By Brian DePasquale
Photos by Bob Ewell

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 shutout 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.

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.

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 second 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.

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 Dicke 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 all-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 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 Goldstein, an All-Northeast Region outside hitter, joined Ashlee Reed and Hunter as all-conference first-team selections.

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.

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