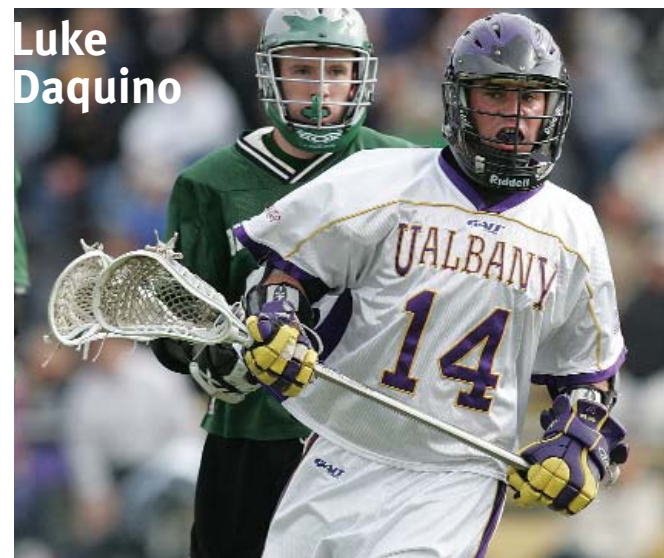


Sports Round-up | Winter Spring 2005

By **Brian DePasquale**
Photos by Bob Ewell

Top Athletes:

Luke Daquino, an All-America lacrosse attackman, and **Blair Buchanan**, a volleyball setter who also earned All-America recognition, are the University



at Albany's 2004-05 male and female athletes of the year. Daquino made his third consecutive appearance on the All-America East Conference first team. He totaled 33 goals and 37 assists, and was among the NCAA scoring leaders. Buchanan was the 2004 America East Conference Player and Setter of the Year. She averaged a conference-leading 12.59 assists in leading her team to the America East championship and an NCAA Division I tournament berth.

Merit Medals:

Andy Allstadt, **Ashley Heilmann** and **Jill Friedman** were honored as the University's top senior male and female student-athletes. Allstadt, an All-East competitor in cross country and track, posted a 3.67 cumulative grade point average in biology.

Friedman, who has a 3.66 GPA in business administration, is one of the top golfers in the America East Conference. Heilmann, a four-year letter winner on the women's lacrosse team, has a 3.74 GPA in a dual major of communication and linguistics.

Men's Lacrosse:

UAlbany captured its third consecutive America East Conference championship and advanced to the NCAA tournament for the third straight year.

Luke Daquino

earned USILA honorable mention All-America honors and finished his career as the school's all-time high scorer with 103 goals and 131 assists. Goalkeeper **Kevin Rae**, who was chosen to play in the North-South All-Star Game, ended up as the program's career saves leader with 835. **Merrick Thomson** led the team in scoring with 54 goals and 20 assists and was joined on the All-America East squad by **Patrick McSweeney**, **Frank Resetarits** and **Brendan Russell**.

Softball:

The Great Danes won their first-ever America East championship with a school-record 35-14 mark. **Chris Cannata**, the conference's coach of the year for the third consecutive season, guided the program to its first NCAA Division I Tournament berth. **Amanda**

Morin, the America East Pitcher of the Year, and **Casey Halloran** each had 16 wins on the mound. **Kelly Ogden**, who, like Morin, made the All-Northeast Region second team, batted .344 with 11 home runs and 50 RBI. Left fielder **Amber Maisonet** was voted the league's top rookie.

Men's Outdoor Track:

UAlbany claimed its second America East championship in the last three years. The Great Danes had six individual champions, including **Kamar Elliott** (triple jump), **Marc Pallozzi** (javelin), **Eric Opuana** (hammer), **Andy Allstadt** (10,000) and **Jonathan Jones** (long jump). **Gered Burns**, who won the 1,500 at the America East meet, became the school's first outdoor IC4A champion in the 800-meter run when he established a school-record time of 1:48.66.

