

# 2005-06 SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Opponent	Location	Time
11/3	Thurs.	Toronto (Exhibition)	Home	7:00 PM
11/8	Tues.	Castleton State	Away	7:00 PM
11/13	Sat.	RPI	Away	2:00 PM
11/22	Tues.	Cortland State*	Away	7:00 PM
11/26	Sat.	Plattsburgh State*	Home	1:00 PM
11/27	Sun.	Plattsburgh State*	Home	1:00 PM
12/9	Fri.	Hamilton	Home	7:00 PM
12/30	Fri.	St. Michael's Tourn.	Away	7:00 PM
12/31	Sat.	St. Michael's Tourn.	Away	3:00 PM
1/5	Thurs.	Lake Forest	Home	7:00 PM
1/7	Sat.	Wesleyan	Home	3:30 PM
1/11	Wed.	RIT	Home	7:00 PM
1/13	Fri.	Elmira*	Away	7:00 PM
1/14	Sat.	Elmira*	Away	2:00 PM
1/18	Wed.	Cortland State*	Away	7:00 PM
1/20	Fri.	Neumann*	Home	7:00 PM
1/21	Sat.	Neumann*	Home	2:00 PM
1/27	Fri.	Chatham*	Away	7:00 PM
1/28	Sat.	Chatham*	Away	1:00 PM
2/1	Wed.	St. Olaf	Home	7:00 PM
2/4	Sat.	New England	Away	TBA
2/7	Tues.	Hamilton	Away	7:00 PM
2/11	Sat.	Buffalo State	Home	7:00 PM
2/12	Sun.	Buffalo State	Home	2:00 PM
2/18	Sat.	Amherst	Away	2:00 PM
2/19	Sun.	Bowdoin	Away	1:00 PM
3/4	Sat.	ECAC West Playoffs	TBA	TBA
3/5	Sun.	ECAC West Playoffs	TBA	TBA

\* ECAC West League Game



2005-06

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY



# QUICK FACTS

LOCATION	Utica, NY
FOUNDED	1946
ENROLLMENT	2,650
PRESIDENT	Todd S. Hutton, Ph.D.
NICKNAME	Pioneers
COLORS	Blue/Orange
AFFILIATION	NCAA Division III
CONFERENCE	ECAC West
HOME ARENA	Utica Memorial Auditorium
CAPACITY	4,000

## COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH	Dave Clausen (Hamilton '98)
ASSISTANT COACH	Melissa Lomanto (Utica College '05)

## DIRECTORY

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	James Spartano jspartano@utica.edu (315) 792-3051 (315) 792-3211 fax
ICE HOCKEY OFFICE	(315) 792-3776
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WEB SITE	www.utica.edu



## DAVE CLAUSEN

Dave Clausen was named the first head coach in the history of Utica's women's ice hockey program in 2000. After posting successful seasons his first four years at the program's helm, the fifth-year head coach is anxious to return to the ice and continue development of his already legitimate program.

Clausen arrived at Utica from Bowdoin College (Brunswick, ME), where he served as the women's ice hockey assistant coach. While at Bowdoin, Clausen helped lead the Polar Bears to a fifth consecutive post season appearance and a Division III women's hockey top 10 national ranking. He has also held assistant coaching positions at the Maine Maritime Academy and Hamilton College, where he played a major role in the Continentals' transition from a club program to a nationally competitive varsity program.

He has spent previous off-seasons as director and coach at various women's and girl's summer hockey camps and clinics in the Northeast, including the Inside-Edge Clinic, the Bowdoin Hockey Clinic, the Hamilton Hockey School, and the New York State Amateur Hockey Association's Girl's Festival at SUNY Morrisville.

Clausen also serves as co-head coach of the Utica College golf team.

Clausen earned a bachelor's degree in English from Hamilton College in 1998 and currently resides in Clinton, NY.



