot-1 guard from Bronx, N.Y., led the Great Danes in scoring (18.8 ppg), rebounding (6.2 pg) and assists (4.8 pg) as the 2007 America East Conference Player of the Year. He became the fourth athlete in conference history to win consecutive player of the year awards, joining Reggie Lewis (Northeastern), Taylor Coppenrath (Vermont) and Malik Rose (Drexel). He finished his career as the UAlbany program’s all-time scorer with 2,164 points and ranked second in assists (488). Wilson also shattered the single-season scoring mark as senior when he totaled 620 points. He was named to the Associated Press All-America squad as an honorable mention selection for the second straight year.

“I am very happy for Jamar,” UAlbany coach Will Brown commented. “This is a great opportunity to play in one of the better professional leagues in Europe. Verviers-Pepinster made him a priority as he is the first import player they decided to sign. Playing in the first division will allow him to develop as a player and chase his dream of playing the game at the highest level.”

**Brian R Depasquale**

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**From:** Michael P Parker  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2007 2:19 PM  
**To:** Brian R Depasquale  
**Cc:** Christine A Doyle; Vincent J Delio; Gina M Muscato; Susan Reich Supple  
**Subject:** FW: Giants Quote

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Catherine Herman (518) 956-8150  
[mediarelations@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:mediarelations@uamail.albany.edu)

## **UAlbany Dedicates Practice Field in Honor of New York Giants Owners Wellington Mara and Bob Tisch**

ALBANY, N.Y. (August 16, 2007) -- The University at Albany has dedicated the University's football practice field in honor of Wellington T. Mara and Preston Robert Tisch, the late co-owners of the New York Giants of the National Football League. Mara and Tisch were instrumental in making the University at Albany home to the Giants' summer training camp beginning in 1996. The Giants are committed to summer training at the University through the summer of 2008 with an option year for 2009.

Both Mara and Tisch were highly supportive of the Giants in Albany, often attending the welcome luncheons sponsored by the team to recognize the efforts of the University community during training camp. Mara, who passed away on October 25, 2005, was associated with the Giants for 81 consecutive seasons, and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1997. His father Tim founded the Giants in 1925. Tisch, who died on November 15, 2005, was a successful businessman and philanthropist, as well as a former Postmaster General of the United States. He became a co-owner of the Giants in 1991.

"Mr. Mara and Mr. Tisch were passionately devoted to the New York Giants, as we discovered during the team's Summer Training Camps at the University," said UAlbany Officer in Charge Susan Herbst. "As tribute to both men, who so greatly enjoyed watching the progress of their football team during the summers in Albany, we will rename the UAlbany football team's practice field, on the Western Avenue side of campus, Wellington Mara - Bob Tisch Football Practice Field."

A plaque and bench with the new field name were unveiled at a recognition ceremony co-hosted by Herbst and Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings.

"In significant ways, Wellington Mara and Robert Tisch have profoundly left their marks on this University and the City of Albany," said Jennings. "Not a day goes by in which the connection of this campus and this city to the New York Giants isn't mentioned and admired by both students and faculty here at UAlbany and the greater Albany community at-large."

"Giants training camp has become a summer institution in Albany, and for that we have Wellington Mara and Bob Tisch to thank," Governor Spitzer said. "They were instrumental in bringing the team



here, as we mark the twelfth successful year of Giants preseason practice at the University at Albany.”

“The University at Albany has been a wonderful home for the New York Giants for the past 12 years,” said John K. Mara, President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Giants and son of Wellington Mara. “The Mara family is thankful to UAlbany for acknowledgment of my father’s commitment to the University as an institution and as a summer home for the Giants.”

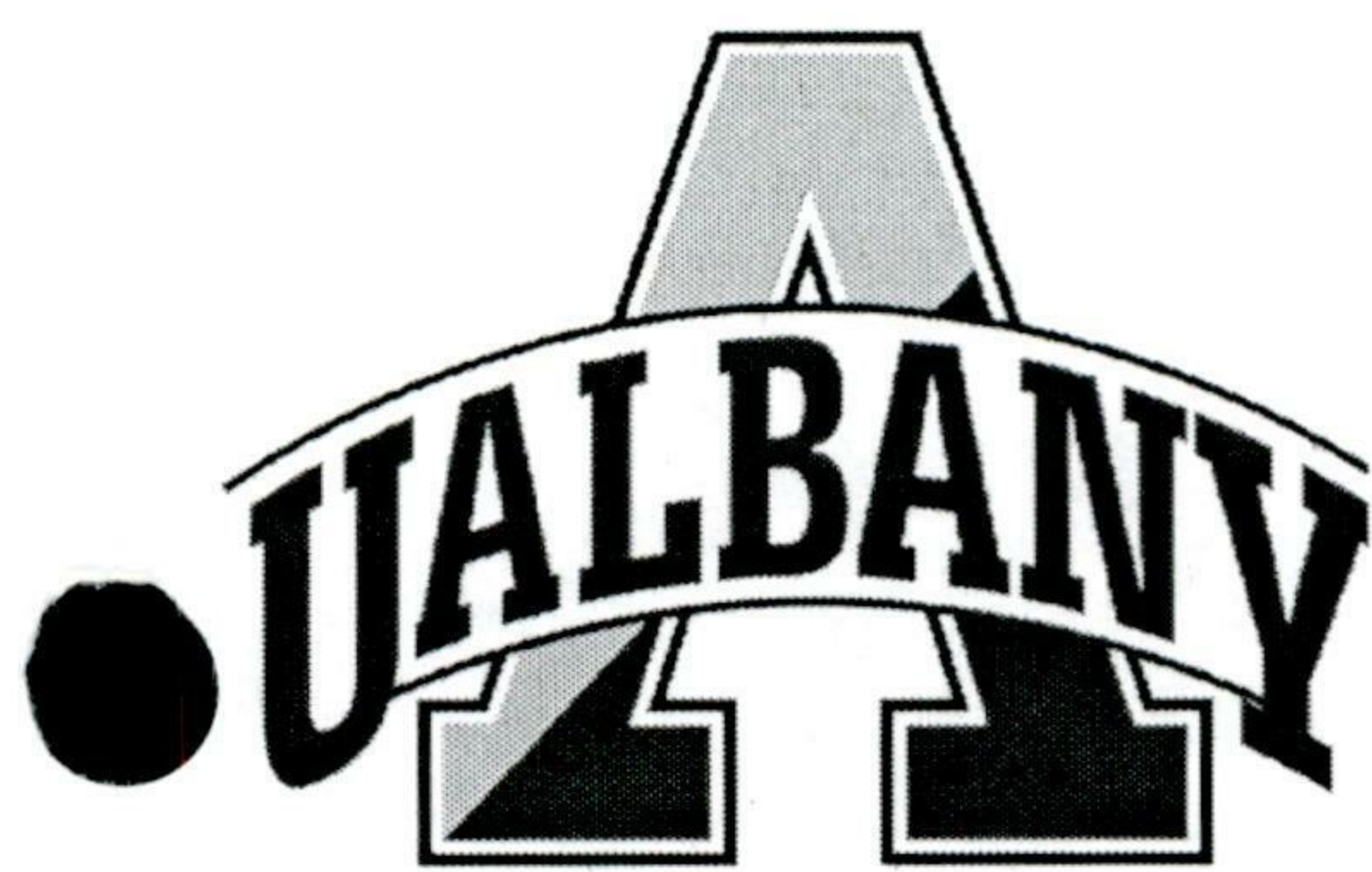
“The Giants organization has been proud to take up its summer residence at the University at Albany since 1996,” said Steve Tisch, Chairman and Executive Vice President of the Giants and son of Bob Tisch. “On behalf of the Tisch family, we are grateful for the recognition of my father and his dedication to UAlbany as both a home away from home for our team and a place of excellence in higher learning.”

“We have the entire Giants organization to thank for the creation of the New York Giants Scholarship, which has now assisted 11 young Capital Region students in need since the program began in 1997,” said Lee A. McElroy, Jr., Vice President for Athletic Administration and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. “Mr. Mara and Mr. Tisch have been enormously missed.”

