UTICA COLLEGE (0-0, 0-0 E8)
VS.
BECKER COLLEGE (0-0)
September 6, 2008
Alumni Field

2008 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time/Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/06</td>
<td>@ Becker College</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>@ Hartwick</td>
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All Time Series vs. Becker College

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<td>09/02/2006</td>
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Utica is 3-0 all-time against Becker

Last Meeting Against Becker:
Utica College defeated Becker College Hawks 41 - 22 during their last meeting on Saturday, September 1, 2007 at Charles A. Gaetano Stadium.

Kamaal Mabry (Goshen/Goshen) rushed for a career-high 123 yards and three touchdowns for UC during the win. The Pioneers took a 6-0 lead that they never relinquished 4:30 into the first quarter after a one-yard Mabry touchdown run. Becker made a late charge posting two straight scores on a Paul Pascarella (New Canaan/New Canaan, CT) 24-yard fumble recovery returned for a touchdown and an Acie Johnson (Lynn English/Lynn, MA) 55-yard punt return for a touchdown to pull within five points (27-22) with 5:06 left in the game. Two consecutive Pioneer scores, including a three-yard touchdown catch by freshman fullback Brendon Ring (St. Francis/Eden), over the final 4:08 sealed the victory as the Pioneers improved to 1-0 on the season.

Junior kicker John DiNardi (Nathan Hale Ray/East Haddam, CT) knocked home a 22-yard field goal attempt for the Hawks to close out the first quarter scoring with 5:50 left. UC took a 6-3 lead into the second quarter.

Junior quarterback Greg Pinelli (Bristol/Bristol, PA), who posted a career-day for the Pioneers completing 17-of-31 passes for 209 yards and two touchdowns, found classmate Jim Pincher (Christian Brothers Academy/Albany) in the corner of the end zone with 8:45 left in the first half to give UC a 13-3 lead. Pincher closed out the day with two catches for 31 yards.

Becker freshman quarterback Gabriel Prophet (H.D. Woodson/Washington, DC), who completed 22-of-48 passes for 256 yards, capped an eight-play 42-yard drive with 51 seconds left in the half and the Hawks cut the Pioneers’ lead to 13-9 headed into intermission.

The Pioneers dominated the third quarter of play as Mabry and Pinelli both posted touchdown runs and UC took a 27-9 lead heading into the fourth and final quarter.

Both teams totaled over 300 yards of offense (Utica – 379, Becker -355) but the Pioneers rushing attack proved to be too much for the Hawks. The UC running game totaled 170 yards and four rushing touchdowns on 44 attempts.

The Pioneers defense bent but did not break allowing just one offensive touchdown on the day. Freshman defensive back Marvin Betts (Hillhouse/New Haven, CT) tallied a team-high 8.5 tackles and one pass break up, while senior captain Mike DeBetta (Harpursville/Harpursville)
Pascarella made a game-high nine tackles for the Hawks defense, while freshman defensive back Alex Colas (Coral Spring/Fort Lauderdale, Fl) and junior free safety Thierry Raphael (St. Mary’s/Lynn, MA) each tallied six tackles. Freshman defensive back Thaddeus France (Bourne/Centerville, MA) collected five tackles and one interception as the Hawks dropped to 0-1 on the season.

Sophomore wide receiver Cody Elliot (John F. Kennedy/Sloan) caught a team-high five passes for 69 yards and senior captain James Proniewych (Patchogue-Medford/Medford) caught four passes for 46 yards for the Pioneers. Sophomore running back Jamaine Hewitt (White Plains/White Plains) provided a spark off the bench after carrying the ball eight times for 28 yards, including a career-long ten yard scamper.

The Becker rushing attack was led by Prophet, a shifty, true freshman. He gained 69 yards on fifteen carries, while Anthony Johnson (West Springfield/West Springfield, VA) carried the ball ten times for 17 yards. Acie Johnson led all receivers with eight catches and freshman wide receiver Levi Smith (South Plantation/Ft. Lauderdale, FL) posted a career-day catching five balls for a game-high 103 yards.