# 2004-05 RESULTS

Date	Opponent	W-L-T	Score	Date	Opponent	W-L-T	Score
10/29/04	Mississauga (ex)	W	7-2	1/30/05	Castleton State	W	10-2
11/2/04	Cortland State*	W	2-1	2/4/05	New England	W	5-2
11/6/04	@ Plattsburgh State*	L	1-4	2/6/05	RPI	L	0-6
11/7/04	@ Plattsburgh State*	L	1-2	2/12/05	@ Buffalo State*	W	4-1
11/19/04	Chatham College*	W	18-0	2/13/05	@ Buffalo State*	W	2-0
11/20/04	Chatham*	W, forfeit	1-0	2/16/05	@ RIT	L	5-6 (OT)
12/4/04	@ Wesleyan	W	3-0	2/19/05	Middlebury	L	3-6
12/7/04	Hamilton	W	2-0	2/20/05	@ Williams	L	0-7
12/11/04	@ Connecticut	W	4-1	2/25/05	@ Neumann*	T	2-2 (OT)
12/12/04	@ Amherst	T	3-3 (OT)	2/26/05	@ Neumann*	W	5-1
1/7/05	Elmira*	L	0-6	3/5/05	Plattsburgh State%	L	0-3
1/8/05	Elmira*	L	0-1				
1/11/05	Cortland State*	W	6-1				
1/16/05	@ Manhattanville	L	0-5				
1/18/05	@ Hamilton	W	3-1				
1/29/05	St. Anselm#	W	2-1				

\* - ECAC West Conference Game

# - Played at Whites town Community Center

% - ECAC West Tournament

# OVERVIEW

After surprising the college hockey circles by earning four ECAC West postseason berths in the program's first four years, the Utica College women's ice hockey team has cast its Cinderella label aside.

Year five brings greater expectations.

"Making those playoff appearances were great initial steps, especially when you consider that in those first couple of years we maybe outperformed our ability," says head coach Dave Clausen. "Now, I don't think we'll be excited simply to make the playoffs. We want to advance in the playoffs and compete seriously for a league championship and a spot in the (NCAA) tournament."

Indeed, after guiding the Pioneers to a 53-44-6 record since the program's inaugural 2001-02 season – in doing so becoming a mainstay in the national coaches' polls, Clausen has raised the bar – out of necessity, he says.

"No one's preparing for us as if we're a new program anymore. We're a team that people, at this point, assume is going to be a pretty good team. We won't be coming out of nowhere like we may have in the past."

The team's talent and leadership justify the high expectations. The Pioneers roster boasts considerable depth, balance, and experience on offense and defense and in goaltending.

Highly skilled freshman **Amanda McDonnell** and sophomore transfer **Laura Schnitker** will add exceptional puck-handling and mobility to a defense anchored by **Ashley Kaufmann** '08, team co-captain **Kelli Vossler**, two-time All-ECAC selection **Courtney Bank**, and converted winger **Michelle Tesoro**. **Sarah Kirby** and freshman **Amanda Todd** will provide depth and competition on defense.

Clausen says, "The biggest improvement this year is on defense. This is as strong as we've ever been – one through six. We've had tremendous players like Ashley Kaufmann, but we've never had three strong pairs; whereas now we have that."

On offense, Utica returns six of its top seven scorers from 2004-05, including the top scoring line of

All-American candidate **Deana Wiegand**, **Stephanie Price**, and **Mandy Finkle**. Wiegand, a 2004-05 All-ECAC West first team selection, finished third in the nation scoring as a freshman in 2003-04 and has led the Pioneers in goals and points in each of her first two seasons. Like Wiegand, Price, who will share captain duties with Vossler, has averaged better than a point-a-game over her first two seasons. Finkle, who will center the top line, is one of the purest passers in Division III.

