

Sports Roundup

WINTER/SPRING

TOP ATHLETES:

Gary Jones, an All-America football running back, and **Teresa Covert**, an ECAC and conference champion track standout, are the University at Albany's 2002-03 male and female athletes of the year. Jones, a junior tailback, was named to the Associated Press Division I-AA All-America squad for the second straight season. He rushed for 1,509 yards and scored 23 touchdowns in leading the Great Danes to their first-ever Northeast Conference championship. Covert became the first UAlbany female track athlete to capture an ECAC title when she placed first in the 100-meter hurdles.

TERESA COVERT



Photos by Bob Ewell

Covert, who won a combined three America East Conference individual events during the indoor and outdoor seasons, qualified for the NCAA Division I championships in June, where she placed sixth. The top three athletes in each heat advanced.

MERIT MEDALS:

Emil Bove, **Theresa Masse** and **Alissa Gibbs** were honored at the third annual Great Dane Awards on May 5 with ECAC Merit Medals as the University's top senior male and female student-athletes. Bove, a Verizon first-team national Academic All-American in men's lacrosse, posted a 4.00 cumulative grade point average in a dual major of public policy and economics. Masse, who has a 3.69 GPA in psychology, and Gibbs, who has a 3.55 GPA in computer science, shared the female award. Masse and Gibbs earned first-team All-America East Conference honors in lacrosse and volleyball, respectively.

MEN'S BASKETBALL:

Freshman **Jamar Wilson** was named the America East Conference Rookie of the Year. Wilson, a 6-foot-1 guard, ranked second among the conference scoring leaders at 18.9 points per game. Wilson, who also earned second-team all-conference honors, scored 20-plus points 12 times, including 30 or more in four contests. **Levi Levine**, a 6-foot-6 freshman who joined Wilson on the America East All-Rookie Team, averaged 13.2 points and a team-leading

6.0 rebounds. The Great Danes finished in a tie for eighth place in the America East standings and posted a 7-21 record.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

The Great Danes registered a five-win improvement and bettered their league record from the previous season under first-year head coach **Trina Patterson**. Senior co-captain **Jess McGinlay** and sophomore center **Danielle Hutcheson**, a pair of second-team All-America East Conference selections, led their squad to a 9-18 record. McGinlay ranked fifth among the conference scoring leaders at 15.2 points per game, led the league in three-point field goals made (2.63 pg), and finished fourth on the school's all-time scoring list with 1,109 points. Hutcheson was seventh in the America East in scoring with a 13.9 average.

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK:

UAlbany won the school's first America East Conference championship in a team sport. The Great Danes scored 148.25 points, and were well ahead of Boston U. (124) and three-time defending champion Northeastern (119.50). **Paul Roche** was named the Field Event Performer of the Meet, as he captured three individual titles and tied for fourth in the high jump. Roche, who was a winner in the pentathlon and long jump on the first day of competition, sprinted a personal-best 7.60 seconds to finish first in the 55-meter hurdles. Other America East champions were **Kristof Molnar** (1,000), **Naron Stewart** (high jump) and **Ed Hiltz** (55-dash). Stewart repeated as the high jump champion, as he cleared the bar at 6-feet, 10.25-inches. Roche would later set a

school record in the pentathlon at the IC4A meet with 3,709 points.

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK:

At the America East Championships, the Great Danes placed third in the team standings. **Teresa Covert**, who was second in the long jump on the first day, won the 55-meter hurdles in 8.07 seconds and took fifth in the 200-meter dash. **Jennifer Aubin** was second in the triple jump with a mark of 38-feet, 6-inches. Covert went on to take second in the 60-meter hurdles at the ECAC Championships in March.

MEN'S LACROSSE:

The Great Danes claimed the America East Conference championship and became the first UAlbany team to earn an NCAA tournament berth at the Division I level. Sophomore **Luke Daquino** was voted the America East player of the year with 22 goals and 35 assists for 57 points. Senior defenseman **Luke Smith** and sophomore midfielder **Brendan Russell** joined Daquino on the first team.

SOFTBALL:

The Great Danes set a school-record for victories with a 34-10 mark and reached the America East Conference championship game. **Chris Cannata**, who has 237 career victories in nine seasons, was named the league's coach of the year after her team battled for an NCAA berth against Boston University. **Andee Lindgren**, the America East pitcher of the year, earned All-Northeast Region honors. Lindgren, who set a single-season record with 171 strikeouts, had a 20-6 record with a 1.18 earned run average. Freshman short-stop **Maegan Larsen** was voted the conference's rookie of the year, as

she led the team in hitting (.333 BA), extra-base hits (14) and RBI (24). Joining Lindgren and Larsen on the A-East first team were catcher **Stacy Kowal** and outfielder **Jen Nolette**.

MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK:

Sophomore **Jesse Bennett** led the Great Danes to their first-ever America East Conference outdoor championship. Bennett, the meet's most outstanding track performer, won the 100-meter dash in 10.97 seconds and was a member of the winning 4x100 relay. Albany had six individual champions en route to

NARON STEWART



scoring a league-record 230 points. **Kristof Molnar** repeated as 800-meter champion with a time of 1:51.28. Other champions were **Naron Stewart** (high jump), **Paul Roche** (110-hurdles), **Joel Vazquez** (400-hurdles) and **Aggrey Morris** (400-dash).

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK:

UAlbany placed second in the team standings at the America East Conference championships to post its highest-ever finish. **Teresa Covert** was a double-winner in the 100-meter dash and 100-hurdles. She set school records in both events in first-

day qualifying. Covert also anchored the 4x400 relay to a second-place showing. **Jennifer Aubin**, who shattered Albany's triple-jump standard in April at 40 feet, 11 inches, was second in the America East meet and qualified for the NCAA East Regional.

BASEBALL:

Steve Emmerthal and **Dan Schoonmaker** were members of the All-America East Conference second team. Emmerthal, a junior right-hander, was named all-conference for the second straight year. He had a 5-6 record with a 3.94 earned run average and 73 strikeouts. Schoonmaker, a junior, batted .336 with seven home runs and 34 RBI.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE:

Senior attacker **Maria Ferrucci** became the school's all-time scoring leader with 184 points (160 goals, 24 assists). Ferrucci and **Theresa Masse**

were first-team selections on the All-America East squad. Masse was among the conference leaders in ground balls at 2.94 per game. **Andrea Esposito**, the program's career assists leader, was a second-team All-America East choice. She ended up fourth among the school's top scorers with 147 points (68 goals, 79 assists).

WOMEN'S TENNIS:

Violeta Petijevec led the Great Danes with nine singles victories and 12 wins in the doubles play. Petijevec ended her career with a 40-45 singles record and a 35-40 mark in doubles.