



2007 MEDIA GUIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION

QUICK FACTS

Location	Utica, NY
Founded	1946
Enrollment	3,000
Nickname	Pioneers
Colors	Orange and Blue
Stadium	Charles A. Gaetano Stadium
Surface	Field Turf
Capacity	1,200
Affiliation	NCAA Division III and ECAC
Conference	Empire 8
President	Dr. Todd Hutton
Athletic Director	Jim Spartano

CONTACT INFORMATION

SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Gil Burgmaster

E-mail	gburgma@utica.edu
SID Office Phone	(315) 792-3772
SID Fax	(315) 792-3818
Press Box Phone	(315) 223-2395
SID Mailing Address	Athletic Department 1600 Burrstone Rd. Utica, NY 13502
Athletics Web site	www.ucpioneers.com
Athletic Department Phone	(315) 792-3051

ATHLETIC TRAINING

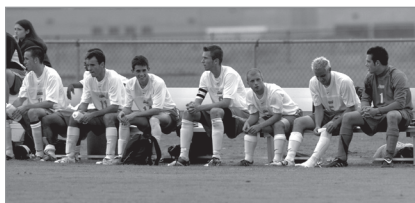
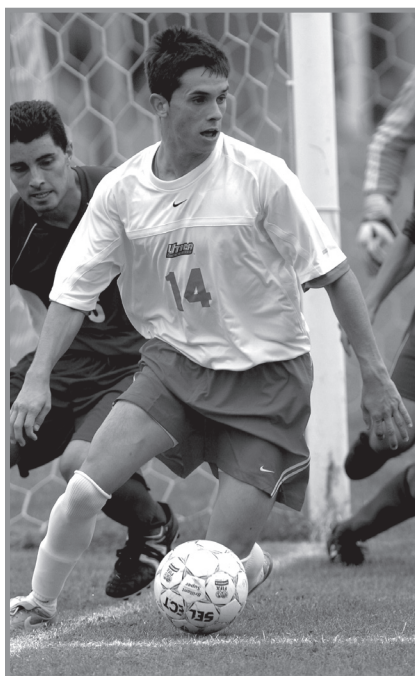
Head Trainer	Dan Sheffer
Phone	(315) 792-5298
E-Mail	dsheffer@utica.edu

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach	Steve Christenson (Roberts Wesleyan College '02)
Record at Utica	Second Year, 5-10-2
Men's Soccer Office Phone	(315) 792-3253
Best Time To Reach Phone	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
E-Mail	schristenson@utica.edu

ASSISTANT COACH

Assistant Coach	Tim Larocca (Western New England College '06)
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HEAD COACH STEVE CHRISTENSON

Steve Christenson enters his second season as coach of the Utica College men's soccer team. Last season he led the Pioneers to a 5-10-2 overall record, including a program-best two conference victories, and a fifth place Empire 8 finish.



Christenson, a Rochester native, spent time playing in the Region I Olympic Development Program (ODP) for New York West. In 2003, he was invited to play for the Region I ODP team. He attended Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, where he received his bachelor's degree in elementary education. He helped lead the team to three national championship tournaments.

After graduation, he joined the Roberts Wesleyan coaching staff. For six years, he has been the coach for the Fairport Soccer Club in Fairport, NY. He holds United States Soccer Federation (USSF) "B" license.

Prior to accepting the position as head coach, Christenson spent two years as the assistant coach of the Pioneers. He graduated in May 2006 from Utica College with a master's degree in leadership and instruction for inclusive classrooms.

2006 RESULTS

OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
Potsdam State	T	1-1
Wells	W	8-0
Hobart	L	0-1
Alfred *	W	3-0
Skidmore	L	0-1
Cazenovia	W	4-0
RIT *	L	1-3
Southern Vermont	W	3-1

OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
Ithaca *	L	0-1
SUNYIT	L	1-2
Elmira *	L	2-4
Hamilton		L
St. John Fisher *	W	2-1
Bard	T	0-0
Nazareth *		L
Union	L	0-3
Oswego State	L	2-4

*Empire 8 Conference

OVERVIEW

Steve Christenson enters his second season as Head Coach confident that his Pioneers can build off of a 2006 season during which the team won a program-best two conference games in the competitive Empire 8 and climb toward a playoff spot.

"Two wins in conference is something we have been trying to accomplish since we joined the Empire 8, and it's a feat we can all look back on and be proud of," he says.



As the 2007 season approaches, the team understands the bar has been raised.

The Pioneers return 16 players, including eight starters. Seven of the eight returning starters are seniors, and veteran leadership will be a key to success both on and off the field.

Senior forward **Evan Dufault** will pace the Pioneers offensive attack. Dufault was named to the Empire 8 Conference First Team and the D3kicks.com East Region Third Team last season after leading the conference in points (23) for the second straight season and ranking fourth in goals (9).