Sisters and linemates **Cortney Bills** and **Kelly Bills** give Utica a second line capable of dominating play. The fleet-skating duo made an immediate impression on the Pioneers' offense last season both at even-strength and on the power play. Cortney Bills finished behind only Wiegand for the team lead in goals and points, while Kelly Bills led all Utica freshmen in goals, assists, and points. **Katie Moss**, who converted from defense to forward midway through last season, will add strength, speed, and a goal-scorer's shot.

**Niki Fletcher**, **Lindsay Pemble**, and **Kristen MacDonald** provide valuable leadership and scoring depth and will play regularly on the penalty killing units. Clausen is also excited about the development and goal-scoring potential of freshmen **Samantha Rowan**, **Krystal Cummings**, and **Sarah Pernak**.

In net, **Stephanie Yates**, **Alex Talbott**, and **Monica Martirano** give Utica one of the more experienced goaltending corps in the ECAC West. Yates recorded victories in each of her three starts last season, and posted a 1.81 goals-against average and a .916 save percentage in five games overall. Talbott appeared in two games last season, allowing only four goals, while Martirano showed exceptional promise this preseason.

"I'm confident and excited about our situation in net," Clausen says. "I think we have three goaltenders who could be No. 1 on most teams."

The Pioneers open the 2005-06 season ranked third in the preseason league coaches' poll, not surprisingly where they've ended in each of the past four seasons. Perennial powers Plattsburgh and Elmira are ranked first and second respectively

in the league poll as well as second and third respectively in the national coaches' poll. "Our league is the best in the country again this year," Clausen says matter-of-factly. "I think there are six teams that are looking to be in the playoffs, and all six have a reasonable expectation to be there."

While the bar is high, Clausen believes it is not out of reach.

"Obviously, in our case, taking the next step will probably mean climbing over Elmira and Plattsburgh

and beating those teams head-to-head, which we haven't been successful in doing," he says.

"But we're now on par talent-wise with the teams we want to compete with, where that was never the case before," he continues. "I like our defense, I like our goaltending, and I think we've got the forwards who are going to get the goals we need to win some of those games that in the past we haven't been able to."

# 2005-06 ROSTER

#	Name	Pos	Yr	Ht.	Hometown/Last Team
1	ALEX TALBOTT	G	JR	5-4	Rochester, NY / Rochester Edge (NY)
2	AMANDA FINKLE	F	JR	5-4	Milford, MI / Little Caesars (MI)
3	LAURA SCHNITKER	D	SO	5-7	Laramie, WY / Clarkson University (NY)
5	NICHOLE FLETCHER	F	SR	5-2	Tupper Lake, NY / North Country Ice Storm (NY)
6	KELLI VOSSLER	D	JR	5-8	Saranac Lake, NY / National Sports Academy (NY)
7	SAMANTHA ROWAN	F	FR	5-2	Trenton, MI / Belle Tire (MI)
8	LINDSAY PEMBLE	F	JR	5-5	Pittsfield, MA / Connecticut Polar Bears (CT)
9	CORTNEY BILLS	F	JR	5-4	Penfield, NY / Clarkson University (NY)
10	DEANA WIEGAND	F	JR	5-3	Utica, MI / Belle Tire (MI)
11	ASHLEY KAUFMAN	D	SO	5-6	Enfield, CT / Northern Lights (CT)
12	KELLY BILLS	F	SO	5-2	Penfield, NY / Rochester Edge (NY)
13	AMANDA MCDONNELL	D	FR	5-6	Sagamore Beach, MA / Portsmouth Abby (RI)
14	KATHRYN MOSS	D	JR	5-8	Rochester, NY / Rochester Edge (NY)
16	STEPHANIE PRICE	F	JR	5-6	River Rouge, MI / Little Caesars (MI)
18	SARAH KIRBY	D	SR	5-2	Dallas, TX / Texas Lone Star Wolves (TX)
19	COURTNEY BANK	D	JR	5-6	Saginaw, MI / Belle Tire (MI)
21	JILL NOLAN	F	SO	5-5	Labrador, Newfoundland / Clarkson University
22	SARAH PERNAK	F	FR	5-2	Livonia, MI / Belle Tire (MI)
24	AMANDA TODD	D	FR	5-7	Lancaster, NY / Nichols School (NY)
25	KRYSTAL CUMMINGS	F	FR	5-5	Victor, NY / Rochester Edge (NY)
26	MICHELLE TESORO	F	SR	5-5	Dedham, MA / Charles River (MA)
27	KRISTEN MACDONALD	D	JR	5-4	Abington, MA / South Coast Sharks (MA)
29	STEPHANIE YATES	G	JR	5-4	Garden Grove, CA / California Selects (CA)
30	MONICA MARTIRANO	G	SO	5-4	New Fairfield, CT / Fairfield Rebels HS Boys (CT)

