
Clocktower
HOTEL
FIREBIRDS
SALINA
LIBERTY
ALBANY
FIREBIRDS
GAME
DAY
7:00PM
VS LIBERTY
EVERGREEN
NOW!
transfinder
MVP
ARENA
AF1

transfinder FIELD

Clocktower HOTEL

ARENA 2025 CROWN

WEEKEND OF JUNE 28TH

ALBANY HOSTS WITH WIN ON JUNE 21ST



ALBANY FIREBIRDS

MVP ARENA

DON'T MISS THIS SATURDAY! CALL (518)557-8799 FIREBIRDSAF1.COM

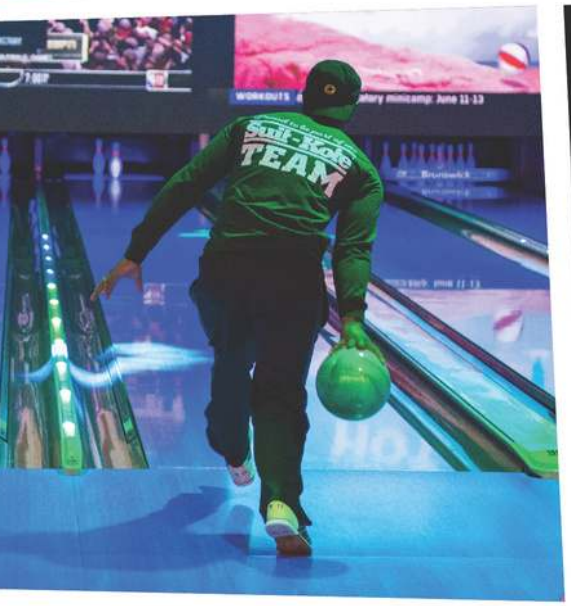
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Senior Financial Advisor
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Complimentary Consult/Website

SCAN ME SCAN ME

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Complimentary Consult/Website

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VS

SEMI-FINAL PLAYOFFS MATCHUP

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST KICKOFF 7:00PM



Albany Firebirds vs. Salina Liberty – Semi-Final Playoff Showdown
Date: Saturday, June 21, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: MVP Arena – Albany, NY
Broadcast: Evergreen Now!

The Road to Arena Crown 2025 Starts Now.
It all comes down to this. The Albany Firebirds are back in the playoffs with our sights set on Arena Crown 2025. A win tonight at MVP Arena means a trip to the championship—and we're ready to rise.
But the Salina Liberty aren't going down easy. They're entering tonight's matchup with momentum, coming off arguably the game of the year—a walk-off field goal win over the SW Kansas Storm in the first round. That win also kept the Billings Outlaws out of the playoffs, proving Salina thrives in high-pressure moments.

The Firebirds are locked in and fueled by one of the best fan bases in arena football. With championship experience on the field and the Flock in the stands, Albany is ready for the challenge.

The Firebirds, however, are no strangers to this stage—and no strangers to Salina. These two teams met in the postseason last year, with Albany coming out on top in a hard-fought battle. Tonight, Salina returns to MVP Arena looking for revenge... but the Firebirds are determined to prove history repeats itself.

This one has all the makings of a playoff classic.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

- Sam Castronova – Championship-winning QB, built for big moments.
- Trevon Shorts – Two-time champ and Albany defense beast.
- Salina's Special Teams – Clutch kicking sealed last week's win.

FLOCK FACTOR

The road to the crown runs through Albany. Let's make MVP Arena loud, electric, and impossible for the opposition. It's time to fly.





PARTY BEFORE KICKOFF!

GET READY TO KICK OFF GAME DAY IN STYLE AT THE ALBANY FIREBIRDS PRE-GAME BLOCK PARTY! STARTING TWO HOURS BEFORE JULY 21ST AND JUNE 28TH (PENDING WIN ON 6/21) FIREBIRDS HOME GAMES ON SOUTH PEARL STREET OUTSIDE MVP ARENA, ENJOY LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, AND EXCITING ACTIVITIES FOR FANS OF ALL AGES.