The Wellington Mara - Bob Tisch Football Practice Field is used by the Giants during summer training camp and by the UAlbany football team during the academic year.

*The University at Albany's broad mission of excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research and public service engages 17,000 diverse students in 10 schools and colleges, including the Honors College. For more information about this internationally ranked institution, visit [www.albany.edu](http://www.albany.edu). For UAlbany's extensive roster of faculty experts, visit [www.albany.edu/news/experts.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/news/experts.shtml).*

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Attn: Sports Department

No. of Pages: 1

For Immediate Release

August 14, 2007

For Further Information

Brian DePasquale / 518-442-3072

## UALBANY FAVORED TO WIN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE FOOTBALL TITLE

Somerset, N.J. – According to a preseason poll of Northeast Conference head coaches, UAlbany has been established as the favorite to capture the 2007 NEC Football Championship. The Great Danes, who tied for second place in last year's standings, received three first-place votes. Monmouth, the defending NEC champion, also earned three first-place votes and was picked second in the poll.

This year's NEC champion will meet the winner of the Pioneer Football League in the second annual Gridiron Classic, an exempted postseason football game that takes place on Saturday, Dec. 1. The PFL champion will host the 2007 event.

"The voting represents a respect for the program, our defensive unit, and a pair of proven kicking specialists," said UAlbany coach Bob Ford, who has 217 career victories on the collegiate level. "It's the same story each year, but we need to stay relatively injury-free, reduce penalties, and improve our takeaway margin."

The Great Danes, who posted a 7-4 record one year ago, are coming off their best defensive campaign since moving to the Division I FCS level. UAlbany ranked among the top-five nationally in three categories, including points allowed (13.0 pg) and total defense at 240.8 yards per game. All-America linebacker Colin Disch and All-NEC defensive tackle Michael Dungey are among eleven returning starters. Sophomore Frank Blasinsky has been installed as the No. 1 quarterback, while offensive guard Sam Pagano earned All-NEC honors. Placekicker Jason Fralicker booted a school-record 13 field goals and all-league specialist Chris Lynch averaged nearly 39 yards per punt.

-agate-

2007 Northeast Conference Preseason Coaches Poll

1. UAlbany (3), 2. Monmouth (3), T3. Central Connecticut State, T3. Robert Morris (1), 5. Wagner, T6. Sacred Heart, T6. Saint Francis, Pa. ( ) – first-place votes

## COLIN DISCH AMONG FOUR PLAYERS ON PRESEASON ALL-NEC SQUAD

Somerset, N.J. – The Northeast Conference announced its 2007 preseason all-conference football team on Tuesday afternoon. UAlbany had four players voted to the squad by the league's head coaches.

Colin Disch, the 2005 and 2006 NEC Defensive Player of the Year, was named to last year's American Football Coaches Association Division I FCS All-America squad. Disch, a senior inside linebacker who was also chosen as the Football Gazette FCS Mid-Major Linebacker of the Year, totaled 103 tackles, including 11 for a loss. He is currently third on school's all-time tackles list with 346 and made double-figure hits in 21 career games.

Michael Dungey, a 6-foot-2, 275-pound defensive tackle, earned all-conference recognition for the second straight season. He had 34 tackles, eight hits for a loss and two sacks as a junior. A mid-major All-American and All-Northeast Region standout, Dungey led a defensive unit that ranked fifth nationally in rushing yards allowed at 90.2 per game.

Sam Pagano, a two-time All-NEC left guard, has appeared in 29 career games on UAlbany's offensive line. He paved the way for an offense that averaged 296.0 total yards and 193.7 rushing yards against conference opponents. Lynch, a first-team mid-major All-American, averaged 38.8 yards per punt in 2006. He was selected to the all-conference first team. Lynch had five punts of 50-plus yards and placed 16 kicks inside the 20-yard line with five for touchbacks.

# Northeast Conference

200 Cottontail Lane • Vantage Court North • Somerset, NJ 08873  
(732) 469-0440 • Fax (732) 469-0744 • [www.northeastconference.org](http://www.northeastconference.org)



For Immediate Release  
August 14, 2007

## Albany Chosen To Capture 2007 NEC Football Championship *Great Danes Edge Out Defending Champion Monmouth In Poll*

**Somerset, NJ** -- In search of its first conference title since 2003, Albany earned the top spot in the Northeast Conference preseason football poll. The Great Danes edged out defending champion Monmouth for top billing in the poll, conducted by the league's head coaches. The preseason rankings, along with the NEC preseason all-conference team, were announced this afternoon as a prelude to the league's 12th football season. In 2006, the NEC enjoyed the best year in league history with Albany and Central Connecticut State becoming the first conference teams to be ranked in Sports Network FCS Top-25 poll as league members secured a number of victories over perennial playoff teams.

Albany also earned the moniker of preseason favorite last year, but the Great Danes finished the 2006 campaign tied for second with a 5-2 NEC record. The Great Danes received three first-place votes as did Monmouth, which captured its fifth league title last year and represented the NEC in the inaugural Gridiron Classic. Robert Morris pulled in one first-place vote and finished tied for third in the poll with Central Connecticut State. Wagner landed in fifth with Sacred Heart and Saint Francis (PA) rounding out the preseason selections in a tie for sixth.

**Albany (7-4, 5-2 NEC)** earned its first-ever national Top-25 ranking in 2006, knocked off two perennial powerhouse programs (Delaware and Lehigh) during its non-conference slate and posted a winning NEC record for the ninth straight season, but fell to Monmouth in the final game of the regular season to miss out claiming a share of the league crown. With the Great Danes the league's preseason pick once again, longtime head coach Bob Ford, who has compiled 217 career victories in 34 years at the helm of the program, has an idea of how his team can live up to expectations.

"We must continue our outstanding play on special teams and defense," said Ford "We also need to reduce our turnovers and foolish penalties."

**Colin Disch (North Plainfield, NJ/North Plainfield)** and **Jason Fralicker (North Tonawanda, NY/North Tonawanda)** should be key players in continuing the program's strong defense and special teams play in 2007. Disch, a senior captain at inside linebacker, is one of the conference's most feared and accomplished defensive players. The 6'1" Disch made 103 tackles last season, third in the NEC, on his way to being named the conference's Defensive Player of the Year and an AFCA All-American. Senior defensive tackle **Michael Dungey (Rochester, NY/Irondequoit)** who also earned 2006 All-NEC First Team honors, was another main cog in a defense that ranked first in the conference in rushing defense and second in pass defense, total defense and scoring defense.

(2007 NEC Football Preseason Poll Release; 1-of-4)

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

### 2007 Northeast Conference Football Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Albany (3)
2. Monmouth (3)
3. Central Connecticut State  
Robert Morris (1)
5. Wagner
6. Sacred Heart  
Saint Francis (PA)

*First place votes in parentheses*

Fralicker earned all-NEC second team accolades as a placekicker after going a perfect 25-for-25 on PAT's and booting a school record 13 field goals. Junior punter **Chris Lynch (Lindenhurst, NY/Lindenhurst)** was a first team all-conference selection, averaging 38.8 yards per kick. Sophomore **Frank Blasinsky (North Royalton, Ohio/Parma Padua Franciscan)** steps into the starting quarterback role, while last year's starter, junior **Daniel Bocanegra (Daly City, CA/Junipero Serra)**, moves out to flanker. Bocanegra has some talented company at the wideout position in senior Mike Wall, an all-NEC second team return specialist. In addition to being listed amongst the national leaders with a 24.9 kickoff return average, Wall caught 15 passes for 217 yards and two TDs. Senior tailback **Omar Johnson (Edgewater Park, NJ/Burlington City)**, who carried the ball for 435 yards and seven touchdowns last year, should handle the bulk of the rushing load.

**Monmouth (10-2, 6-1 NEC)** has aspirations of capturing a sixth NEC title, but there have been some significant changes to the roster that secured the Hawks a 5-0 road record – including a win at Colgate – and the league championship a year ago. In addition to the loss of first team all-NEC quarterback Brian Boland, Monmouth faces a near complete turnover on defense.