Both punters displayed quality performances as junior Ben Atwood (Vernon Verona Sherrill/Verona), a two-time Empire 8 All-Conference selection, averaged 35.2 yards per punt for the Pioneers. DiNardi punted eight times for 245 yards including one punt inside the 20-yard line.

What to watch for:
Sophomore running back Brian Jones looks to repeat the success of his rookie season and add to his career total rushing yards. In his first season at UC he rushed for 241 yards on 43 carries. Junior Cody Elliot has tallied 67 receptions during his first two years for a total of 759 yards. Having similar seasons during his latter two years as a Pioneer could allow him to break the all-time pass reception record at UC. He also is 125 yards away from breaking the college’s all-time kick return yards record. Senior defensive back Lazarus Morgan is only 36 yards away from breaking the interception return yards record. Sophomore Keith Barone looks to break the punt return yards record. He has already returned 13 punts for 116 yards. The current record is 192 yards. Finally, Casey McNulty, junior, attempts to break the field goal record. He has successfully made five field goals out of 11 attempts and hopes to break the former record of 12.
Pioneer Facts

Location: Utica, N.Y.
Founded: 1946
Enrollment: 2,800
President: Todd S. Hutton
Nickname: Pioneers
Colors: Navy Blue and Burnt Orange
Affiliation: NCAA Division III
Conference: Empire 8
Stadium (Capacity): Gaetano Stadium (1,200)
Surface: Field turf
All-Time Record: 18-52-0
Head Coach: Blaise Faggiano (Ithaca ’93)

Record at Utica: First Year, 0-0
Career Record: First Year, 0-0

Assistant Coaches:
Keith Scranton (Brockport State ’01), special teams;
Curt Fitzpatrick (St. John Fisher ’04), offensive coordinator
George Penree (St. John Fisher ’03), offensive line
Justin Higgins (Ithaca ’00), outside linebackers;
Will Pluff (Utica ’06), linebackers;
Keith Cherney (Stony Brook ’05), wide receivers;
Jake Dercola (Brockport State ’08), running backs;
Frank Palmisano (Daemen ’75), tight ends;
Greg Pyszczynski (St. John Fisher ’06), defensive line;
Andrew Massoud (St. John Fisher ’04), head JV;
Mike Zegarelli (Findlay ’77), assistant defensive

2007 Overall Record: 3-7
Basic Offense: Spread Offense
Basic Defense: 4-2-5
Letter Winners Returning: 32
Letter Winners Lost: 24
Starters Returning: 13
Starters Lost: 14

Athletic Director: Jim Spartano
SID: Gil Burgmaster
Phone: (315) 792-3772
Fax: (315) 792-3818
E-mail: gburgma@utica.edu
Web: http://www.ucpioneers.com

Letter winners Returning Letter winners Lost
Offense: 13 Offense: 11
Defense: 17 Defense: 12
Special: 2 Special: 1
Total: 32 Total: 24

Starters Returning:
Offense: 6
Defense: 6
Special: 1
Total: 13

Defensive Starters Lost:
DL: Omari Brown,
Rich Rivenberg; LB: Cory Jure, Joe Ryan, Mike DeBetta; DB: Bryan Johnson, Marcus Maroney

Offensive Starters Lost:
QB: Greg Pinelli;
OL: Matt Cole, Anthony Rivie, Dan Nichols; TE:
Marc Neff; WR: James Proniewych; RB: Kamall Mabry

2008 Captains: Defensive: Vinson Jones, Eric Kahl; Offensive: Jim Pincher, Mike Zappetti

Returners

Offensive Starters
(Pos./Ht./Wt./Yr.)
Cody Elliot (WR/5-11/185/Jr.)
Marcus Gurdineer (OL/6-0/270/Jr.)
Mike Zappetti (OL/6-2/260/Sr.)
Robert Montgomery (OL/6-2/298/Sr.)
Jim Pincher (WR/6-2/195/Sr.)
Brendan Ring (FB/5-8/245/Sr.)