# PLAYER SHOWCASE



**Name:** DEANA WIEGAND

JUNIOR FORWARD UTICA, MI

**CLAUSEN:** "Deana has tremendous speed and great puck protection skills."

**2004-05:** Named to the All-ECAC West Second Team... Led the team in points (25) and goals (13).

**2003-04:** Named to the All-Conference First Team, and the ECAC West Rookie of the Year. Finished second in the nation in scoring with 54 points on 29 assists and 25 goals, including four game-winners

**Personal:** A health studies major, Deana is the daughter of Theresa and Kim Wiegand.



**Name:** KELLI VOSSLER - CAPTAIN

JUNIOR DEFENSE SARANAC LAKE, NY

**CLAUSEN:** "Kelli is a very smart defensive player and a strong skater."

**2004-05:** Started all 25 contests for the Pioneers.

**2003-04:** Appeared in all 26 Pioneer contests and collected eight points on two goals and six assists

**Personal:** A communication arts major, Kelli is the daughter of Carol and Dave Vossler.



**Name:** STEPHANIE PRICE - CAPTAIN

JUNIOR FORWARD RIVER ROUGE, MI

**CLAUSEN:** "Steph is a natural team leader and one of our top scorers."

**2004-05:** Collected 21 points on eight goals and a team-best 13 assists.

**2003-04:** Finished third on the team in scoring as a freshman with 44 points (30 assists, 14 goals).

**Personal:** The daughter of Barbara and Edward Price, Stephanie is a physical therapy major.



**Name:** AMANDA FINKLE

JUNIOR FORWARD MILFORD, MI

**CLAUSEN:** "Amanda combines great puck skills and deceptive speed with exceptional on-ice instincts."

**2004-05:** Collected 14 points on four goals and 10 assists.

**2003-04:** A key member off the bench for the Pioneers.

**Personal:** The daughter of Janice and Steven Finkle, Amanda is a nursing major.



**Name:** STEPHANIE YATES

JUNIOR GOALIE GARDEN GROVE, CA

**CLAUSEN:** "Stephanie is a very strong skater for a goalie."

**2004:** Led the Pioneers in save percentage (.916) and goals against average (1.81), while collecting 76 saves and posting a 3-1 record in five games

**2003:** Recorded 104 saves, one shut out, and a team-best .920 save percentage while posting a record of 3-2 overall in eight games.

**Personal:** A management major, Stephanie is the daughter of Mary and Robert Yates.

# ASSISTANT COACH



**MELISSA LAMONTO**

Melissa Lamonto is one of the five original Pioneers who began the program back in 2001. Lomanto played a key role on and off the ice during her four years of play. She has spent the last six summers heavily involved with the Can/Am Hockey School in Lake Placid, NY, as well as working with the USA Select 15/16 Women's Festival Camp. This summer she also traveled to Canada as an instructor with the Ultra Skills Hockey School. Accustomed to traveling, Lomanto, who is currently pursuing a degree from Utica College, will be the Pioneers' main recruiting personnel, as well as sustaining the task of keeping Coach Clausen organized and alert.