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY AND JOIN THE FUN—IT'S THE PERFECT WAY TO GEAR UP FOR THE ACTION!

ALBANY FIREBIRDS ROSTER

#	Name	POS	Height	Weight	College
0	Marquel Wade	WR	5' 11"	170 lbs	Arkansas
1	Trevon Shorts	LB	6' 1"	220 lbs	Fairmont State
2	Sam Castronova	QB	6' 2"	215 lbs	Bethany
3	Duane Brown	WR	6' 0"	190 lbs	IUP
4	Robert Mccoy Jr	QB	6' 2"	190 lbs	Charleston Southern
5	Ezekiel Rose	DL	6' 3"	310 lbs	West Virginia
7	Isiah Scott	WR	6' 3"	215 lbs	West Virginia State
8	Drew Singleton	LB	6' 2"	235 lbs	Rutgers
9	Dejon Walden	LB	6' 0"	230 lbs	Shorter
10	Markus Smith	DB	6' 2"	205 lbs	Nevada
11	Mike Lee	DB	5' 9"	180 lbs	Kansas
17	Kyle Chandler	DB	6' 0"	200 lbs	Tarleton State University
21	Darien Townsend	WR	5' 10"	180 lbs	Youngstown State
23	Henry Nell	K	5' 11"	200 lbs	International
24	Tre Wortham	DB	6' 1"	200 lbs	UConn
33	Desmond Maxwell	FB	6' 2"	250 lbs	Western Kentucky
53	Brandon Nicholson	OL	6' 4"	300 lbs	Notre Dame College
65	Sean Brown	OL	6' 3"	320 lbs	Mississippi Valley State
69	Joshua Zacher	OL	6' 2"	300 lbs	Duquesne
74	Colby Byrd	OL	6' 3"	300 lbs	Norfolk State
77	Isaiah Hardy	OL	6' 5"	330 lbs	West Virginia
90	Jamall Hickbottom	DL	6' 2"	305 lbs	South Alabama
94	Marquise Lawson-Greenwood	DE	6' 6"	255 lbs	California University/San Bernardino Valley College/Lincoln
98	Prince Umanmielen	DL	6' 6"	278 lbs	East Central/Tarleton State

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TEXAS de BRAZIL



Laura McDonald Photography

SALINA LIBERTY ROSTER

#	Name	POS	Height	Weight	College
0	Ed Smith Jr.	WR	5' 9"	170 lbs	Fort Hays State University
1	Kerry Starks	LB	6' 2"	235 lbs	University of Louisiana - Monroe
2	Tracy Brooks	RB	5' 8"	210 lbs	Central Alabama
3	DeWayne Autrey	DB	6' 1"	198 lbs	South Houston High School
5	Freddie McGee III	DB	5' 9"	180 lbs	Eastern Michigan
6	Larry Beavers	WR	6' 0"	179 lbs	Wesley College
7	Shaq Bond	DB	6' 0"	210 lbs	Utah State
8	Malik Honeycutt	WR	6' 3"	190 lbs	Murray State University
9	Jamario Benson	ATH	6' 0"	208 lbs	Holmes Community College/ Bethune-Cookman University
10	Lamont Wade	DB	5' 10"	200 lbs	Penn State
11	Rakeem Cato	QB	6' 0"	153 lbs	Marshall
12	Henry Kellogg	RB	6' 3"	250 lbs	College of Dupage
14	Javin Kilgo	QB	6' 4"	205 lbs	Midwestern State University
15	Jahlil Brown	DB			
16	Dezmon Epps	WR	5' 10"	180 lbs	Idaho University
20	RJ Jarrett	JLB	6' 1"	190 lbs	Delta State University
25	Bailey Hale	K	6' 0"	200 lbs	Louisiana Tech
40	Travis Taylor	DE	6' 2"	233 lbs	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College/ Murray State University
50	Sha'Haun Williams	DL	6' 3"	255 lbs	Notre Dame College
55	Toree Boyd	OL	6' 4"	315 lbs	Howard University
60	Somadina Okezie-Okeke	OL	6' 2"	325 lbs	North Carolina Central University & Kennesaw State University
70	Alekisanita Tapa	OL	6' 5"	319 lbs	Adams State
72	Jeremy Martin	OL	6' 4"	349 lbs	Limestone University
96	Justin Foster	OL	6' 4"	300 lbs	Samford
99	Torrence Williams	DL	6' 2"	300 lbs	Elon University

