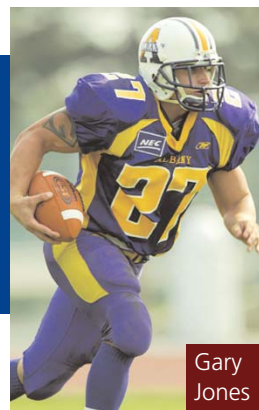


Winter/Spring 2003-04

By BRIAN DePASQUALE

Photos: Bob Ewell



Gary Jones



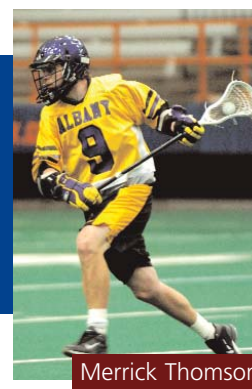
Andee Lindgren



Gered Burns



Jennifer Aubin



Merrick Thomson

Top Athletes:

Gary Jones, an All-America football running back, and **Andee Lindgren**, an all-region and all-conference softball pitcher, are the University at Albany's male and female athletes of the year. Jones, a senior tailback, was named to the Associated Press Division I-AA All-America squad for the second straight season. He rushed for 1,524 yards and scored a league-leading 19 touchdowns. Lindgren was chosen as the America East Conference Player of the Year after posting an 18-4 record with a 1.04 earned run average.

Merit Medals:

Victor Camacho and **Diane Matthews** were honored at the fourth annual Great Dane Awards on May 3 with ECAC Merit Medals as the University's top senior male and female student-athletes. Camacho, a *Football Gazette* Division I-AA All-America linebacker, has a 3.77 cumulative grade point average in business administration/finance. Matthews, who has a 3.56 GPA in psychology with a dual minor in sociology and general education studies, placed second in the 800-meter run at the America East Conference outdoor track and field championships. She was also a member of four record-setting relay squads.

Men's Basketball:

Freshman **Jon Iati** was named the America East Conference Rookie of the Year. Iati, a 5-foot-9 guard, was among the conference scoring leaders at 14.0 points per game. He led the nation in total minutes played with 1,121 for a 40.0 average. **Levi Levine**, a 6-foot-6 sophomore, led the team in scoring (14.3 ppg) and rebounding (6.1 pg). The Great Danes look better for the future with all-conference guard **Jamar Wilson** returning from a knee injury and 14 players in uniform when the preseason begins in October.

Women's Basketball:

The Great Danes qualified for the America East postseason tournament for the first time under second-year head coach **Trina Patterson**. UAlbany finished 13-16 overall and tied for fourth in the conference's regular-season standings. **Danielle Hutcheson**, a 6-foot-4 junior, was named first-team all-league. She was in the top 10 in both scoring (12.7 ppg) and rebounding (9.4 pg) among the America East leaders. **Alicia Learn** averaged 10.0 points and 5.8 rebounds, and was selected to the league's all-tournament team after leading her club to the semifinals against Maine.

Men's Indoor Track:

UAlbany captured its second consecutive America East championship. **Gered Burns** led the way by winning

the 1,000-meter run and anchoring the first-place 4x800 relay. **Paul Roche** (long jump) and **Kamar Elliott** (triple jump) were also individual champions. Burns went on to finish first in the IC4A 800-meters, and became the second UAlbany athlete to claim a title at that event. He set the school record two weeks earlier with a time of 1:49.50 to provisionally qualify for NCAAs.

Women's Indoor Track:

At the America East Championships, the Great Danes placed second in the team standings. **Jennifer Aubin** won the triple jump with a school-record leap of 40-feet, 1.75-inches. **Joy Williams** was fourth in the shot put at the ECAC meet, the best-ever finish in a throwing event by a UAlbany athlete in regional competition. Williams posted a mark of 47 feet, 5 inches.

Men's Lacrosse:

The Great Danes went 10-6 overall in capturing their second consecutive America East championship and NCAA berth. **Luke Daquino** earned first-team all-conference recognition for the second straight year with 20 goals and 32 assists. Freshman **Merrick Thomson** was voted the America East Rookie of the Year. Thomson amassed 47 goals and 12 assists, and scored six times in the NCAA opening round against eventual national champion Syracuse.