“We need to successfully replace 9-of-11 defensive starters, and establish our number one quarterback,” said 15th year head coach Kevin Callahan. “Those are our priorities.”

One position the Hawks don't have to look hard to fill is running back, where 2006 NEC Rookie of the Year **David Sinisi (Cedar Grove, NJ/Cedar Grove)**, a junior, returns. The conference's third-leading rusher last year, Sinisi ran for 754 yards on 171 carries and found the end zone 14 times. Senior **T.J. Cerezo (Stanhope, NJ/Lenape Valley Regional)**, who started all 12 games at outside linebacker, and senior defensive back **Ayo Falae (Newark, NJ/Barringer)** are the two returnees on defense. Cerezo made 32 tackles a year ago, while Falae had 48 takedowns.

Under the guidance of Callahan, the Hawks will use the duration of training camp to establish a No. 1 quarterback. Senior **Brett Burke (Wall Township, NJ/Wall)** and transfer **Matt Fullam (Wayne, NJ/DePaul Catholic)**, who possesses in-game experience from his time at Fordham, are the two leading candidates. Boland's replacement will be aided by the presence of two highly-talented returnees with pass-catching ability. Senior wide receiver **Adam San Miguel (North Bergen, NJ/St. Peter's Prep)** and senior tight end **John Nalbone (Lawrenceville, NJ/Lawrence)** are coming off productive seasons and should help take some pressure off a new quarterback. San Miguel, whose speed also makes him a potent kick returner, led the NEC in receptions (73) and receiving yardage (872) on the way to earning first team all-conference recognition. With 145 career receptions, he is six catches away from establishing a new school record in the category. Nalbone, who was named to the all-NEC second team for the second consecutive season, made 19 catches for 198 yards.

**Central Connecticut State (8-3, 4-3 NEC)** second-year head coach Jeff McInerney will try to elevate Blue Devils back to the top of the NEC, but he will have to do so without the services of the top single-season rusher in conference history. Running back Justise Hairston, the 2006 NEC Offensive Player of the Year and sixth round pick of the New England Patriots, is gone after having a monster final season, in which he ran for 1,847 yards and was a Walter Payton Award finalist. His efforts helped the Blue Devils attain a Top-25 national ranking for the first time in program history. One week following a win at six-time national champion Georgia Southern, CCSU leaped into the No. 23 spot of the September 25 edition of the Sports Network FCS Poll and rose as high as No. 19 in the rankings three weeks later.

“The key for us is to still be able to run the football like we did last year when we led the nation in rushing,” said McInerney. “We also did not turn the ball over last year. We turned the ball over 13 times and that was key. So we need to be able to keep our turnover margin down, be better at the play action pass and improving our kicking game. If we can do that, we will be a better football team.”

Junior **Jo Jo Freeman (Philadelphia, PA/Pomfret School)** will step back into the starting running back role, a post he held as a freshman in 2005. As a rookie, Freeman amassed 801 yards on the ground and seven touchdowns en-route to earning all-NEC second team honors. Freeman will run behind an offensive line anchored by mammoth senior captain **Ryne Nutt (Warren, OH/Howland)**, who earned 2006 Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major All-America honors. Nutt, the team's center, has been a three-year starter for CCSU and was a 2006 all-NEC first team lineman. Taking the snaps from Nutt will be one of two talented signal callers. Sophomore **Aubrey Norris (Staten Island, NY/Hargrave Military)**, who played in only three games in 2006 before a season-ending injury, and senior **Ryan Holmes (Union, NJ/Lackawanna JC)** have both proved capable of handling the responsibilities. Starting eight games as a junior, Holmes threw for 960 yards and added 381 yards on the ground with five touchdowns. The Blue Devils have a young receiving corps, led by sophomore **Nick Colagiovanni (Plainville, CT/Milford Academy)**, who caught a team-high 16 balls for 231 yards in 2006.

Junior defensive end **Ernie Greywacz (New Canaan, CT/New Canaan)** and senior linebacker **Chris Stimmel (Baltimore, MD/Cardinal Gibbons)** return for a defense that allowed under 18 points per game last year. Stimmel, a team captain and second team all-NEC selection in 2007, made 84 tackles, 12 of which were for a loss. Returning for his third season, Greywacz was fourth on the team with 62 tackles and also added five sacks in 2006. All-NEC second team pick **Anthony Wilson (Norwalk, CT/Brien McMahon)** and fellow junior **Michael Bailey (Yonkers, NY/Gorton)** are the key members of the Blue Devils' secondary. Wilson broke up eight passes and intercepted another, while Bailey made 38 tackles and registered three pass break-ups.

**Robert Morris (7-4, 5-2 NEC)** will vie for its sixth league championship and first since 2000 with one of the NEC's top signal callers. Junior quarterback **Erik Cwalinski (Jacobsburg, OH/Shadyside)**, the league's leading returning passer, threw for 2,066 yards and 19 touchdowns a season ago to spark the Colonials to a second-place NEC finish. Cwalinski's favorite target was Jarvis Powers, who caught a team-high 31 balls, is gone, but seniors **Mario Hines (Ecorse, MI/Ecorse)** and **Alvin Hill (Pittsburgh, PA/Plum)** are back. Hines, a 2006 all-NEC first team selection as a return specialist, averaged 14.8 yards per catch as a junior, pulling in 23 reception, including four for scores. Hill made 21 catches for 355 yards and three touchdowns.

The Colonials boast an experienced offensive line that returns three senior starters, headlined by 2006 all-NEC second teamer **John Steilner (Ellwood City, PA/Lincoln)**. **Edgar Hunt (Marion, OH/Marion Pleasant)** will play guard on Steilner's left, while tackle **Joe Setticase (Pittsburgh, PA/Keystone Oaks)** anchors the right side.

Veteran head coach Joe Walton must find replacements for seven starting spots on a defense that led NCAA FCS by yielding just 228.4 yards per game in 2006. Three of the four returnees were all-NEC selections last season. Senior outside linebacker **Chad Wengert (Kempton, PA/Kutztown)** made a team-best 73 tackles. Senior **Mike Niklos (Columbus, OH/Bishop Watterson)**, whom Walton labels a "shutdown corner," has 13 career interceptions. Senior safety **James Kazil (Georgetown, PA/South Side)**, who makes the calls on defense, recorded 60 tackles and three interceptions a year ago.

"I think we're going to be pretty good on defense this season," said Walton. "We've got great depth at linebacker. Our secondary should be pretty good too. Kazil and Niklos are rocks for us back there, and they'll have to continue to be leaders for us on defense."

**Wagner (4-7, 0-7 NEC)** looks to rebound from an uncharacteristic season in which the Seahawks went winless in conference play after winning their first four non-conference tilts. A number of impact players, including three all-NEC selections, return for the Seahawks, who boast a sturdy special teams unit. Senior **Piotr Czech (Keyport, NJ/Keyport)** earned first team all-conference honors as a place kicker, while adding second team accolades as a punter. Czech showed off his strong leg in 2006, booting two 54-yard field goals and averaging 38.3 yards per punt.

"The strongest point of our team has to be special teams," said 27th year head coach Walt Hameline. "We return one of the top kickers in school history as well as our long snapper, holder, and two kick returners."

Two-time first team all-NEC cornerback **Al Phillips (Hialeah, FL/American)**, who made four interceptions in 2006, is the most-accomplished member of a veteran-laden Wagner defense. Senior defensive tackle **Thomas Davis (Syracuse, NY/Henninger)**, a 2005 NEC all-star, will man the interior of the Seahawks' 4-4 scheme.

"The key issues for our team's success will be on the defensive side of the ball," noted Hameline. "We have a lot of older guys that need to bring the same intensity they brought a year ago. On the offensive side, the key to success will be the offensive line as we return most of our top skill-position players."

Junior quarterback **Matt Abbey (La Canada, CA/St. Francis)** and senior tailback **Jason Butler (Syracuse, NY/Henninger)** both return on offense. Butler made a successful transition from defense last season, rushing his way to 735 yards, four touchdowns, and an all-NEC second team status. He is also a potent kick returner, having averaged 31.6 yards on seven returns. Abbey threw for over 1,600 yards and nine touchdowns.