AF1 STANDINGS

Rk	Team	GP	W	L	W%	PF	PA	Streak
1	Albany Firebirds	10	10	0	1.000	675	276	W 10
2	Nashville Kats	10	6	4	.600	472	386	W 1
3	SW Kansas Storm	12	7	5	.583	561	491	L 2
4	Salina Liberty	11	6	5	.545	493	463	W 4
5	Billings Outlaws	12	6	6	.500	553	466	W 3
6	Oregon Lightning	13	5	8	.385	461	502	L 1
7	Corpus Christi Tritons	10	3	7	.300	332	497	L 7
8	Washington Wolfpack	12	2	10	.167	235	701	L 6

FIREBIRDS PREVIOUS GAMES

Fri Mar 21 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds	78	VS	20	Dodge City, Kansas SW Kansas Storm	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sat Mar 29 6:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds	42	AT	34	Nashville Nashville Kats	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sun Apr 6 6:30pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds	57	AT	27	Salina Salina Liberty	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sun Apr 13 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds	62	VS	24	Billings, Montana Billings Outlaws	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sun Apr 20 6:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds	39	AT	7	Billings, Montana Billings Outlaws	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Fri Apr 25 8:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds	100	AT	12	Corpus Christi Corpus Christi Tritons	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sun May 4 4:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds	64	VS	58	Salina Salina Liberty	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sat May 10 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds	71	VS	55	Nashville Nashville Kats	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sat May 24 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds	64	VS	27	Corpus Christi Corpus Christi Tritons	Final	W	BOXSCORE

FIREBIRDS SCHEDULE

Fri Mar 21 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**		78	VS	20		Dodge City, Kansas **SW Kansas Storm**	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sat Mar 29 6:00pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**		42	AT	34		Nashville **Nashville Kats**	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sun Apr 6 6:30pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**		57	AT	27		Salina **Salina Liberty**	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sun Apr 13 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**		62	VS	24		Billings, Montana **Billings Outlaws**	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sun Apr 20 6:00pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**		39	AT	7		Billings, Montana **Billings Outlaws**	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Fri Apr 25 8:00pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**		100	AT	12		Corpus Christi **Corpus Christi Tritons**	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sun May 4 4:00pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**		64	VS	58		Salina **Salina Liberty**	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sat May 10 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**		71	VS	55		Nashville **Nashville Kats**	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sat May 24 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**		64	VS	27		Corpus Christi **Corpus Christi Tritons**	Final	W	BOXSCORE
Sat Jun 14 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York **Albany Firebirds**			VS			Everett, Washington **Washington Wolfpack**	PREVIEW TICKETS		

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FIREBIRDS COLORING CONTEST







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2 Pros and a Cup of Joe



The Doug Gottlieb Show



The Odd Couple with Rob Parker and Kelvin Washington

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JUNE 14TH PHOTO GALLERY



















PARTY BEFORE KICKOFF

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST

5:00-7:00PM (KICKOFF 7:00PM)