Defensive Starters
(Pos./Ht./Wt./Yr.)
Lazarus Morgan (DB/6-0/185/Sr.)
Terrell Cunningham (LB/5-8/212/So.)
Vinson Jones (DE/5-11/225/Sr.)
Eric Kahl (LB/5-10/210/Jr.)
Chris Walrath (DL/5-10/258/Jr.)
Peter Vano (DB/5-11/163/Jr.)

Special Teams:
Ben Atwood
(P/6-2/240/Sr.)

www.ucpioneers.com
Utica College Football 2008 Season Preview:

There is a new era in Utica College football and it begins with new Head Coach Blaise Faggiano, who becomes just the second head coach in the seven year history of the program. He may be new to UC football but he boasts an impressive resume, including nine seasons as defensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator at St. John Fisher College. He also helped lead the Ithaca Bombers to a NCAA Division III National Title as a player in 1991.

Expectations are high with the emergence of new leadership and a revamped coaching staff. The UC football program is still looking for it's first postseason appearance, and Faggiano will hopefully be leading the way. He has plenty of playoff experience both as a player and most recently as a coach leading Empire 8 Conference rival St. John Fisher to national prominence in the past three seasons.

"This is truly an exciting opportunity for my family and I," says Faggiano. "This will not be an easy road, especially competing in one of the top conference in the country, but over the past few months I have gotten to know the student-athletes here at UC and we are all excited for the opportunity to compete at a very high level."

The first step towards making the playoffs is posting a winning record during the regular season. The Pioneers have finished with a 3-7 record each of the past two years, and they would like to return to the winning ways of 2005 when they finished 6-4 and narrowly missed a postseason opportunity. Although the 2005 season was the only time the Pioneers finished above .500 the future remains bright with a solid core of returning athletes.

The Pioneers have 13 returning starters, six on offense, six on defense, and one on special teams. The Pioneers also have 32 returning letter winners. However, seven offensive and seven defensive starters and 24 letter winners have been lost. The most notable losses include team captain, leader in tackles and 2007 ECAC Division III Northwest All-Star Marcus Maroney, quarterback Greg Pinelli, and running back and touchdown leader Kamall Mabry.

"Of course we lost a handful of great athletes to graduation and it will be difficult to replace the experience those upperclassmen possess," says Faggiano. "With that being said, this is college football and athletes moving on is part of the process. What I am ecstatic about is the talent we have returning to the field on both sides of the ball as well as the largest recruiting class of incoming student-athletes in program history."

The returning offensive starters include wide receivers Cody Elliot, a junior, and senior captain Jim Pincher. Elliot led the team in receptions, receiving yards, and receiving yards per game in 2007, while Pincher led the team in yards per catch and receiving touchdowns. Elliot and Pincher will undoubtedly be valuable weapons in the passing game in 2008, especially with the Pioneers running a spread offense.

Marcus Gurdineer a junior, and two seniors Mike Zappetti and Robert Montgomery will help anchor the offensive line and should provide ample time for a first-year quarterback to hit his targets and create holes for the running attack. Zappetti will be one of four team captains in 2008.

"Preseason will be a major key to our success this year because we are implementing new schemes on both sides of the ball," says Faggiano. "I am confident I have put together a staff of great coaches who will be able to prepare
The returning defensive starters include defensive backs Lazarus Morgan, a senior, and junior Peter Vano. Morgan led the team in 2007 with four interceptions and was the only player to return an interception for a touchdown, while Vano tallied more solo tackles than any other returning defensive starter (32).

Linebackers Terrell Cunningham, a sophomore, and junior Eric Kahl are returning to strengthen the defense. Kahl is a 2008 team captain and led all returning defensive starters in total tackles in 2007 (63). Cunningham had an outstanding rookie season last year, racking up 32 tackles and a fumble recovery.