**Sacred Heart's (2-9, 1-6 NEC)** hopeful reemergence to the penthouse of the NEC is a process, and fourth year head coach Paul Gorham recognizes that.

"We need to learn to deal with the distractions or the pitfalls that can crop up at any time," noted Gorham. "For us, it's about the short term goals - the next day, the next practice, the next game. This season, we need to see the youth on our team mature quickly."

The Pioneers will start redshirt freshman **Dale Fink (Swansea, IL/Althoff Catholic)** at quarterback, and the rookie signal caller will be aided by a talented, battle-tested group of receivers. Senior wideouts **Corey Bundy (Selden, NY/Newfield)** and **Joey Henley (Kent, WA/Kentridge)** - a two-sport star who is making the conversion from tight end - tallied 35 and 29 receptions, respectively, a year ago with Bundy leading the team in receiving yardage (493). Sophomore receiver **Steve Tedesco (Mission Viejo, CA/Trabuco Hills)** caught 26 passes for 355 yards as a rookie, while also leading the NEC in punt return average. Tedesco, who averaged 11.8 yards per return, leads a special teams unit that paced the conference in punt returns and punting. Junior punter **Derek Marks' (East Lyme, CT/East Lyme/UConn)** 39.8 average was best in the league.

The loss of Jon Corto and Rolando Garcia leaves a major void on the Pioneer defense at linebacker, but senior safety **Jon Wilson (Bloomfield, CT/Bloomfield)** should be a major player in the secondary. Wilson made four interceptions and recorded 86 tackles last year. Junior **Steve Young (Brooklyn, NY/Xaverian)**, who made 68 tackles at strong safety, is also back.

**Saint Francis (PA) (3-8, 2-5 NEC)** will rely on new, less familiar names in its quest to climb the NEC standings. Quarterback Anthony Doria, the 2005 NEC Offensive Player of the Year, all-NEC wide receiver Michael Caputo, and 1,300-yard rusher Todd Harris are all gone. Sophomore **George Little (Duquesne, PA/Duquesne)**, who redshirted one season and played another as Doria's backup, is expected to start under center. Junior wide receiver **Antoine Rivera (Willingboro, NJ/Willingboro)**, whose 17.1 yards per catch led the NEC last season, provides a formidable target for Little. Senior tailback **Anthony Richards (Parlin, NJ/Cardinal McCray)**, who rushed for 455 yards and averaged 6.9 yards per carry as a secondary option, will see an increased work load.

"Early on we need to find out who are playmakers are and put them in position to be successful," said sixth year head coach Dave Opfar. "This should be the fastest, most physical team we have put on the field here during my tenure."

The Red Flash return all four starting linebackers as well as junior defensive back **Andrew Ardestani (Oakmont, PA/Riverview)**, who made 82 tackles in 2006. Senior **Louis Beninato (Colts Neck, NJ/Colts Neck)** highlights the group of linebackers, having registered 38 tackles, including seven for loss, three sacks, two pass deflections, and two fumble recoveries last year.

Veteran kicker **Adam Sciulli (Pittsburgh, PA/Central Catholic)** provides Opfar with a reliable leg to call on, having connected on nearly 70 percent of his career field goal attempts.

The Northeast Conference consists of 11 institutions located throughout five states and is celebrating its 27th year as an NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association. The NEC began sponsoring football at the FCS level in 1996, and has since increased its membership from five to seven institutions. Central Connecticut State, Monmouth, Robert Morris, Sacred Heart, Saint Francis (PA) and Wagner are full-time NEC members who sponsor football, and are joined by associate member Albany. Duquesne will become the newest NEC football member in 2008. For more information, visit [www.northeastconference.org](http://www.northeastconference.org)

# Northeast Conference

200 Cottontail Lane • Vantage Court North • Somerset, NJ 08873  
(732) 469-0440 • Fax (732) 469-0744 • [www.northeastconference.org](http://www.northeastconference.org)



For Immediate Release  
August 14, 2007

## Northeast Conference Announces 2007 Preseason All-NEC Football Team

**Somerset, NJ** -- The Northeast Conference released its 2007 Preseason All-Conference Football selections on Tuesday afternoon in voting conducted by the league's seven head coaches. Defending NEC Champion Monmouth placed a conference-best seven players on the list, while Robert Morris was next with six representatives. Albany, the preseason favorite to win this year's league title, had four preseason all-NEC players listed as did Central Connecticut State. Wagner landed three players squad, followed by Sacred Heart with one.

A total of 19 of the 25 selected student-athletes earned Northeast Conference postseason honors last year. Ten players were 2006 all-NEC first team honorees, while nine were on the second team.

Robert Morris junior quarterback **Erik Cwalinski (Jacobsburg, OH/Shadyside)** did not earn all-conference recognition a year ago, but the Colonials' signal caller is coming off a productive junior campaign nonetheless. Cwalinski completed 58.1 percent of his passing attempts for 2,066 yards and a league-high 19 touchdowns to help Robert Morris to a second-place tie in the league standings. Cwalinski, who posted a 135.3 pass efficiency rating in 2006, led a pass offense that rated third in the conference, averaging 191.4 yards per contest.

The preseason all-NEC backfield consists of two second team picks from last year in Wagner's **Jason Butler (Syracuse, NY/Henninger)** and Monmouth's **David Sinisi (Cedar Grove, NJ/Cedar Grove)**. Butler enters his senior season after rushing for 735 yards on 156 attempts (4.7 avg.) as a junior, which placed him fourth in the conference. He found the end zone four times. Sinisi emerged as one of the conference's top running backs during his first season of collegiate football. The Hawks' junior tailback carried the ball 171 times for 754 yards and 13 touchdowns en-route to NEC Rookie of the Year honors. He ranked third on the circuit in rushing yards and his 14 total touchdowns placed him second in the conference in scoring behind only former Central Connecticut State back and Walter Payton Award finalist Justise Hairston.

With the graduation of the most prolific receiving tandem in league history - Saint Francis (PA)'s Michael Caputo and Luke Palko - along with a number of other standouts, only two of the conference's top seven receiving leaders are back, and both are all-NEC preseason choices. Monmouth's **Adam San Miguel (North Bergen, NJ/St. Peter's Prep)** and Sacred Heart's **Corey Bundy (Selden, NY/Newfield)** are both primed for their senior seasons. San Miguel, who doubles as the Hawks' return specialist, led the conference in both receptions (73) and receiving yardage (872). The all-NEC first team choice ranked second in receiving yards per game (72.7), while pulling in six touchdowns. With immense depth at the position throughout the conference in 2006, Bundy did not receive postseason honors as a junior when he made 35 receptions for 493 yards. Bundy, who averaged 14.1 yards per catch, reeled in six scoring strikes.

Two-time all-NEC second team selection **John Nalbhone (Lawrenceville, NJ/Lawrence)** of Monmouth is the coaches' preseason pick at tight end. Nalbhone, who possesses a 6'4," 240-pound frame, has been one of the conferences most durable pass catchers at his position over the past two seasons. He has started in every one of Monmouth's 22 games over the past two years, totaling 37 receptions and 336 receiving yards during the span. Last season, he posted career-highs in receptions (19) and yards (198).