VENDORS

MUSIC

FOOD

FIREBIRDS RACE CAR

FLAMES DANCE TEAM

SPIKE THE FIREBIRD

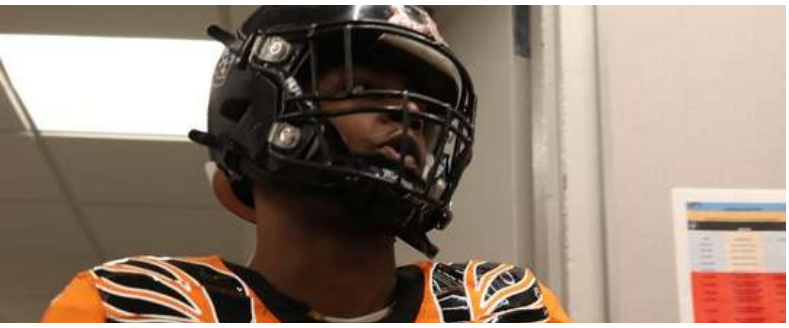
IN FRONT OF MVP ARENA







JUNE 14TH PHOTO GALLERY

















REAL AMERICAN BEER REAL AMERICAN BEER

Real AMERICAN ★BEER★

OFFICIAL BEER OF AF1

REAL AMERICAN BEER REAL AMERICAN BEER



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JUNE 14TH

















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WEEKEND OF JUNE 28TH

ALBANY HOSTS WITH WIN ON JUNE 21ST

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HEAD COACH DAMON WARE

Damon Ware joined the historic Albany Firebirds in October of 2023 as the Head Coach and General Manager on the same day it was announced the Albany Firebirds are back and are returning to the AFL. Prior to joining the Firebirds, Ware spent the 2021 and 2022 seasons in Albany as the Offensive Coordinator and Assistant Head Coach and won back-to-back National Arena League Championships.

The 2020 shortened season Damon Ware was the Offensive Coordinator with the Omaha Beef. In 2019, Ware spent the IFL season with the Nebraska Danger as their Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line Coach. In Nebraska, Ware helped lead the Danger to the third-ranked rushing attack in the Indoor Football League, along with the #1 rusher in the league and Rookie of the Year Tommy Armstrong (Nebraska). In 2018, Ware served as Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator for the Cedar Rapids Titans where he led the #1 passing offense in the IFL. Ware's Quarterback Jake Medlock (Florida International) led the Indoor Football League in passing yards per game and passing touchdowns. In 2017, Ware also held the title of Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator for the Colorado Crush.



HEAD COACH DAMON WARE

Ware was the Head Coach for the Cheyenne Warriors during the 2012-2013 seasons competing in the American Professional Football League. Also, in 2013, Ware was the Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator for Adams City High School. In 2011, Ware was the Head Coach of the Calanda Broncos team in Switzerland. The team finished undefeated in Switzerland, winning the Swiss Bowl national championship. Ware's team finished ranked first in both offense and defense along with the #5 ranking in all of Europe. In 2010, Ware was the Head Coach for the Finland Oulu Northern Lights and led them to the championship game. In 2009, Ware served as the Head Coach/General Manager of the Denver Titans of the American Professional Football League. In 2008, Ware worked as the Quarterbacks Coach at Colorado State University-Pueblo. Ware also served as Head Coach/General Manager for the Black Hills Red Dogs of the National Indoor Football League from 2004-2005.

Ware coached for William Hinkley High School from 1998-2000 and returned from 2002-2003. During his high school tenure, Ware served as a coordinator for offense, defense, and special teams. In his tenure at William Hinkley High School, Ware's teams won two Conference Championships, including the first undefeated conference championship in school history, coached an offensive player of the year, coached a defensive player of the year, and broke the state record with his defensive secondary amassing 28 interceptions with nine returned for touchdowns. In 2001, Coach Ware was honored with the opportunity to coach with the New Orleans Saints of the National Football League (NFL) through the Minority Internship Fellowship program. Ware worked as an assistant wide receivers coach.

For the 2025 season, Damon Ware brings his extensive experience and championship-winning mentality to lead the Albany Firebirds in the inaugural season of Arena Football One (AF1). His leadership, combined with a proven track record of developing top-tier talent and executing winning strategies, positions the Firebirds as strong contenders for the championship. Ware's journey exemplifies his commitment to excellence and his ability to build competitive teams both nationally and internationally.

Ware holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Science/Psychology and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership.

