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UNTIL THE NEXT GAME
vs Wilkes-Barre/Scranton



EAST DIVISION STANDINGS

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CONQUEST WEEKLY (Week 18)

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July 23, 2008 -

Vernard Abrams Quietly Becomes Albany's Leading Ironman; Conquest Season Host Rivals Wilkes-Barre/Scranton To Close Out 2008 Season

2008 Record:

5-10 (3-4 Home, 2-6 Road) – Streak: Lost 1 –
Third Place, East

Division, American Conference

Spotlight: WR/LB Vernard Abrams - The Ironman

At the start of the season Vernard Abrams donned the #11 jersey for the Conquest, having earned himself a starting job amongst some talented wide receivers. He might have laughed at the suggestion that heading into the final week of the 2008 season he would be the well-established starting "Jack" linebacker, with impressively balanced numbers on both sides of the ball. The truth is Abrams has been a welcome surprise for Albany head coach Jeff Hoffman, who did not quite realize the kind of versatility he was getting in "V-A." At times this season Abrams has played wide receiver, linebacker, defensive back, long-snapper and most recently backup quarterback, after an injury to starting QB Dan Cole in Week 16 at Louisville.



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WR/DB

#28



Heath Decker



"Vernard is incredibly athletic and finds a way to excel at any position we've put him this year," said Coach Hoffman. "He would have been very comfortable playing back in the day when arena players had to regularly play both ways."

Abrams numbers speak for themselves. He has 60 receptions for 605 yards and ranks third on the team with 12 receiving touchdowns in 15 games this season. On defense Abrams is leads Albany in fumble recoveries (3), is second in sacks (3.5), is tied for third in interceptions (2) and tackles for loss (4.0) and is sixth overall in tackles (27.5). Those are very impressive numbers without drawing a lot of attention in his direction, a talent of Abrams that is only surpassed by his affable, easy-going personality both on and off the field. Whether or not Abrams gets his due recognition for a fantastic af2 season, his contributions to the Conquest have not gone unnoticed by his coaches or teammates.

Week 17 Recap:

ALBANY, NY – The Manchester Wolves grabbed an early lead that they never relinquished, beating the Albany Conquest 70-49 Friday night in front of 3,339 fans at the Times Union Center.

The Wolves opened the scoring three minutes into the game when Manchester QB James Pinkney hit WR Bradley Chavez for an 18-yard touchdown. Albany QB Joe DeLuise answered on the next possession, scrambling for a 27-yard score to tie the game. The Wolves retook the lead when WR Keith Stokes pulled in a 45-yard touchdown reception and then added to their lead as Pinkney and Chavez got together once again. This time they combined for a 10-yard strike and Manchester led 21-7 after the opening quarter.

Pinkney punched the ball into the end zone for a rushing TD to open the second quarter scoring, but the Conquest wasted no time in responding as DeLuise hooked up with WR Jared Jones for a 40-yard touchdown, cutting the deficit to 27-14. Albany appeared to catch the Wolves off-guard as they recovered the ensuing on-side kick, but an offside penalty gave the ball to Manchester deep in Conquest territory. The Wolves capitalized on the situation; Pinkney found WR Steven Savoy for a 5-yard touchdown pass. The Manchester quarterback went back to Savoy on their next possession, giving Manchester a 26-point lead, before DeLuise tallied his second rushing TD for a 40-21 score at halftime.

The Wolves continued to roll in the second half. DB Carlton Brown's team-leading fifth interception of the season set up Savoy third TD reception of the game, then just over a minute later DB Dahnel Singfield picked off a DeLuise pass and returned the ball 18-yards for a touchdown. WR Chris Bocage scored the lone Albany touchdown of the third quarter on an eight-yard pass from DeLuise, cutting Manchester's lead to 54-27.

Bocage caught two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter, pulling the Conquest within 14-points with 22 seconds left, but Manchester iced the game as backup QB Ben King threw for two touchdowns in the final 62 seconds, including a 25-yard TD pass to Chavez with nine seconds remaining to secure a 70-49 victory for the Wolves.