Softball:

The Great Danes tied a school-standard for wins with a 34-18 record and won the America East regular-season crown. **Chris Cannata**, who has 271 career victories in 10 seasons, was named the league's coach of the year for the second straight season. **Andee Lindgren**, the America East Player of the Year, finished her career with a 38-10 pitching record and was a .368 hitter. **Katrina Dunning** (.317 BA, 10 extra-base hits) and **Ashley Rios** (.386 BA) were also on the all-conference first team. **Kelly Ogden**, who batted .308 and was second on the squad with 28 RBI, was both a first-team all-league and all-rookie selection.

Baseball:

America East Conference Coach of the Year **Jon Mueller** led UAlbany to a school-record 37-14 campaign and the program's first appearance in the conference postseason tournament. First baseman **Dan Schoonmaker** batted .353 with 10 home runs and set a UAlbany mark with 51 RBI en route to earning recognition as A-East Player of the Year. **Steve Emmerthal** made his third consecutive appearance on the all-league team with an 8-3 record as a pitcher.

Women's Golf:

Diane Onofry fired an 88, the best round on the final day, in leading UAlbany to the America East Conference title at Anderson Glen Course of the

Blackledge Country Club on May 3-4. Onofry, who won medalist honors, carded an 84 in the first round, and was four strokes ahead of teammate **Jill Friedman**. Onofry led the Great Danes with an 81.4 stroke average during the season.

Men's Outdoor Track:

Senior **Brandon Howlett** became the first UAlbany male athlete to reach the NCAA Division I championships by placing fourth in the discus at the East Regional in Florida. Howlett established the school record with a toss of 184 feet, 0.50 inches in early May. He won four events during the spring, including the Duke and UConn meets. The Great Danes were second at the America East championships in the closest finish in league history. **Gered Burns** ran 1:54.05 to take the 800-meter run and was a member of the winning 4x800 relay. Jamaica native **Naron Stewart** captured his second consecutive high jump title with a mark of 6-9.75. **Kamar Elliott** (triple jump) and **Eric Opuana** (hammer throw) were also individual winners.

Women's Outdoor Track:

Teresa Covert won three events in leading the Great Danes to a second-place finish at the America East championships. Covert was a winner in the 100-meter hurdles, 100-dash and long jump. **Jennifer Aubin** added to her indoor triple jump title by winning the outdoor crown with a leap of 39-feet, 2.50 inches. Covert advanced through regional competition to the NCAA Division I championships for the second straight year. She established a school standard in the 100-hurdles in the NCAA preliminary round with a time of 13.30 seconds. **Meghan Howell** also qualified for NCAA regionals by running 10:56.89 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the ECAC meet.

Women's Lacrosse:

Senior midfielder **Alexis DiDomenico**, one of three UAlbany players on the All-America East second team, ended her career seventh on the school's all-time scoring list with 115 points, including 98 career goals. **Kate Fontana**, who set the school's freshman scoring record with 39 goals and 14 assists for 53 points, and defender **Kristen Mathias** were the other all-conference choices. **Sarah Spillett** and **Jen Daly** joined Fontana on the America East all-rookie team. The Great Danes finished fourth in the league standings and reached the postseason tournament's semifinal round.

Women's Tennis:

Lisa Fund received UAlbany's team MVP award while playing at No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles. Fund, an Athletic Director's Academic Honor Roll recipient, picked up doubles wins against Manhattan and Stony Brook.

UAlbany Football 2004

September

2 (Thurs.) at Hofstra	7:00 p.m.
11 Fordham	6:00 p.m.
18 at Brown	1:00 p.m.
25 at Sacred Heart*	1:00 p.m.

October

2 at Lehigh	1:00 p.m.
9 St. Francis, Pa.* (HC)	1:00 p.m.
16 Monmouth* (HOF)	1:00 p.m.
23 at Stony Brook*	6:00 p.m.
30 Wagner*	1:00 p.m.

November

6 at Robert Morris*	1:30 p.m.
13 Central Connecticut State*	1:00 p.m.

*Northeast Conference Opponent
(HOF) Hall of Fame Day
(HC) Homecoming & Family Weekend