"Dufault is a dynamic scoring threat and we are excited to have him up front again this year", Christenson says. "We just have to be able to put the ball in the back of the net when the opportunity presents itself."

Junior captain **Dan Soderberg** and senior **Nick Callahan**, who each netted four goals in 2006, also provide great scoring ability. Callahan possesses great open field speed, while Soderberg has a knack for putting the ball in the back of the net. Callahan is an excellent addition off the bench, while Soderberg should be an everyday starter for the Pioneers.

Midfielders **Steve Lachowski** and **Dan Ball** will be back in the lineup after playing in all 17 games last season. Senior team captain Lachowski, adds size and leadership, while Ball, a junior, is a solid all-around player who can create scoring opportunities on the offensive end as well as drop back and help to maintain control in the defensive zone.

The Pioneers defense is stronger than ever with the return of **Adnan Alibegic**, **Josh**

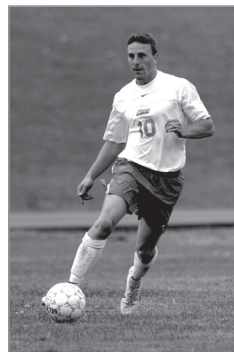
Brugger, **Matt Coppola**, and goalie **Andrew Miller**. Alibegic, Brugger and Coppola started every game for the Pioneers last season, helping Miller and graduated goalie **Anthony DeSarro** compile a 1.49 team goals-against average. Miller went 3-6 in 965 minutes of work last season, stopping 63 shots in 11 games.

Robert Russell, **Brian Couture**, **Andrew Witherspoon**, **Luke Babcock**, **Joseph Landry**, and **Jared Tunkel** round out the returning players for

UC. All seven players saw action last season. Russell, a junior, found the most success off the bench last season, tallying eight points on three goals and two assists. Landry played in eight games, while Babcock and Couture each saw action in five games.

Eighteen newcomers will vie for a spot on the roster this fall, adding competition to pre-season practice. Herkimer County Community College transfer **Adam Tritten** will compete for playing time immediately after guiding HCCC to a 41-3-1 record over the past two seasons. He played in consecutive NJCAA Division III

National Championships, and was of part of the 2005 national championship team. Freshmen **David Garcia**, **Kevin Chapla**, and **Mitchell Maselli** also look to make an immediate impact.



"I like the class we are bringing in, and it will help to keep practices competitive," Christenson says. "In order to be successful, we're going to have to bring the same level of intensity to every practice and every game. The conference is only getting better, and we have to do the same if we expect to compete."

With the addition of national powerhouse Stevens Institute to the Empire 8, qualifying for

the conference tournament for the first time in program-history will be no easy task for the Pioneers.

"We have the talent. Now, we have to be confident in our abilities and not back down from anyone. This team has great potential, and it's time to prove it," Christenson says.

ROSTER

#	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	H.S./Hometown
0	Andrew Miller	GK	SR	6-1	195	Clinton/Clinton
1	Kevin Murphy	GK	FR	6-2	185	West Islip/West Islip
2	Robert Stevens	F	JR	5-11	175	Whitesboro/Whitesboro
3	Dan Ball	M	JR	5-10	155	Maine-Endwell/Endwell
4	Dan Soderberg	F	JR	5-7	150	Douglas/Douglas, MA
5	Evan Dufault	F	SR	5-9	175	Sutton/Sutton, MA
6	Joseph Landry	M	SO	5-11	150	Mohawk/Mohawk
7	Kevin Chapla	M	FR	5-8	150	Honesdale/Honesdale, PA
8	Ousman Njie	M	SR	5-9	130	St. Augustine/New Hartford
9	Kyle Tassone	D	FR	5-6	150	Guilderland/Altamont
10	Nick Callahan	M	SR	5-11	162	Stillwater/Stillwater
11	Joshua Brugger	D	SR	5-4	140	Churchville/Churchville
12	Andrew Witherspoon	D	SO	5-8	170	Kents Hill/Greensboro, NC
13	Brian Couture	D	SO	5-10	185	Sutton/Sutton, MA
14	Jared Tunkel	M	SO	5-9	155	W. T. Clarke/East Meadow
15	Matt Coppola	D	SO	5-7	160	North Hunterdon/Lebanon, NJ
16	Adam Tritten	D	JR	5-7	145	Whitesboro/Whitesboro
17	David Hines	D	FR	6-2	195	Oxford/Oxford, PA
18	Dylan Delamarter	D	JR	6-3	205	Ilion/Ilion
19	Baga Kiwanuka	F/M	FR	6-0	182	Boys and Girls/Brooklyn
20	Adnan Alibegic	D	SR	6-2	170	T.R. Proctor/Utica
21	Mitchell Maselli	M	FR	5-10	170	Drury/Clarksburg, MA
22	Luke Babcock	D	SR	5-8	165	Binghamton/Binghamton
23	David Garcia	M	FR	5-7	140	Fairport/Fairport
24	Robert Russell	M	JR	5-9	138	New Hyde Park/New Hyde Park
25	Steve Lachowski	M	SR	6-5	180	Sutton/Sutton, MA
26	Joe Bertone	F	FR	5-5	150	Connetanot/Ronkonkoma