Week 18 Preview:

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Albany was mathematically eliminated from the 2008 af2 playoff race last Friday in their home loss to Manchester. They will now be playing for pride and respect against the first place team in the East Division. A win over the Pioneers would give the Conquest a 6-10 record for the second year in a row and for the third time in five seasons. Albany has not had a winning record since the 2003 season (13-3). Wilkes-Barre/Scranton has locked up home field advantage by leading the entire American Conference with a 13-2 record and they rank second behind only the Spokane Shock (14-1) for the top record in the entire af2.

Week 18's game is eerily similar to the final regular season game of 2007. Last year Albany knocked off Wilkes-Barre/Scranton 56-42 at the Times Union Center on July 27th, 2007 after losing the first two games in Wilkes-Barre, PA. After beating the Pioneers, Albany's season ended with a 6-10 record, while Wilkes-Barre/Scranton regrouped and made a playoff charge all the way to the 2007 ArenaCup. This year the Pioneers are again headed to the post season and the Conquest need a win to finish 6-10.

Week 18 Schedule:

(All games are broadcast LIVE on af2TV free streaming video at www.albanyconquest.com)

Friday, July 25 - 7:00 pm - Times Union Center - Albany, NY

vs. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers (13-2) – Streak: Won 6

First Place, East Division, American Conference

- This is the 21st all-time meeting between Albany and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton and it is their third and final meeting of the 2008 season. The Pioneers have a 12-8 lead in the all-time series, and lead the 2008 series 2-0. They have won both games this year by identical 69-27 scores.

- Leading Passer: Ryan Vena (#5) – 12 GP, 255-for-368, 3,304 yards, 83 TDs, 11 INTs, 124.4 QB rating.

- **Leading Rusher:** Ryan Vena (#5) – 12 GP, 23 carries for 83 yards, 6 TDs, 3.6 yards per carry.

• Leading Receivers: J.J. Outlaw (#9) – 15 GP, 96 catches for 1,245 yards, 30 TDs, 13.0 yards per catch & Rich Musinski (#4) – 12 GP, 76 catches for 1,092 yards, 19 TDs, 13.9 yards per catch.

yards per catch.

- Leading Tackler: Micheaux Robinson (#1) – 14 GP, 72.0 tackles (66 solo, 12 assisted)
14 INTs, 23 Pass Break-Ups.

Conquest Player of the Week: (Week 17)

Chris Bocage – WR #9 11 Catches for 136 yards and 3 Touchdowns
WR Chris Bocage was back with a vengeance as he turned in his best performance since returning from his mid-season injury. Bocage caught 11 passes for 136 yards and 3 touchdowns, which were all game-highs. His highlight play of the game was a fourth quarter screen pass that he broke free down the left sideline for a 39-yard catch and run for a touchdown. Albany's rookie receiver has 60 receptions for 748 yards and 14 touchdowns in just nine games played and is currently ranked fourth in the entire af2 with 186.1 all-purpose yards per game.

Conquest Arrows:

