

2008 Utica College Football Season Review

A Message from Coach Blaise Faggiano

Dear alumni, parents, and friends,

In 2008 the Utica College Football Program took tremendous strides. At the end of the season I held exit interviews with our student-athletes. Their feedback was invaluable. They enjoyed the addition of traditions such as the "Pioneer Walk," "Burning of the Shoe," carrying the seniors of the field after our last practice, "Friday Night Meetings", and stickers on the helmets at the end of camp. Many of our students utilized our "Utica Advantage" academic game plan. I congratulate Coach Penree and Coach Massoud for their successful implementation of this program. Our players benefited from our involvement in both campus and community activities. We emphasize that at UC we have a championship caliber program and strive to be champions in all aspects of our daily lives.

Our Varsity squad competed with some of the best programs from across the Northeast. Our first win of the season, 16-12, over Springfield College, recognized as one of the stronger programs in east region, was exciting for our young program. Six of the teams we competed against went to post-season last year. In five of those games we were either winning, or within a touchdown into the second half of play. The future is bright for Utica College Football.

Our JV Football schedule was increased to nine games. Some highlights for our JV squad were two victories vs. Liberty League foe RPI, a strong victory vs. Liberty League opponent Union and a thrilling triple overtime game with Empire 8 rival Ithaca College which unfortunately ended in a loss.

Our coaching staff and support staff have the privilege of working with fine young men. This off-season will consist of recruiting weekends, strength and conditioning, and on March 29th we will start Spring practice.

Thank you for your support of the Utica College Football Family. Your response to our fund raising efforts this past year were greatly appreciated. The My Sports Dreams fund raiser, Vodka Riggie Dinner, & 12th Man tailgate were all a huge success. With your help we were able to offset the many expenses that occurred over the last academic year, as well as continue to keep our coaches and players on the cutting edge of technology. We are looking forward to our 9th season of football. It should be a very exciting year with just eight seniors graduating. Our team will be more experienced with a number of returning letterman and talented young players making the transition from junior varsity. I hope to see you at one of our events this Spring. I again want to thank you for your support. Go Pioneers!

Sincerely,
Blaise Faggiano
Blaise Faggiano
Head Football Coach



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Pioneer Progress Report

The following student-athletes distinguished themselves in the classroom this fall. Congratulations to all the players listed below on their accomplishments.

Pioneers who achieved a 3.3 GPA or higher for the **2008 Fall Semester.**

Chris Aldrich
Christian Bochicchio
Pat Cochrane
Andrew Demyan
Miles Fischer
Nick Houle
Eric Kahl
Matt Kromer
Travis Ladd
Ryan Mulligan

Pioneers who achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher for the **2008 Fall Semester.**

Brandon Brechue
Elmer Beckley
Greg Caloia
Joe Gisoni
Joe DiSalvo
Sean Halligan
Donato Pinnisi
Stephen Karboski
Adam Keller
Tyler Malagisi
Casey McNulty
Chris Ortiz
Danny Pena
Dennis Timmons
Mark Tipple
Kurt Zimmerman

Thank you to our seniors.

You will be missed.
You will forever be a part of our
Utica College Football Family.

Ben Atwood
Burnell Branch
Will Daley
Vinson Jones
Bob Montgomery
Lazarus Morgan
Michael Zappetti
Jim Pincher

12th Man Tailgate

Our first ever 12th Man Tailgate Club was a huge success. We sold over 130 12th man memberships. The 12th Man included a Parking Pass, Fear the Moose T-shirt, Fear the Moose Terrible Towel and a Magnet Schedule. Our families shared some good times before and after the games on "THE HILL." Your support is greatly appreciated. The 12th man will continue to grow and flourish under our New Blue and Orange Booster Club. The Blue and Orange will be introduced in our March Newsletter.



Support Staff Recognized

A number of people worked diligently throughout the season to provide our student-athletes with the best opportunity for success.

Dr. Alfred Moretz	Team Physician
Jim Spartano	Athletic Director
Gil Burgmaster	Sports Information Director
Andrea Roberts	Football Athletic Trainer
Dan Sheffer	Head Athletic Trainer
Michele Boucher	Office Manager
Jim Murnane	Assistant Athletic Director
Dr. Terri Provost	Faculty Mentor, Biology Professor
Charlene Sangiacomo	Cheerleading
Morgan Webb	Manager
Michael Gordon	Assistant Manager
Emily Schmitt	Assistant Manager
Andrew Chapman	Filmer
Joe DiSalvo	Filmer
Jared Pinto	Filmer

Fear the Moose... www.ucpioneers.com



Pioneers Give Back

Congratulations to our players and coaches for participating in the following community service projects in the Mohawk Valley.

- North Utica Community Center Pancake Breakfast
- UC Air Band Contest to benefit Utica Women’s Shelter
- Boy Scout and Girl Scout Day
- 2008 Riggie Fest to benefit the YWCA
- Kernan Elementary Reading Program
- 2008 Heart Run & Walk
- Jackie Wolber-Lawler Memorial Golf Tournament
- Stanley Theater Nutcracker Project
- Kiwanis Christmas Party for Utica CSD



Special Thanks To Our 2008 Coaching Staff

Off. Coordinator & Quarterbacks: Curt Fitzpatrick (SJFC, '05)
 Wide Receivers: Keith Cherney (Stony Brook, '05)
 Offensive Line: George Penree (SJFC, '03)
 Tight Ends: Frank Palmisano (Daeman, '75)
 Outside Linebackers: Justin Higgins (Ithaca, 2000)
 Linebackers: William Pluff (Utica College '06)
 Running Backs: Jake DerCola (Brockport '08)
 JV Defensive Backs: Mike Zegarelli (Findlay '77)
 Defensive Line: Greg Pyszczyński (SJFC '08)
 Head JV Coach : Andrew Massoud (SJFC '04)
 Kickers & Punters: Keith Scranton (Brockport '99)
 JV Defensive Line: Dave Watrous (SJFC '95)
 JV Offense Line: Frank Allen (Student-Assistant)

Post Season Awards

The following student-athletes were name to the 2008 Empire 8 All-Conference Team.

First Team Special Teams:

Ben Atwood P

Second Team Defense:

Eric Kahl LB

Pete Vano DB

Honorable Mention:

Vinson Jones DL

Casey McNulty K

Sportsman of the Year:

Pete Vano DB

Empire 8 Defensive Player of the Week

Eric Kahl

Posted Career-High 17 tackles Vs. RPI

D3football.com 2008 All-Region Team

Ben Atwood

2nd Team Special Teams

Pete Vano

3rd Team Defense

2008 Division III Northwest Football

All Star First Team

Ben Atwood P

CNY Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete Award

Ben Atwood – P



Save the Dates for upcoming Pioneer Events!



Winter 2009

**Benefit Vodka Riggies Dinner
for Utica College Football**
Wednesday April 29, 2009
Utica Elks Lodge #33

Spring Football Fever
Saturday May 2, 2009
Pioneer Family Picnic
2nd Annual
Powder Puff Football Games



Pioneer Football Golf Classic
Saturday June 27th 2009
Stonebridge Golf Course
New Hartford, NY

Big John Kaczmarski Jr. Memorial Golf Outing

Monday July 13th 2009

Harvest Hill Golf Club

3052 Transit Rd.

Orchard Park, NY 14127

*The family has created an endowment fund
for the football program here at UC.*



**Support your Pioneers and Join
the BLUE & ORANGE Club!**
**More information to follow in our
Spring Newsletter.**

Fear the Moose... www.ucpioneers.com