BRANDON SESAY

Defensive Coordinator

Brandon Sesay, Defensive Coordinator for the Albany Firebirds in Arena Football One (AF1), brings a championship mindset, extensive playing experience, and a deep commitment to the Albany community. A former Offensive and Defensive Lineman at Texas Tech, Sesay has been a vital part of every Albany arena football franchise since 2018, playing a key role in securing ArenaBowl 32 and contributing to back-to-back championships in 2021 and 2022. Off the field, his Champ Camp inspires local youth with football skills and life lessons, solidifying his legacy as a player, mentor, and beloved figure in Albany football.

ARTHUR HOBBS

Defensive Backs Coach

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$10 FIREBIRD CHICKEN SANDWICH

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AFTER GAME

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$6 COCKTAILS
$10 BURGERS
$5 FRENCH FRIES
$10 BEEF SLIDERS
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Across from Albany Capitol Center and Renaissance Hotel

MUST SHOW GAME TICKET FOR SPECIALS

TONY BOWICK

Offensive Line

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GABE YOUNG

Strength & Conditioning

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JORDAN GOOCH

Fullbacks

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SEAN JOHNSON

Scouting Director

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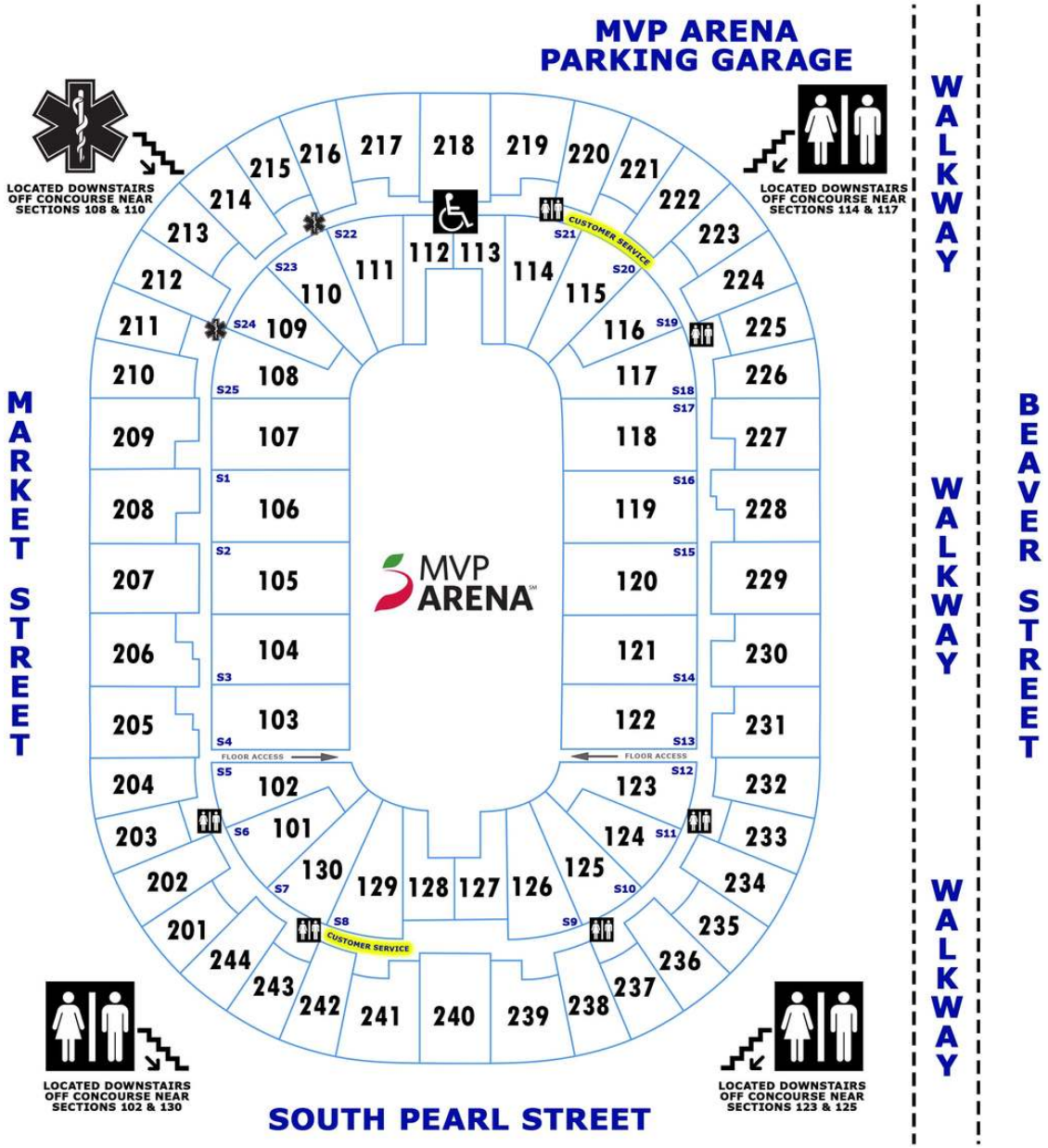
FIREBIRD FOCUS



IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

EVERY WEEK ON YouTube

ARENA MAP

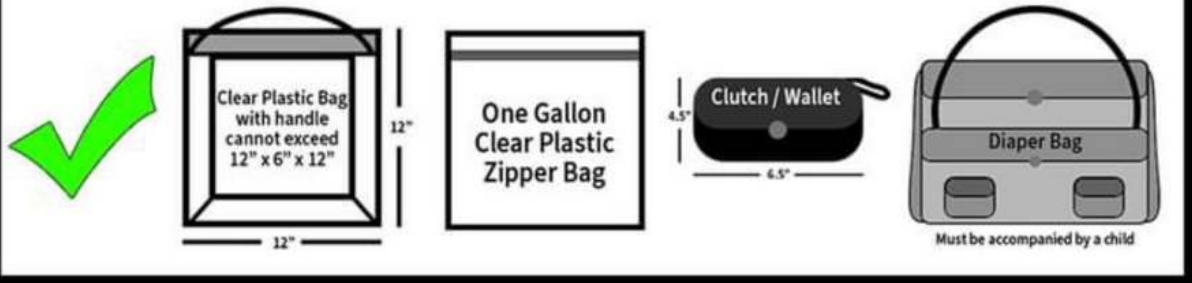


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FIREBIRDS IN THE COMMUNITY

At the Albany Firebirds, community lies at the heart of our organization. We are dedicated to fostering a strong bond with the community we call home. Our commitment goes beyond the field, extending into the neighborhoods and streets that surround us. We believe that by actively engaging with our community, we not only enhance the fan experience but also contribute to the well-being of the place we proudly represent.



INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Our involvement in the community is not just a checkbox on our to-do list; it's a core part of our identity. From youth outreach programs to community events, we actively seek opportunities to make a positive impact. Whether it's supporting local initiatives or collaborating with schools, we strive to be more than just a sports team. By embracing the spirit of community, we aim to create lasting connections that transcend the boundaries of the game.



FLAMES APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Want to bring the Albany Firebirds spirit to your event? We welcome appearance requests! Whether it's a school assembly, charity function, or community gathering, our Flames are ready to share the excitement and camaraderie that defines our team. Simply submit your request,and let us join you in making your event a memorable experience. It's all part of our commitment to being an accessible and engaged presence in the communities we proudly represent.



SPIKE APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Want to add some extra excitement to your event? Invite your favorite mascot! Whether it’s for a birthday party or a community event, Spike is ready to bring his rockin’ energy and team spirit! Submit your request, and let’s make your event a memorable one.