(2007 NEC Football Preseason All-Conference Release; 1-of-3)

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

Four of the five all-NEC preseason choices on the offensive line earned postseason honors a year ago. Two of the five seniors, Central Connecticut State's **Ryne Nutt (Warren, OH/Howland)** and Monmouth's **Jon Dunn (Blackwood, NJ/Washington Twp.)**, were first team selections, while another two, Albany's **Sam Pagano (Schenectady, NY/Colonie Central)** and Robert Morris' **John Steilner (Elwood City, PA/Lincoln)** earned second team honors. Monmouth left tackle **Nick LoCastro (Wenonah, NJ/Gateway)** did not receive postseason recognition, but the 6'6", 285-pound bookend and his teammate Dunn (6'5," 315) anchored the left side of a line that surrendered only 13 sacks in 12 games. Both players have displayed durability for the Hawks with Dunn being a three-year starter and LoCastro earning 22 straight starts. Nutt (6'4", 305 lbs.) is poised to start for the fourth consecutive season. Playing center as a junior for the conference's top rushing offense, Nutt earned Sports Network Mid-Major All-American honors and Academic All-American honors. Pagano (6'3," 290 lbs.) is a two-time all-NEC second team selection for the Great Danes, a program that has produced a host of all-stars on the offensive line over the last decade. Steilner (6-1, 290 lbs.) solidified a line whose pass protection allowed the Colonials to post the third most passing yards in the league.

Seven of the eight all-NEC honorees on the defensive line graduated, leaving Albany senior **Michael Dungey (Rochester, NY/Irondequoit)** as the lone holdover on this year's all-NEC preseason squad. Dungey, a 2006 first team selection, is joined by a pair of Monmouth players, **Chris Reed (Stewartstown, PA/York Catholic)** and **Kevin Walsh (Mt. Laurel, NJ/Lenape)**, and Central Connecticut State's **Ernie Greywacz (New Canaan, CT/New Canaan)**. Dungey, who also was named to the Sports Network Mid-Major All-American team, made 34 tackles as a junior defensive tackle and cleared space for the Great Danes' linebackers. Greywacz, a junior end, was fourth on the Blue Devils with 62 tackles, while also recording five sacks. Reed, a senior end, and Walsh, a junior tackle, are expected to step into starting roles for Monmouth, which lost three of its four starting linemen from 2006. Both players saw action in 10 games last season.

Albany's two-time NEC Defensive Player of the Year **Colin Disch (North Plainfield, NJ/North Plainfield)** once again headlines the all-conference linebacking corps, which also includes fellow seniors **Chris Stimmel (Baltimore, MD/Cardinal Gibbons)** of CCSU and **Chad Wengert (Kempton, PA/Kutztown)** of Robert Morris. The three players were all amongst the top tacklers in the conference a season ago with Disch appearing highest on the list, ranking third with 103 takedowns. Poised to become the Great Danes' all-time leader in tackles, Disch is the most decorated of the group, having been named to the AFCA FCS All-America team last season. Stimmel made 84 tackles, including a team-best 12 for a loss. He also recorded two interceptions with one of them coming in the Blue Devils' road victory at then No. 13 Georgia Southern. Wengert is the Colonials' top returning tackler after registering 73 stops last year.

Wagner's **Al Phillips (Hialeah, FL/American)**, a two-time all-NEC first team selection, again finds his name amongst the all-league secondary along with Robert Morris seniors **Mike Niklos (Columbus, OH/Bishop Watterson)** and **James Kazil (Jamestown, PA/South Side)**, and CCSU junior **Anthony Wilson (Norwalk, CT/Brien McMahon)**. Like Phillips, Niklos was a 2006 all-conference first teamer, while Kazil and Wilson were second team honorees. Niklos, who led the conference with five interceptions and 11 passes defended, and Kazil (60 tackles, three interceptions) were part of the NEC's top pass defense. With Niklos at cornerback and Kazil playing safety, the Colonials allowed a stingy 128.5 pass yards per game. Phillips, a senior cornerback, was second in the league with four interceptions, which he returned for a total of 80 yards and a touchdown. Wilson, who enters his third season as a starter, has picked off six passes in the past two years.

The all-conference preseason special teams unit looks identical to the 2006 all-NEC first team. Wagner senior **Piotr Czech (Keyport, NJ/Keyport)** is the placekicker, Albany junior **Chris Lynch (Lindenhurst, NY/Lindenhurst)** is the punter, and Robert Morris senior **Mario Hines (Ecorse, MI/Ecorse)** is the return specialist. Czech connected on 9-15 field goal attempts last season, including two successful 54-yard tries. Lynch, whose services were need on 45 occasions, averaged 38.8 yards per punt to rank second in the league. Hines returned 20 kickoffs for 490 yards and the NEC's second-best average of 24.5 yards per return. He also returned 28 punts for a 7.2 yard per return average.

The Northeast Conference consists of 11 institutions located throughout five states and is celebrating its 27th year as an NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association. The NEC began sponsoring football at the FCS level in 1996, and has since increased its membership from five to seven institutions. Central Connecticut State, Monmouth, Robert Morris, Sacred Heart, Saint Francis (PA) and Wagner are full-time NEC members who sponsor football, and are joined by associate member Albany. Duquesne will become the newest NEC football member in 2008. For more information, visit [www.northeastconference.org](http://www.northeastconference.org)



## 2007 NEC Football Preseason All-Conference Team

### Offense

Pos	Name		School	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown/High School
QB	Erik Cwalinski		Robert Morris	6-3	220	Jr.	Jacobsburg, OH/Shadyside
RB	Jason Butler	!	Wagner	6-1	190	Sr.	Syracuse, NY/Henninger
RB	Dave Sinisi	!	Monmouth	5-10	200	Jr.	Cedar Grove, NJ/Cedar Grove
WR	Adam San Miguel	\$	Monmouth	5-10	170	Sr.	North Bergen, NJ/St. Peter's Prep
WR	Corey Bundy		Sacred Heart	6-2	190	Sr.	Selden, NY/Newfield
TE	John Nalbome	!^	Monmouth	6-4	240	Sr.	Lawrenceville, NJ/Lawrence
OL	John Steilner	!	Robert Morris	6-1	290	Sr.	Elwood City, PA/Lincoln
OL	Sam Pagano	!^	Albany	6-3	290	Sr.	Schenectady, NY/Colonie Central
OL	Ryne Nutt	\$&	Central Connecticut State	6-4	305	Sr.	Warren, OH/Howland
OL	Jon Dunn	\$	Monmouth	6-5	315	Sr.	Blackwood, NJ/Washington Twp.
OL	Nick LoCastro		Monmouth	6-6	285	Sr.	Wenonah, NJ/Gateway

### Defense

Pos	Name		School	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown/High School
DL	Michael Dungey	\$ ^	Albany	6-2	275	Sr.	Rochester, NY/Irondequoit
DL	Ernie Greywacz		Central Connecticut State	6-3	215	Jr.	New Canaan, CT/New Canaan
DL	Chris Reed		Monmouth	6-2	245	Sr.	Stewartstown, PA/York Catholic
DL	Kevin Walsh		Monmouth	6-2	250	Jr.	Mt. Laurel, NJ/Lenape
LB	Colin Disch	\$*#	Albany	6-1	225	Sr.	North Plainfield, NJ/North Plainfield
LB	Chad Wengert	!	Robert Morris	6-0	235	Sr.	Kempton, PA/Kutztown
LB	Chris Stimmel	!	Central Connecticut State	6-2	210	Sr.	Baltimore, MD/Cardinal Gibbons
DB	Al Phillips	\$*	Wagner	5-11	195	Sr.	Hialeah, FL/American
DB	James Kazil	!	Robert Morris	5-10	180	Sr.	Georgetown, PA/South Side
DB	Mike Niklos	\$	Robert Morris	5-10	175	Sr.	Columbus, OH/Bishop Watterson
DB	Anthony Wilson	!^	Central Connecticut State	5-9	175	Jr.	Norwalk, CT/ Brien McMahon

### Special Teams

Pos	Name		School	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown/High School
K	Piotr Czech	\$ ^	Wagner	6-5	210	Sr.	Keyport, NJ/Keyport
P	Chris Lynch	\$	Albany	6-3	215	Jr.	Lindenhurst, NY/Lindenhurst
RS	Mario Hines	\$	Robert Morris	5-11	175	Sr.	Ecorse, MI/Ecorse

\$ 2006 First Team All-NEC Selection

\* 2005 First Team All-NEC Selection

# 2004 First Team All-NEC Selection

! 2006 Second Team All-NEC Selection

^ 2005 Second Team All-NEC Selection

& 2004 Second Team All-NEC Selection

## NEC Football Head Coaches Answer The Question:

*What are the keys to your team's success for the upcoming football season?*

**Bob Ford, Albany**

*"We must continue our outstanding play on special teams and defense. We need to reduce our turnovers and foolish penalties."*