PLAYER SHOWCASE



0 Andrew Miller

GK Sr. 6-1 178 Clinton/Clinton

2006: Named Empire 8 Goalie of the Week for the week ending October 22... Appeared in 11 games, starting seven... Tallied a 3-6 overall record, and stopped 63 shots... Posted a 1.68 goals-against average.

2005: Appeared in 11 games while starting eight... Posted a 2-5 overall record... Recorded 56 saves and three shutouts... Posted a 1.82 goals-against average.

2004: Appeared in one contest.

Personal: The son of Ann and Kevin Miller, Andrew is a criminal justice major.



5 Evan Dufault

F Sr. 5-9 170 Sutton/Sutton, MA

2006: Named to the All-Region Second Team... Lead the Empire Conference in points (23) and ranked fourth in goals (9)... Scoring two game-winning goals... Named to the Empire 8 All-Conference First Team.

2005: Named to the Empire 8 All-Conference First Team... Collected a team-best 27 points on 11 goals and five assists... Led the Empire 8 Conference in points, goals, points-per-game (1.80), shots (63), and shots-per-game (4.20)... His five assists placed him in a tie for third in the conference with teammate Jose Castro.

Personal: The son of Karen Kaletski Dufault and Robert Dufault, Evan is an economic crime investigation-criminal justice major.



9 Steve Lachowski

M Sr. 6-4 180 Sutton/Sutton, MA

2006: Appeared in 17 games... Collected three points... Scored one game-winning goal... Named team captain.

2005: Recorded one goal and one assist in 16 games.

2004: Recorded two points and one game-winning goal in 15 appearances.

Personal: The son of Ann and Joseph Lachowski, Steve is a health studies-physical therapy major.



14 Dan Soderberg

F Jr. 5-9 150 Douglas/Douglas, MA

2006: Appeared in all 17 contests, while starting fourteen... Ranked second and third on the team in goals (4) and points (8), respectively.

Personal: The son of Richard and Rosemary Soderberg, Dan is a public relations major.



2 Josh Brugger

D Jr. 5-3 160 Churchville/Churchville

2006: Started all 17 games... Ranked second on the team with 1,105 minutes played... A critical part of a defense that averaged only 1.49 goals-against per game.

Personal: Son of Glenn and Cathy Brugger, Josh is a health studies-physical therapy major.

ASSISTANT COACH TIM LAROCCA

Tim Larocca begins his first season as the assistant coach of the Utica College men's soccer team.

Larocca graduated from Western New England College, where he played four years of varsity soccer. A two-year captain, Larocca anchored the Golden Bears' midfield throughout his career. In 2006, he was selected to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Division III All-America Third Team, becoming the first All-American since Western New England joined the NCAA Division III in the early 1990s.

In his senior season, Larocca helped his team post a 16-6-2 record, tying the second highest win total in the program's 41-year history. The Golden Bears captured the GNAC Tournament title, and advanced to the NCAA Division III Championship sectional tournament round of 16 for the second straight season.

Larocca graduated in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing.

A 2003 graduate of East Longmeadow High School in Massachusetts, Larocca played four years of varsity soccer. He resides in Utica.





2007 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
9/01	Roger Williams +	Away	1:30 p.m.
9/2	Rhode Island College +	Away	3:30 p.m.
9/5	Postdam State	Home	4:00 p.m.
9/12	Hobart	Home	4:30 p.m.
9/19	Cazenovia	Away	4:00 p.m.
9/22	Ithaca *	Away	3:00 p.m.
9/26	Skidmore	Away	7:00 p.m.
9/29	Elmira *	Home	7:00 p.m.
10/2	SUNYIT	Home	4:00 p.m.
10/6	RIT *	Home	1:00 p.m.
10/7	Nazareth *	Home	1:00 p.m.
10/10	Hamilton	Away	4:00 p.m.
10/17	Wells	Away	4:00 p.m.
10/20	St John Fisher *	Away	4:00 p.m.
10/21	Alfred *	Away	3:00 p.m.
10/24	Union	Home	7:00 p.m.
10/27	Stevens Institute *	Home	5:00 p.m.

* Empire 8 Conference

+ Roger Williams Tournament