Submit Your Requests Here: https://www.firebirdsaf1.com/community

FIREBIRD FLAMES







FIREBIRD FLAMES





Clocktower
HOTEL



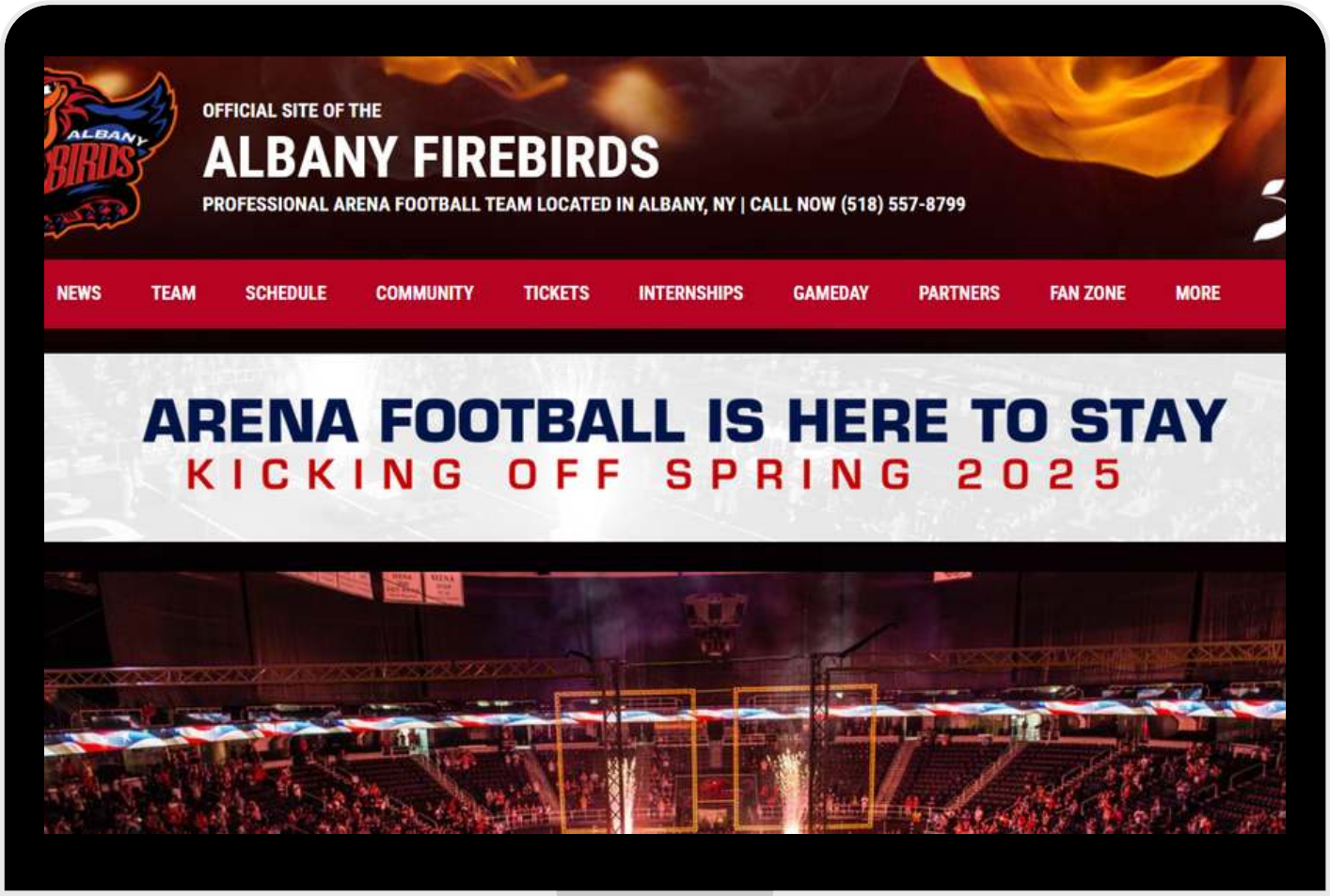
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transfinder FIELD

FIREBIRD FLAMES







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OWNERSHIP GROUP



MIKE KWARTA
CO-OWNER

Former owner of Tech East Fire & Water Restoration and current General Manager of BELFOR Property Restoration Albany, Mike's leadership and experience have been instrumental in shaping the Firebirds' legacy



ANDY GUELCHER
CO-OWNER

Co-owner of Mohawk Chevrolet, Andy brings a strong business acumen and deep community ties to the Albany Firebirds ownership group.



