

By Brian DePasquale  
Photos by Bob Ewell



Savvas Theofilou

**Men's Soccer**

The Great Danes shared the America East Conference regular-season title with a 12-4-2 record, the program's highest single-season win total since 1992. **Bouna Coundoul**, the America East Goalkeeper of the Year, was a first-team All-New York Region selection. Coundoul posted 11 shutouts and was ranked third nationally with a goals-against-average of 0.54. **Savvas Theofilou**, a senior defender, was on the all-conference first team and all-region squad. **George Friedman** and **Stephan Hall** earned spots on the All-America East second team. **Yan Gbolo**, whose season was cut short by injury, still earned second-team all-region honors for the Great Danes, who made the conference's postseason tournament for the first time.

**Women's Soccer**

**Sara Rickard** received All-America East Conference recognition for the fourth consecutive fall. Rickard, the school's all-time leader with 76 matches played, had four goals and two assists as a senior. Freshman striker **Uju Ogbuawa** became the first UAlbany player to earn a spot on the America East All-Rookie Team. Ogbuawa was the team's leading scorer with five goals and three assists.

**Women's Golf**

**Jill Friedman** led the Great Danes with an 83.8 stroke average in six fall events. Her performance was highlighted by a first-round 78 at the Rutgers Invitational, where she tied for 17th place.

**Field Hockey**

**Tina Bryson** was named to the first-team All-America East Conference, while **Danielle Costello** was a second-team midfielder. Bryson was ninth among the league's scoring leaders with nine goals and one assist for 19 points. **Kristen Holder** and **Danielle Conklin** were members of the America East All-Rookie Team. First-year head coach **Phil Sykes** led his squad to a 7-11 record and narrowly missed a conference postseason tournament berth.

**Academic Honors**

UAlbany placed a total of 52 student-athletes on the America East Academic Honor Roll for Fall 2004. The athletes, who earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, were members of teams in six sports offered by the conference: men's and women's cross country, field hockey, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball.

Twenty-one student-athletes posted a 3.50 G.P.A. or better during the fall semester.

**Football**

**Geir Gudmundsen** became the second UAlbany player at the Division I-AA level to be named to the All-America first team of the American Football Coaches Association. Gudmundsen, a 6-foot-6, 315-pound left tackle, made 44 consecutive starts at his position and was a three-time All-Northeast Conference first-team performer. Freshman linebacker **Colin Disch** was the NEC's Defensive Rookie of the Year. He finished among the nation's top-10 tacklers with 131, the third-highest total in school history. **Brandon Shaw**, a first-team All-NEC offensive lineman, was one of 10 UAlbany players to make the conference fall academic honor roll. Quarterback **Nicholas Bazan** established single-season records for rushing by a quarterback with 1,043 yards and 12 touchdowns. The Great Danes finished with a 4-7 record, including 4-3 in the league.

**Women's Cross Country**

**Alyssa Lotmore** placed fourth at the ECAC championship with a 5,000-meter time of 18:31.27. Lotmore, a sophomore who finished 39th overall at the NCAA Northeast Regional, was named to the All-East squad along with teammate **Nicole Susser**.

**Men's Cross Country**

**Robbie Freeman** became the first Great Dane to win the IC4A championship when he posted an eight-second victory at Van Cortlandt Park Nov. 20. Freeman, who was also UAlbany's top finisher at the America East Conference championship in sixth place, covered the 8,000-meter IC4A course in 25:18. **Andy Allstadt**, who like Freeman and **Ricardo Estremera** earned All-East recognition, recorded his third consecutive top-10 finish at the IC4As. Allstadt was also seventh at the America East meet.

**Women's Volleyball**

UAlbany became the first women's program in school history to earn an NCAA Division I Tournament berth. America East Conference Coach of the Year **Kelly Sheffield** led his team to its first-ever conference title with a thrilling five-game victory in the championship and a 27-7 record. **Blair Buchanan**, an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American, was voted both the America East player and setter of the year by the league's coaches. She led the conference in assists at 12.59 per game. **Ashley Hunter**, who had a record 28 kills in the final against Maine, was chosen the America East Tournament MVP. **Shelby Goldman**, an All-Northeast Region outside hitter, joined **Ashlee Reed** and Hunter as all-conference first-team selections. ■



Blair Buchanan

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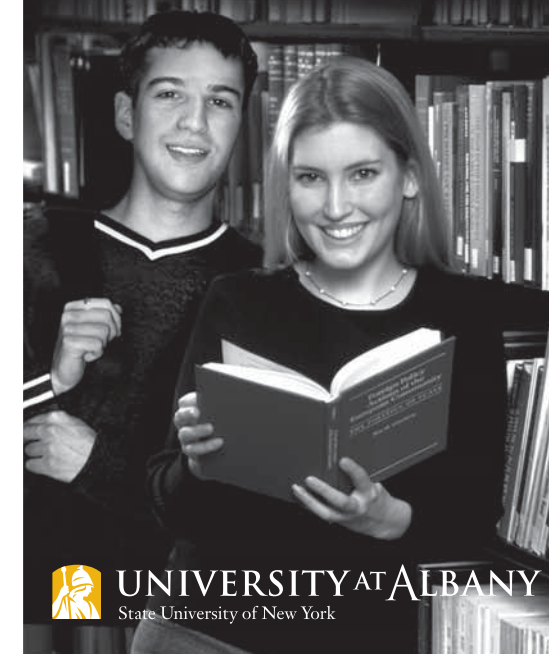
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