- WILLIAMS OUT FOR THE SEASON – Albany's offense took a major blow as WR Antwun Williams suffered a season-ending broken leg on their first offensive possession against Manchester last week. Williams is the team's leading receiver, the only wide out with over 1,000 yards receiving, and, in spite of his injury, will still finish the year with the most receiving yards (1,123) and receiving touchdowns (29) on the Conquest roster. Earlier this season Williams set the franchise single-game record for receiving TDs (7) and scoring (42 points) on May 23rd, coincidentally, against Manchester; he also became Albany's All-Time leader in career TD receptions (67).
- PILES OF FLAGS – Albany had 14 penalties for 108 penalty yards against Manchester last week, the team's highest totals of the 2008 season. The Conquest and Wolves combined for 30 total penalties (not including declined flags) for a grand total of 210 yards penalized. The 2008 af2 single game high for combined penalties is 32, set by Green Bay and Peoria on May 10th. The Austin Wranglers hold the season-high with 176 yards penalized on April 5th vs. Lubbock; the two teams combined for 264 yards penalized, the most this year.
- LATE ARRIVAL, NO PROBLEM – Kicker Jason Fralicker, who was released on June 5th, did not think he was going to be playing any more games for the Conquest this season. However, with an injury to kicker Carlos Ojeda, Fralicker was recalled as an emergency replacement less than two hours before kickoff against Manchester. Fralicker performed admirably, going 3-for-4 on PAT attempts, while averaging 53.3 yards on three kickoffs (two touchbacks) and had a season-high five onside kick attempts against Manchester.
- APPROACHING MILESTONE - WR Jared Jones is approaching the 1,000 yards receiving mark for his af2 career. Jones needs 53 yards to reach the milestone; he has 947 career receiving yards on 91 catches in 19 career games played between 2007 and 2008. He also has 11 TD catches and has 1,678 kickoff return yards on 76 returns (22.1 yard average), including two returns for touchdowns. Jones ranks seventh in af2 in all-purpose yards (1,827), while teammate WR Chris Bocage is eighth (1,675).
- MORE FLAG STATS - The 2008 record for most penalties in one game is held by the Daytona Beach ThunderBirds, the expansion club where flagged 23 times against the Florida Firecats on May 31st. The Conquest came within one penalty of tying a franchise record for most penalties in a single game (15), set on May 31, 2003 in a 64-40 home win over the Rochester Brigade. Albany's franchise record for most yards penalized in one game is 132 yards, set on July 9, 2004 at Green Bay.
- THE COME BACK OF THE SEASON – Manchester's win over Albany last week, coupled with losses by both Quad City and Louisville, helped the Wolves clinch a spot in the 2008 playoffs. The Wolves, who started the season 1-6, have completed a remarkable turnaround of their season by going an impressive 7-1 in their last eight games and host the Corpus Christi Sharks (7-8) on the final day of the regular season.

Albany Conquest Team Leaders

Passing

-Attempts: Dan Cole (528)

-Completions: Dan Cole (288)
-Percentage: Dan Cole (54.5%)
-Yards: Dan Cole (3,193)
-Touchdowns: Dan Cole (63)
-Long: Dan Cole (45)

Receiving

-Receptions: Antwun Williams (88)
-Yards: Antwun Williams (1,123)
-Touchdowns: Antwun Williams (29)
-Yards/Catch: Heath Decker (17.0)
-Yards/Game: Chris Bocage (83.1)
-Long: Antwun Williams (45)

Rushing

-Attempts: Dan Cole (49)
-Yards: Dan Cole (161)
-Touchdowns: Dan Cole (9)
-Yards/Carry: Norman Bauer (5.4)
-Yards/Game: Dan Cole (11.5)
-Long: Dan Cole (40)

Kick Returns

-Attempts: Jared Jones (43)
-Yards: Jared Jones (882)
-Touchdowns: Chris Bocage (2)
-Yards/Return: Chris Bocage (21.9)
-Yards/Game: Chris Bocage (97.2)
-Long: Chris Bocage (56)

Field Goals

-Attempts: Carlos Ojeda (9)
-Kicks Made: Carlos Ojeda (4)
-Percentage: Carlos Ojeda (44.4%)
-Long: Carlos Ojeda (40)

Kickoffs

-Attempts: Jason Fralicker (73)
-Yards: Jason Fralicker (3,902)
-Yards/Kick: Jason Fralicker (53.5)
-Touchbacks: Jason Fralicker (23)

Defense

-Tackles: Brandon Taylor (74.0)
-Solo Tackles: Brandon Taylor (59)
-Assisted Tackles: Brandon Taylor (30)
-Sacks: Michael Lewis (7.0)
-Tackles For Loss: Michael Lewis (11.0)
-Interceptions: Brandon Taylor (6)

- Pass Breakups: Brandon Taylor (11)
- Quarterback Hurries: Michael Lewis (7)
- Fumble Recoveries: Michael Lewis & Vernard Abrams (3)
- Forced Fumbles: Michael Lewis (3)
- Blocked Kicks: Damion DeRosia (3)
- Defensive Touchdowns: Brenton Brady, Brandon Taylor & Brian Bond (1)

Albany remains at home for the final week of 2008 as they host the first place Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers for a 7:00 pm kick off on Friday, July 25th at the Times Union Center; it will be their third game against the Pioneers this year.

Group and individual game tickets are now on sale for the final two home games of the 2008 Albany Conquest regular season. For more information please contact the Conquest at (518) 487-2244 or online at www.albanyconquest.com.

[www.AlbanyConquest.com](http://www.albanyconquest.com)

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