Women's Outdoor Track:

Alyssa Lotmore was second in the 5,000 and fourth in the 1,500 at the America East championships. Lotmore, who qualified for the NCAA East Regional, placed third in the 3,000 at the ECACs. **Joy Williams** finished second in the America East shot put competition with a toss of 42 feet, 5.25 inches.

Baseball:

Steve Wyland and **Shawn Ryan** were named to the All-America East Conference baseball squad. Wyland, a second baseman, batted .357 to go with 36 runs and 27 RBI in earning first-team recognition. Ryan, the school's career saves leader with 23, was on the second team. The Great Danes finished 20-19 overall.

Women's Lacrosse:

The Great Danes, who reached the America East post-season tournament as the No. 3 seed, placed three athletes on the all-conference unit. **Kate Fontana** and defensive midfielder **Erin Fitzmartin** were first-team selections. **Sarah Spillett** (22 goals, 16 assists) was voted to the second team by the league's coaches. Fontana, a sophomore, was one of the top scorers in the conference with 45 goals and four assists. She also ranked nationally in ground balls with a 3.44 average.



Women's Golf:

Diane Onofry and **Jill Friedman** shared medalist honors at the America East Championship. Onofry (82-83) and Friedman (83-82) each finished with a two-round total of 165 to tie for first place. The Great Danes were second in the team standings and finished five strokes off the pace.

Women's Tennis:

UAlbany showed a seven-win improvement in dual matches from the previous season in 2004-05. Head coach **Chrissy Short** relied upon her freshman class. **Amanda Hall** posted a 16-11 record in singles play while competing in the No. 4 position. **Aimee Kern** and **Kim Westcott** recorded 13 and 12 singles wins, respectively.

Men's Basketball:

The Great Danes finished with a 13-15 record, eight wins better than the previous year. UAlbany, one of the most improved Division I programs, also posted its best-ever conference record. **Jamar Wilson** and **Lucious Jordan**, a pair of second-team All-America East Conference selections, ranked among the league's top 10 scorers at 16.9 and 14.8 points per game, respectively. **Levi Levine**, a 6-foot-6 junior, became the 26th player in the program's history to reach the 1,000-point plateau.

Women's Basketball:

UAlbany set a single-season record for victories at the Division I level with a 14-14 record. **Danielle Hutcheson** was voted to the all-conference first team for the second straight year after averaging 14.9 points and 9.9 rebounds. Hutcheson became the first Great Dane to combine for more than 1,000 points and 900 rebounds in a career.

UAlbany Football 2005

September

10	Hofstra	6 p.m.
17	at Massachusetts	6 p.m.
24	at Central Conn. State*	5 p.m.
25	at Sacred Heart*	1 p.m.

October

1	at Maine+	6 p.m.
8	Stony Brook* (HC)	4 p.m.
15	Sacred Heart*	4 p.m.
22	at St. Francis, Pa.*	1 p.m.
29	at Wagner*	1 p.m.

November

5	Robert Morris*	4 p.m.
12	at Monmouth*	1 p.m.
19	at Fordham*	1 p.m.

*Northeast Conference Opponent
+Portland, Maine
(HC) Homecoming & Family Weekend
All Times Eastern

Jen Schumacher also scored in double figures at 12.5 per game and set an America East single-season standard with 77 three-point field goals.

Men's Indoor Track:

The Great Danes were edged out by a single point for the America East championship. **Robbie Freeman** (5,000), **Kamar Elliott** (triple jump), **Eric Opuana** (weight throw), **Jonathan Jones** (long jump) and **Gered Burns** (800) recorded first-place finishes. The distance medley relay set a meet record in winning another title. Burns went on to win his second consecutive indoor IC4A 800-meter crown and establish a school record of 1:49.49 in the event.

Women's Indoor Track:

UAlbany took third at the America East Conference meet. **Joy Williams** was first in the weight throw with a school-record distance of 52 feet, 1 inch. She also took second in the shot put. **Arina Gerasimova** was a winner in the triple jump with an ECAC-qualifying mark of 38 feet, 9 inches. ■