**Jeff McInerney, Central Connecticut State**

*"The key for us is to still be able to run the football like we did last year when we led the nation in rushing. We also did not turn the ball over last year. We turned the ball over 13 times and that was key. So we need to be able to keep our turnover margin down, be better at the play action pass and improving our kicking game. If we can do that, we will be a better football team."*

**Kevin Callahan, Monmouth**

*"We must successfully replace 9-of-11 defensive starters, and establish our #1 Quarterback."*

**Joe Walton, Robert Morris**

*"For as many years as I've been involved in football, one of the aspects that is so important to a team is the locker room. How the players come together, what their goals are and who steps up as leaders takes a team a long way. I preach every year prior to training camp how important it is to think team first, and it's so true. Every year is a new year. The team has to come together, has to believe in each other and has to have fun. No matter how many ways you try to look at it, that's the most important aspect to being successful. It all starts in the locker room. I think we have a group of guys that are willing to pull for each other, and as long as that's the case we're going to be successful."*

**Paul Gorham, Sacred Heart**

*"We need to see the youth on our team mature quickly, our offense finish off drives and our defense get off the field on third down."*

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

*"We need to have a great preseason camp, find out who our playmakers are, and put them in the best possible position to be successful."*

**Walt Hameline, Wagner**

*"The key issues for our team's success will be on the defensive side of the ball. We have a lot of older guys that need to bring the same intensity they brought a year ago. On the offensive side the key to success will be the offensive line as we return most of our top skill-position players."*

## NEC Football Head Coaches Answer The Question:

*Through your eyes, how has Northeast Conference Football changed over the past few seasons? How would you classify the competitiveness of the league?*

### **Bob Ford, Albany**

*"It has changed dramatically. We have narrowed the gap appreciably with the teams considered a notch above us. The gap has been reduced in part to the introduction of scholarships. When our program came into the conference, there were five good teams and two sisters of the poor. Those two programs have come off the deck so that anyone can now win each week."*

### **Jeff McInerney, Central Connecticut State**

*"It's a very competitive league in the fact that we're beating teams outside the conference from league's that have automatic bids. Go no further than last year when Monmouth beat Colgate, Albany beat Lehigh and Delaware and we beat Georgia Southern. So the NEC beat a team from the Atlantic 10, two Patriot League teams and a team from the Southern Conference."*

### **Kevin Callahan, Monmouth**

*"The addition of scholarships has evened the playing field. There is more parity in the league than ever before. Top to bottom, the NEC is extremely competitive and our ability to successfully compete against fully funded, non-conference opponents has increased dramatically."*

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

*"Speed, without question. One of the reasons we were so successful the first couple of years was because of the speed we had with our skill players. Everyone in the conference it seems now has a gamebreaker or two, and speed plays a large part in that. That's what makes our conference competitive and fun week in and week out. Our conference is as wide open as its ever been in the short history of the league, and that's due in large part to good players and good coaches. We have to be ready week in and week out, because every game is competitive and always seems to come down to the fourth quarter."*

### **Paul Gorham, Sacred Heart**

*"Moving to scholarships, we are able to attract higher quality athletes that will give our teams the ability to compete with teams who have an automatic qualifier to the playoffs. The NEC is evenly matched and an up-and-coming conference on the college football landscape."*

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

*"There is no question the talent level has gone up with the addition of scholarships. Every team in our conference has a chance to win every Saturday."*

### **Walt Hameline, Wagner**

*"The competitive factor. Last year the NEC went out and defeated traditional top-25 teams from renowned FCS conferences. It's a statement that our conference deserves and should have an automatic bid to the FCS playoffs. You have to bring your A game each and every week. Every team can beat every other team on any given Saturday. The balance shows how far our league has come and further proves you can't any one team lightly."*



Attn: Sports Department

No. of Pages: 1

For Immediate Release  
August 9, 2007

For Further Information  
Brian DePasquale / 518-442-3072

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY NAMES JEREMY FRIEL ASSISTANT MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH  
AND KENNY DAGOSTINO DIRECTOR OF BASKETBALL OPERATIONS**

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany men's basketball coach Will Brown announced today the hiring of Jeremy Friel as assistant coach and Kenny Dagostino as director of operations.

Friel previously served as the program's director of operations since August 2005. In that role he handled administrative duties, videotape exchange, travel, and coordinated the school's summer basketball camps. As an assistant his recruiting areas include the western and southern United States, Pennsylvania and parts of the Northeast.

A native of Durham, N.H., Friel earned his undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of New Hampshire, where he was a member of the basketball team from 2002-05. He gained a roster spot as a walk-on before receiving an athletic scholarship in his final season.

Friel, 24, played at Oyster River High School in New Hampshire. He led that program to the Class I state semifinals as a junior and state quarterfinals as a sophomore. His father, Gerry, served as New Hampshire's head basketball coach from 1969-89.

Dagostino served as UAlbany's video coordinator during the 2006-07 season. He won four varsity letters as a member of the Iona College basketball team. Dagostino captained the Gaels to the 2005-06 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship and an NCAA Tournament appearance. He was a walk-on who earned a scholarship as a junior and senior. Dagostino graduated cum laude with a B.A. in business administration.

Dagostino, 23, was a consensus all-area player at Guilderland (N.Y.) High School, where he started for three years and finished fifth on the school's all-time scoring list. He played in the Section II Class AA All-Star Game and was a member of the Suburban Council Exceptional Senior squad.



For Immediate Release  
August 8, 2007

For Further Information  
Brianna LaBrecque / 518-442-5733

### **UALBANY NAMES BRIAN KILE INTRAMURAL AND RECREATION COORDINATOR**

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany Vice President and Director of Athletics Lee McElroy announced today the hiring of Brian Kile as intramural and recreation coordinator.

Kile, who will be responsible for scheduling and the oversight of all aspects of UAlbany's Recreation and Intramural Department, spent the previous five years at the University of Maryland.

While at Maryland, Kile served as the Assistant Director for Sport Clubs and Facility Scheduling, in which he was responsible for scheduling all club practices, managing club team travel and managing budgets and purchases for 40 sport club teams consisting of approximately 2,100 students, faculty and staff. Prior to that position, Kile served as the Coordinator for Student Personnel/Training and Facility Scheduling, where he coordinated all student employment for the Campus Recreation Department and scheduled all spaces for five indoor and six outdoor facilities.

Kile earned his B.S. in family studies from the College of Health and Human Performance at the University of Maryland in 2001. He has also served as the women's club basketball coach and an intramurals official at his alma mater, while attending several conferences in his field.

