

2009 Utica College Football Season Review

A Message from Coach Blaise Faggiano

Dear alumni, parents, and friends,

As a team, the 2009 edition of the Pioneers broke 23 single season school records on the offensive side of the ball. Just to name a few – rushing touchdowns, passing touchdowns and total scoring. This past season the Pioneers scored 118 more points than any other team in program-history. The Pioneer defense broke the school record for quarterback sacks in a single season with 23. The Pioneers lost three games by a combined total of 10 points. This team was just ten points away from a 7-3 record. The season ended with the following individual honors.

- Andrew Benkwitt was the first player in school-history to be named the Empire 8 Rookie of the Year and also the ECAC Division III Rookie of the Year.
- Cody Elliot, Pete Vano and Eric Kahl were the first three players in school-history selected to play in post-season senior all-star games.
- The Pioneers had six players named to Empire 8 All Conference Teams.
- Senior kicker Casey McNulty will graduate as the College’s all-time scoring leader with 109 career points.
- Senior wide receiver Cody Elliot re-wrote the receiving record books and will graduate as the most prolific receiver in program-history.
- Senior linebacker Eric Kahl wraps up his four year career ranked third on the College’s all-time tackles list. Kahl was a three-time All-Conference selection and boasts a 3.5 grade point average in the physical therapy program.
- Junior defensive end Tracy Branch currently ranks second all-time with 9.5 career sacks.

I commend our coaches and players for their tireless effort and commitment to our program. I want to thank all of you who have made donations to our program, your generosity is much appreciated. Our student-athletes are learning the level of commitment required to have a championship caliber program. They have been busy in the classroom, hosting recruits, lifting weights, and participating in community service activities. Utica College is a special place and what makes it special are the people connected to our program. I do hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. Fear the Moose...

Sincerely,
Blaise Faggiano
Blaise Faggiano

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2010 Utica College Varsity Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Saturday, September 04, 2010	Becker College	Away	2:00pm
Saturday, September 11, 2010	Castleton State	Away	TBA
Saturday, September 18, 2010	RPI	Gaetano Stadium	1:00pm
Saturday, September 25, 2010	Wilkes University %	Gaetano Stadium	2:00pm
Saturday, October 02, 2010	St. John Fisher College	Gaetano Stadium	7:00pm
Saturday, October 09, 2010	St. Lawrence Univ.	Gaetano Stadium	2:00pm
Saturday, October 16, 2010	Springfield College	Away	1:00pm
Saturday, October 23, 2010	Open Date		
Saturday, October 30, 2010	Ithaca College	Away	1:00pm
Saturday, November 06, 2010	Hartwick College	Away	1:00pm
Saturday, November 13, 2010	Alfred University #	Gaetano Stadium	1:00pm
Saturday, November 20, 2010	First Round of NCAA Playoffs		
Saturday, December 18, 2010	Division III National Championship. Stagg Bowl		

% - Homecoming, # - Senior Game



Pioneer Progress Report

This fall marked the best academic semester that our football program has ever had! Congratulations to all the players listed below on their accomplishments.

Pioneers who achieved a 3.3 GPA or higher for the

2009 Fall Semester:

Andy Moth - 4.00
Sean Pease - 3.88
Seth Mitchell - 3.81
Steve Karboski - 3.80
Kyle Taft - 3.71
Paul Smith - 3.64
Travis Ladd - 3.61
Patrick O'Hanlon - 3.52
Eric Kahl - 3.49
Tom Dyer - 3.46
Caden Romeo - 3.46
Dennis Timmons - 3.46
Greg Caloia - 3.40
Marcus Gurdineer - 3.38
Taylor Lennon - 3.30
Dan Donato - 3.30
Brian McIntyre - 3.30

Pioneers who achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher for the

2009 Fall Semester:

Jarrold Peck - 3.29
Jon Kilmer - 3.28
Billy Pease - 3.26
Adrian Jackson - 3.25
Luke Manolescu - 3.25
TJ Losowski - 3.24
Andrew Demyan - 3.20
Mike Dixon - 3.20
Kurt Zimmerman - 3.20
Denis Avdic - 3.17
Christian Bochicchio - 3.16
Casey McNulty - 3.16
Franco DiMarco - 3.15
Mike Herberger - 3.12
Sam Lima - 3.10
Tim VanKouwenberg - 3.10
Cody Elliott - 3.07
Matt Dunn - 3.03
Stefan Cavedine - 3.00
Chris Holden - 3.00
Zach Jones - 3.00
Donato Pinnisi - 3.00
Nick Pinnisi - 3.00
Phil Price - 3.00
Brendan Ring - 3.00
Lance Robinson - 3.00

Blue & Orange Club Debuts in 2009!

The second year of our 12th Man Tailgate was a huge success thanks to the creation of the Blue & Orange Booster Club. This year we sold over 150 memberships to the fans of Blue & Orange. The parking lot was packed earlier than ever on game days as our families and friends shared some good times and great food before and after the games. Your support is greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to growing this tradition even more next year! More information on joining the Blue & Orange Club will be included in our spring newsletter.



