



HOME

THE TEAM

NEWS

FAN ZONE

KIDS CLUB

TREASURES

TICKETS

CONTACT US

COMMUNITY

MERCHANDISE



UNTIL THE NEXT GAME
vs Wilkes-Barre/Scranton

**EAST DIVISION
STANDINGS**

TEAM W L

PIONEERS 13-2

**7/24/08
PIONEERS 8-7**

CONQUEST 5-10

THUNDERBIRDS 3-12



CONQUEST WEEKLY (Week 18)

« Back

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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U.S. ARMY



"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 Dahnell 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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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.

· 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.

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.

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