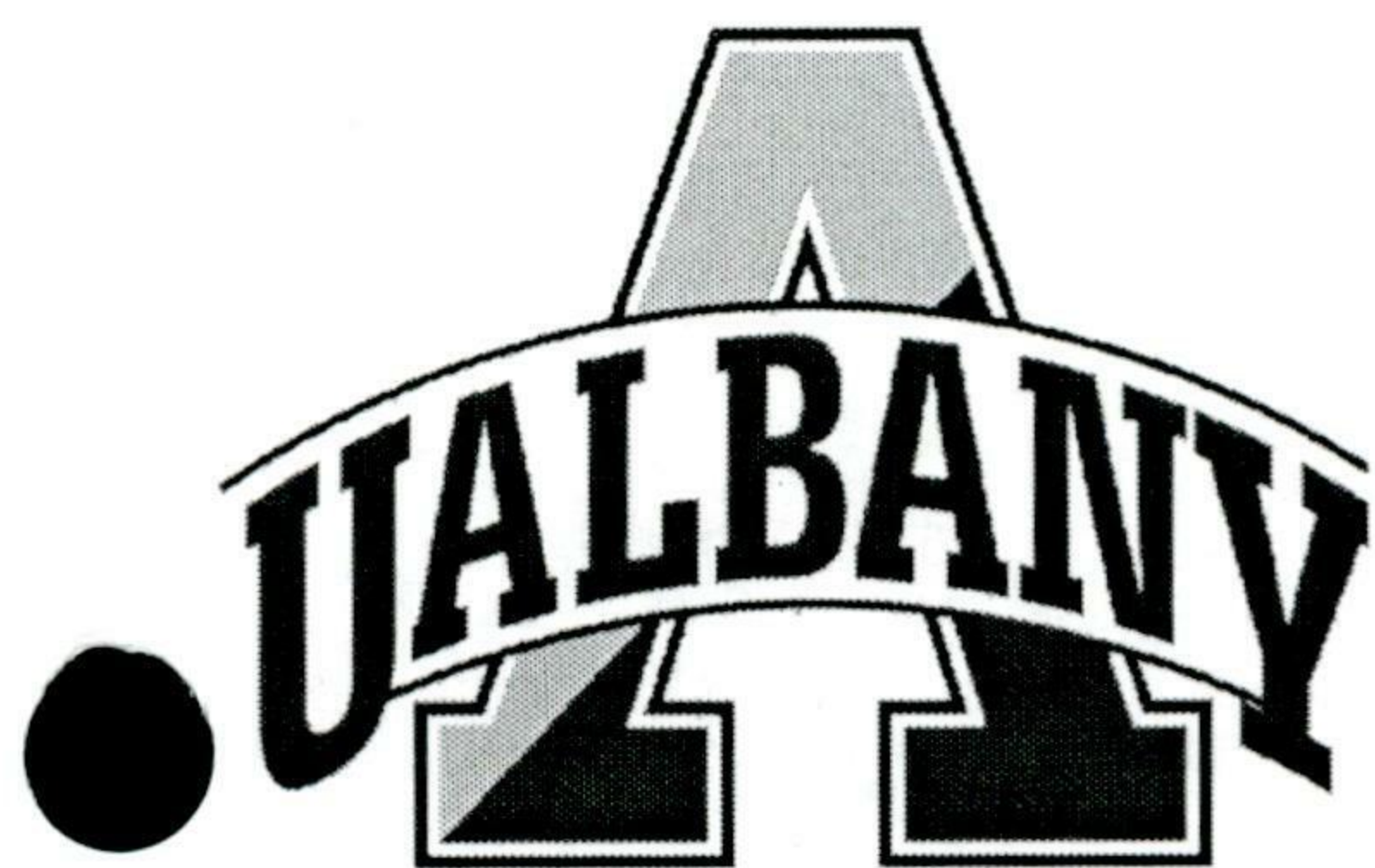
### **KATIE BISHOP NAMED UALBANY'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE**

Albany, N.Y. – University at Albany Vice President and Director of Athletics Lee McElroy announced today that Katie Bishop as been hired as assistant director of compliance and student services.

Bishop, who will have oversight of all compliance-related activities, including athletic scholarships, book and financial aid programs, along with the administration of the NCAA coaches certification exam, most recently served as a marketing intern with the UAlbany athletic department.

Bishop, who will also monitor playing and practice seasons for all sports, including recruiting, student-athlete financial aid and eligibility, was responsible for ticket sales and managing the Great Danes Athletic Merchandise Store, which saw an increase of 86 percent in sales from 2005-06. She was also a key figure in the success of the annual "Commitment to Education Day," which included over 500 participants from local schools.

Bishop earned her B.S. in sport management from Wingate University in 2004, where she was a member of both the women's soccer and basketball squads. She received her M.S.A. in sports administration in 2006. Bishop was also as a guest service ambassador for the Buffalo Bills, served as an administrative intern with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, and was a marketing intern for the Buffalo Sabres.



For Immediate Release

August 3, 2007

For Further Information

Brian DePasquale / 518-442-3072

## UALBANY FOOTBALL BEGINS 2007 PRESEASON PRACTICE ON MONDAY, AUG. 6

Albany, N.Y. – The University at Albany football program begins preseason camp on Monday, August 6 with an afternoon workout, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. The Great Danes will conduct their preseason practices on the campus' Dutch Quad intramural fields. UAlbany opens its 35th varsity campaign against Colgate on Saturday, September 1 in Hamilton, N.Y. Kickoff is 1:00 p.m. ET.

### 2007 SEASON PREVIEW

UAlbany made progress by recording a pair of top-25 wins and finishing in a tie for second in the Northeast Conference standings last season. But now the Great Danes want more, including a championship, as they enter their ninth season at the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) level.

"We should have a great defensive unit and a solid kicking game," explains UAlbany's Bob Ford, who is second among active FCS-I head coaches with 217 career victories. "We have veteran personnel at every spot and enough talent to be considered in the top echelon of the conference."

Ford continues, "The offensive line has a strong nucleus and the tight end situation is upbeat. We have a stable of running backs with a decent corps of wide receivers."

UAlbany has 41 letterwinners, including 11 starters, back from a team that produced a 7-4 record. The Great Danes have reached the seven-win mark five times as an FCS program.

"We certainly need to be more consistent on offense and reduce our penalties and turnovers," Ford evaluates. "Our quarterbacks had a good spring but still need to develop and take charge. We also have an untested group of cornerbacks."

UAlbany will again compete against a formidable list of non-conference opponents in preparation for the NEC season. A trip to perennial national power Montana and dates with Colgate, Hofstra and Fordham fill out the month of September.

**OFFENSE:** Coach Ford is making changes on an offense that ranked sixth in scoring and seventh in total yards among the conference leaders. **Daniel Bocanegra**, last year's starting quarterback, will move to flanker and work on special teams as a returner to take advantage of his athleticism. Sophomore **Frank Blasinsky** has been installed in the No. 1 position. He played in nine games as a true freshman, throwing for 258 yards and one TD. "He doesn't have to play out of his mind for us to be successful," offers Ford, who has help on the way with three incoming freshman QBs.

The Great Danes will have to replace three all-conference offensive linemen, including NFL free agent Jacob Hobbs. But both starting guards are back in **Sam Pagano** (6-3, 290) and **Jeff Wentzell** (6-4, 295). Pagano was named to the *Football Gazette* Division I FCS All-America Team as an honorable mention selection. **Raphael Nguti** (6-6, 330) and Boston College transfer **Justin Tougas** (6-6, 308) are ready to continue a long-standing tradition of great tackles. Sophomore center **Kevin Richards** (6-2, 280) is expected to anchor the line.

**Omar Johnson** is the top returning rusher with 435 yards and seven touchdowns. Johnson, a senior tailback, is among the school's all-time leaders with 17 career rushing TDs. **Colin Simmons**, who like Johnson missed spring practice while recovering from off-season surgery, ran for 215 yards as a freshman. Sophomores **Justin Gannon** and **David McCarty**, a converted flanker, worked at tailback throughout last spring. Fullback **Dan Beigel** (6-2, 230) has been productive throughout his career. He has run for nearly 600 yards and scored six TDs.

**Irani DeAraujo** and **Mike Wall** started at split end and flanker, respectively, last year. DeAraujo had a team-high 28 receptions for 270 yards. **Mike Wall**, who earned All-NEC honors as a kick returner, hauled in 15 passes for 217 yards and two TDs. He also ranked among the national leaders with a 24.9 kickoff return average. **Marcus Miles** (6-3, 240) and **Dan Archer** (6-3, 230) are capable tight ends with blocking skills.

MORE

## UALBANY SPORTS 2-2-2

**DEFENSE:** The Great Danes are coming off their best defensive campaign since moving to Division I FCS. UAlbany ranked among the top-five nationally in three categories, including points allowed (13.0 pg) and total defense at 240.8 yards per game.

**Colin Disch** is about to become the school's all-time tackles leader. Disch is the team's most decorated individual as he made the AFCA (first team) and *Football Gazette* (third team) All-America squads. He was also voted mid-major linebacker of the year and the NEC's top defender for the second season in a row. Disch, a senior, reached the 100-tackle mark for the third straight campaign (103). He has double-figure hits in 21 career games.

"He has the instincts that all great linebackers have," Ford says. "He can come over the top and underneath blocks with quickness and speed."