The defensive line has two returning starters, senior defensive end Vinson Jones and junior defensive lineman Chris Walrath. Jones has been named a team captain for 2008 and he led the Pioneers in sacks in 2007 with six. Walrath compiled 27 total tackles, including 15 solo tackles in 2007.

The lone returning special teams starter is senior punter Ben Atwood. Atwood punted 58 times for 2,320 yards, averaging 40.0 yards per punt and set a UC record for longest punt with a 67 yard punt in 2007. He was also named to the ECAC Division III Northwest All-Star team and a First-Team All-Conference selection for the second consecutive season. Atwood holds every punting record for Utica College including yards (6,018), attempts (155), yards per attempt (38.83), and longest punt (67).

The 2008 season promises to be an exciting one, in part due to a difficult schedule that includes six games against Empire 8 Conference rivals Springfield, Alfred, Ithaca, St. John Fisher, Norwich, and Hartwick. Coach Faggiano is undoubtedly looking forward to facing his alma maters of St. John Fisher and Ithaca, two of the top teams in the conference.

The Pioneers kick off the 2008 season on the road against Becker College. Utica beat Becker in last season’s opener with an impressive 41-22 victory. UC is previously undefeated against the Hawks and looking to make it 4-0 on opening day.

UC then travels to face Husson College in Bangor, ME. Offensive production will be the key to this contest as the Pioneers failed to score a touchdown against Husson in the 2007 meeting. Husson, one of the most improved teams in all of Division III football, won last years match-up 10-3 and finished the season with a 6-3 record. In five previous meeting against the Eagles, UC boasts a 3-2 series advantage.

The Pioneers host a tough RPI team for Homecoming on Sept. 20. Last season UC failed to score a touchdown for the second straight week against RPI, falling 24-0 at ’86 Field. RPI finished 8-2 in the regular season and lost in the opening round of the NCAA Division III Tournament. Utica looks to improve on its 1-5 all-time record against RPI.

Following a bye week UC then hits the road to face conference rival Springfield on Oct. 4. Springfield, which is coming off a tough 4-6 season, beat UC in last years Homecoming game at Charles A. Gaetano Stadium 49-12. The last time the Pioneers beat the Pride was in 2005, a 34-33 victory and arguably the biggest win in the program’s history.

The Pioneers then return home to host Mount Ida. The Mustangs are also coming off a tough 2007 season after finishing with a 3-7 record. Last season UC beat Mount Ida 29-27 to raise their all-time record against the Mustangs to...
On Oct. 18 UC stays home to host conference rival Alfred. The Pioneers lost 35-7 in 2007 to the Saxon's, who are continue to make a name for themselves in the Empire 8. Last season Alfred went 8-3 and won the ECAC Northwestern Bowl Championship. The Pioneers then face conference rival Ithaca at Butterfield Stadium on Oct. 25. Last year the Bombers came to Utica and beat the Pioneers 44-7, before finishing the season with an 8-3 record. The Bombers went on to lose in the NCAA regional quarterfinal game to top-ranked Mount Union. UC is looking to pick up it’s first ever win against Ithaca in 2008 after dropping it’s first seven meetings against the Bombers.

UC comes back home to take on conference rival and national power St. John Fisher. St. John Fisher, which ranks sixth in the 2008 USA Today Sports Weekly preseason poll, shut out UC 38-0 in last year’s contest. The Cardinals finished the 2007 season with an 11-2 record and lost to Mount Union in the NCAA national quarterfinals.

On Nov. 8 the Pioneers stay home to host conference rival Norwich. In 2007 UC snapped a three-game losing streak with a 30-6 victory at Norwich. The Cadets are coming off a 2-6 season and UC will be looking to capitalize. The Pioneers are 3-1 all-time against Norwich.

Utica ends the regular season on the road against conference rival Hartwick. The Pioneers lost 72-70 in a quadruple overtime heartbreaker against the Hawks last year. At the time, the 142 point total was the highest score in modern NCAA football history. Hartwick finished last season 8-3 but lost to Curry College in the Division III playoffs.