Support Staff Recognized

The following people worked diligently throughout the season to provide our student-athletes with the best opportunity for success:

Jim Spartano	Athletic Director
Jim Murnane	Assistant Athletic Director
Gil Burgmaster	Sports Information Director
Dr. Alfred Moretz	Team Physician
Dawn Corbin	Football Athletic Trainer
Dan Sheffer	Head Athletic Trainer
Michele Boucher	Office Manager
Charlene Sangiacomo	Cheerleading
Morgan Webb	Team Manager
Johanna Jennings	Assistant Team Manager
Andrew Chapman	Filmer / Highlight Film
Tom Nanna	Filmer
Emanuel Floyd	Filmer
Thomas Dubai	Filmer



Pioneers Give Back

Left: Coach Faggiano and Lauren Partyka (college bookstore) get pied in the face for the Heart Run Walk.

Congratulations to our players and coaches for participating in the following community service projects in the Mohawk Valley over the past year:

- North Utica Community Center Pancake Breakfast
- UC Air Band Contest to benefit Utica Women's Shelter
- 2009 Riggie Fest to benefit the YWCA
- Kernan Elementary Reading Program
- North Utica Community Center Pre-School Reading Program
- 2009 Elks Lodge #33 Spring Clean Up
- 2009 Heart Run & Walk
- Jackie Wolber-Lawler Memorial Golf Tournament
- Kiwanis Christmas Party for Utica CSD
- Oneida County Youth Bureau "Day with Santa"
- NYS Special Olympics Winter Games Opening Ceremony



Left: 2009 D3 All-Star Classic. Cody Elliott and Pete Vano.

Right: 2009 Tazon de Estrellas, Mexico City, Mexico. Eric Kahl Congratulations!



Special Thanks To Our 2009 Coaching Staff

OC & Quarterbacks:	Curt Fitzpatrick (SJFC, '05)
Offensive Line:	George Penree (SJFC, '03)
Running Backs:	Jake DerCola (Brockport, '08)
Tight Ends:	Kevin Eick (SJFC, '08)
Wide Receivers:	Lazarus Morgan (Utica College, '09)
DL & Head JV Coach:	Andrew Massoud (SJFC, '04)
Linebackers:	William Pluff (Utica College '06)
Safeties:	Justin Higgins (Ithaca, 2000)
Cornerbacks:	Walter Burks (Veteran, U.S. Marine Corp)
Kickers & Punters:	Keith Scranton (Brockport, '99)
Asst. Offensive Line:	Frank Palmisano (Daeman, '75)
Asst. Tight Ends	Jake Crawford (Student Assistant)
Asst. Linebackers:	Dave Watrous (SJFC, '95)
Asst. Defensive Backs:	Mike Zegarelli (Findlay, '77)
Asst. Kickers & Punters:	Ben Atwood (Utica College, '09)



Left: Pioneers volunteering for the 2010 America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk. 8,000+ participants raised \$1,000,000+ for the American Heart Association

Post-Season Awards

The following student-athletes were named to the 2009 Empire 8 All-Conference Team:

First Team Defense:

Eric Kahl - LB

Pete Vano - DB

Second Team Offense:

Cody Elliott - WR

Second Team Defense:

Tracy Branch - DL

Honorable Mention Offense:

Tyler Olles - OL

Sportsman of the Year:

Cody Elliott - WR

2009 Empire 8 Rookie of the Year

Andrew Benkwitt - QB

2009 ECAC Division III

Rookie of the Year

Andrew Benkwitt - QB

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

Eric Kahl - LB



Thank you to our seniors.

You will be missed.

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

Keith Barone,
Andrew Demyan,
Sean Dixon
Cody Elliott,
Marcus Gurdineer
Eric Kahl,
Adam Keller
Casey McNulty
Billy Pease
Pete Vano
Chris Walrath
Josh Wright
Kurt Zimmerman.

Save the Dates for upcoming Pioneer Events!



Benefit Riggie Dinner for Utica College Football Tickets \$10, 6pm

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Utica Elks Lodge #33

To reserve tickets at the door contact
mbouche1@utica.edu

4th Annual Spring Football Fever “Moose-a-palooza”

1:00pm Practice

3:30pm Pioneer Family Picnic

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Pioneer Football Golf Classic

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Stonebridge Golf Course

New Hartford, NY

Brochure: Go to www.utica.edu/ucpioneers/football.

Big John Kaczmarek Jr. Memorial Golf Outing

Monday, July 26, 2010

Harvest Hill Golf Club

3052 Transit Rd.

Orchard Park, NY 14127

Utica College Football Summer Camps

All camp brochures are located on the right column of our website.
Go to www.utica.edu/ucpioneers/football. Spread the word to student-athletes
in your area.

TNT Football Camp, Strictly for Linemen

Section V TNT, Mon.-Wed. June 28th-June 30th, 6-9pm, Irondequoit HS
Overnight TNT, Fri. July 9th & Sat. July 10th, Utica College

High School Football Camp

July 12th-July 15th, 6-9pm

Youth Football Camp

July 12th-July 15th, 9am-12noon

“Air It Out” Passing Tournament

Sunday July 25th, 7on7 Passing Tournament



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

Fear the Moose... www.ucpioneers.com