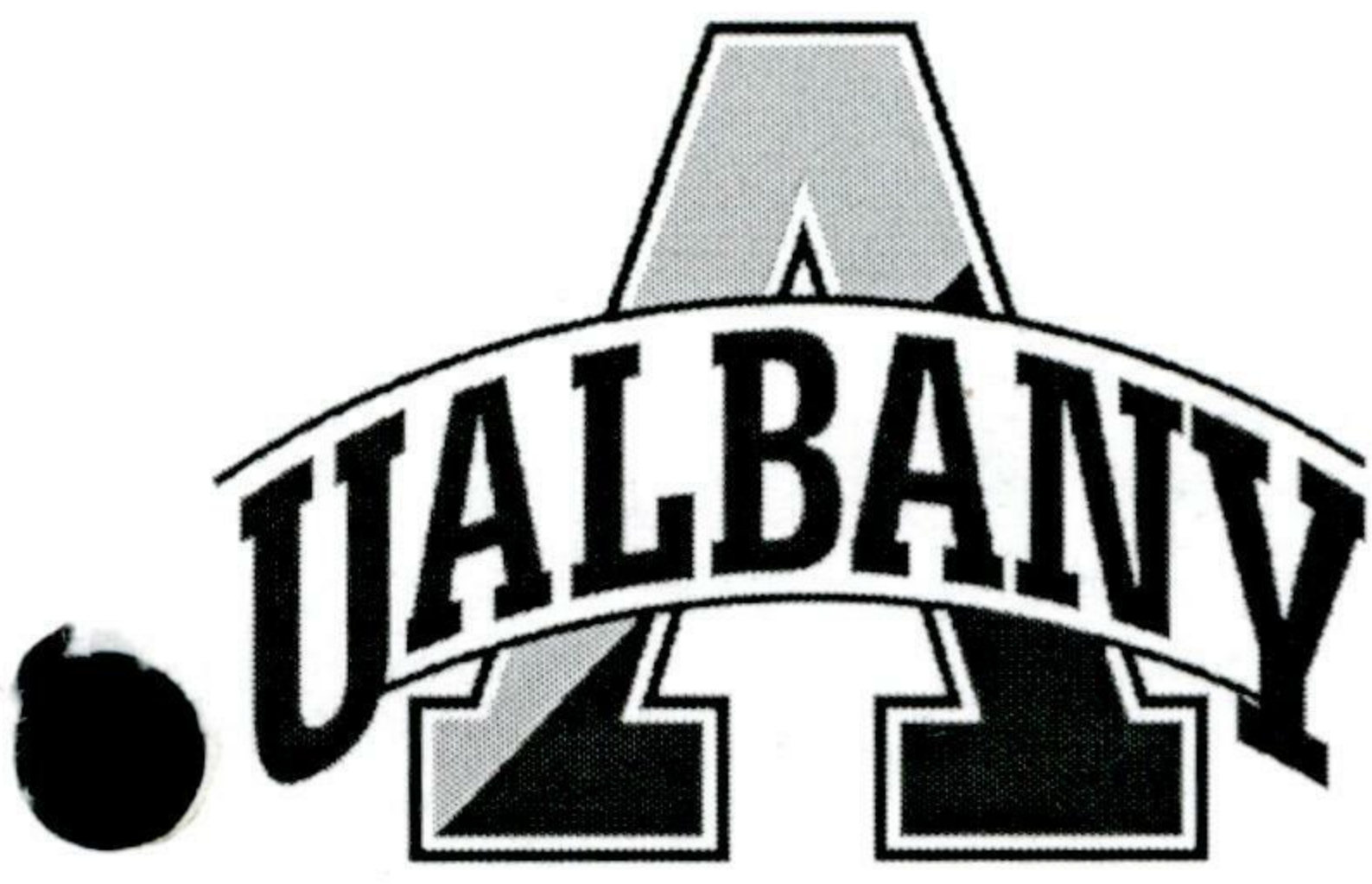
**Tommy Genovesi** (6-2, 225) and **Mark Peretore** (6-1, 230) are also positioned at inside linebacker. Genovesi made 36 tackles while playing in all 11 games. Peretore was fourth on the team in tackles (48), including 25 unassisted.

**Trevor DuPont** (6-1, 220) and **Chris Simpson** (6-0, 230) are penciled in at the outside spots. DuPont accounted for 34 tackles and scored on an interception return. Simpson showed great promise as a freshman by contributing on special teams.

UAlbany's defensive line performed at a high level throughout last season. Defensive tackle **Michael Dungey** (6-2, 275) earned mid-major All-America and all-region recognition and was a first-team All-NEC choice. He accounted for 34 tackles, including eight for a loss. Defensive ends **Jon Volpe** (6-1, 260) and **Mark Sheehan** (6-2, 260) have been integral in the line's rotation. Sheehan was second on the team in sacks (4.5) and reached paydirt on a 55-yard interception return. Tackle **Tom Pandolf** (6-0, 260) was the team's most improved player with 29 tackles and 4.0 sacks.

Graduation wiped out most of UAlbany's starting secondary. Cornerbacks **Jean Juste** (13 tackles) and **L.B. McCloskey** (10 tackles) each saw significant time last year. **Dave Casale** will get an opportunity at the free safety position. Safety **Dave Nicomini** is a physical defender who had 51 tackles and two interceptions as a sophomore. **Dave West**, an all-conference baseball outfielder, will also help at the safety positions.

**KICKING GAME:** Placekicker **Jason Fralicker** earned second-team All-NEC honors after booting a school-record 13 field goals and leading the team in scoring with 64 points. Fralicker, who also handled kickoffs, made all 25 point-after attempts. **Chris Lynch** earned first-team mid-major All-America and all-conference honors after averaging 38.8 yards per punt.



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For Further Information  
April Raynovich / 518-442-4511

## UALBANY WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY PICKED SEVENTH, MEN EIGHTH

Cambridge, Mass. – The University at Albany women's cross country team has been picked to finish seventh, while the men's squad was projected to place eighth, according to the preseason poll conducted by the head coaches of the America East Conference.

Boston University was tabbed as the women's preseason favorite for the second year in a row, earning all eight first place votes for 64 points. New Hampshire edged out Stony Brook in the men's poll, being chosen as the conference front-runner for the second consecutive season. The Wildcats picked up four first place votes for 60 points, while the Seawolves tallied three first place votes, earning 59 points.

To round out the women's side, Stony Brook (54 points) edged out New Hampshire (53 points) for second place, followed by Vermont (40 points), Binghamton (35 points), Maine (31 points), UAlbany (19 points), UMBC (18 points), and Hartford (10 points).

The women will be led by senior Danielle Trimpop and transfer Laura Cummings, who joins the Great Danes from the University of North Carolina, when they open their 2007 season on September 1, at the Monmouth Classic.

Boston U. garnered the final two first-place votes in the men's poll, and were chosen to finish third (50 points), followed by Maine (43 points), UMBC (32 points), Vermont (30 points), Binghamton (22 points), UAlbany (19 points), and Hartford (9 points).

The Great Danes will look to senior Ricardo Estremera, who finished seventh a year ago at the conference meet, to lead the squad and will also kick-off the season at Monmouth.  
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### 2007 America East Conference Preseason Women's Cross Country Poll

1. Boston U, (8) 64 points; 2. Stony Brook, 54 points; 3. New Hampshire, (1) 53 points; 4. Vermont, 40 points; 5. Binghamton, 35 points; 6. Maine, 31 points; 7. UAlbany, 19 points; 8. UMBC, 18 points; 9. Hartford, 10 points.

\*First place votes in parentheses ()

### 2007 America East Conference Preseason Men's Cross Country Poll

1. New Hampshire, (4) 60 points; 2. Stony Brook, (3) 59 points; 3. Boston U, (2) 50 points; 4. Maine, 43 points; 5. UMBC, 32 points; 6. Vermont, 30 points; 7. Binghamton, 22 points; 8. UAlbany, 19 points; 9. Hartford, 9 points.

\*First place votes in parentheses ()