RICH SZESNAT
CO-OWNER

Rich, whose family owns Constantine Construction, adds local expertise and a commitment to Albany's success as a key part of the Firebirds ownership team.

CORPORATE FRONT OFFICE



JACOB LABREE

Chief Executive Officer

Jacob brings over a decade of senior management experience across hospitality, insurance, and business sales. He has a proven track record of driving growth, operational excellence, and team success. From leading restaurant operations across the Albany to Queensbury region to serving as Director at a major life insurance company, Jacob has consistently delivered results through strong leadership and customer-focused strategies. As CEO, his versatile expertise positions him to lead with vision and achieve exceptional outcomes.



JEFF LEVACK

Team President

Jeff Levack, a prominent figure in Capital Region sports and media, takes on the role of Team President for the Albany Firebirds in Arena Football One (AF1). With decades of experience in media and a championship-winning track record, Jeff has been a key presence in every Albany Arena Football franchise since 2018. As the former Team President of the Albany Empire, he helped lead the team to back-to-back National Arena League (NAL) championships in 2021 and 2022. Currently, Jeff hosts a daily radio show on Capital Region Fox Sports 95.9/980, bringing his deep knowledge and passion for local sports to the airwaves. Now, with his sights set on replicating past success, Jeff aims to guide the Firebirds to another championship in 2025.


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CORPORATE FRONT OFFICE



BEN NELSON

Director of Media

Ben Nelson, a Capital Region native and Colonie Central High School graduate, is entering his 2nd year as Director of Media for the Albany Firebirds in Arena Football One (AF1) and his 5th season working in arena football. Ben's journey from a social media intern with the Albany Empire in 2021 to leading media for the Firebirds highlights his creativity and dedication. Along the way, he served as Lead Graphic Designer and managed social media for the Albany Empire, Interned and worked with the media team at the Albany Patroons, Director of Digital Media at the Orlando Predators in 2023. Now back in Albany, Ben leverages his passion for local sports and media to elevate the Firebirds' presence in AF1.



NICK VENNARD

Director of Gameday Operations and Community Relations

Nick Vennard, a graduate of Colonie High School, is entering his second year as Director of Gameday Operations for the Albany Firebirds. With a Bachelor's in Sport Management and Marketing from Oneonta and an Associate's in Exercise Science, Nick combines his education with experience as a former lacrosse captain and 14-year football player. He has worked with the National Lacrosse League and Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League, enhancing his sports management expertise. Passionate about fan engagement, Nick focuses on creating memorable game-day experiences and ensuring smooth operations, leaving fans with lasting memories at MVP Arena.



JOSEPH NARE

Account Executive, Ticket Sales & Service

Joseph Nare, entering his second year as an Account Executive for Ticket Sales & Service with the Albany Firebirds, holds a degree in business economics and finance from Utica University, where he also played varsity football. With a strong business foundation and a passion for sports, Joseph applies his skills to streamline ticket sales and service operations, enhancing fan engagement and contributing to the team's growth and success.

CORPORATE FRONT OFFICE



GIULIANA CAPPARELLO

In-Game Show Manager

Giuliana Capparello, a Fonda, New York native, is a passionate sports industry professional with a degree in Sport and Recreation Management from Russell Sage College. Her journey into sports management includes impactful roles with the Amsterdam Mohawks baseball team and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, where she developed a comprehensive skill set in game day operations, sports communication, and fan engagement. She is also currently serving as an assistant track coach at Hudson Valley Community College. With a strong sense of community and a talent for balancing multiple roles, Giuliana excels in fostering and creating unforgettable game-day experiences.



BRIAN RHATIGAN

In-Game Show Host

Brian Rhatigan, also known as Back 9 Bri, is entering his second year as the Albany Firebirds In-Game Show Host. As the hype man, he brings energy and excitement to the role, engaging fans and elevating the game-day experience. He loves seeing the fans get excited and thrives on creating a dynamic, high-energy atmosphere that amplifies the energy of the game.



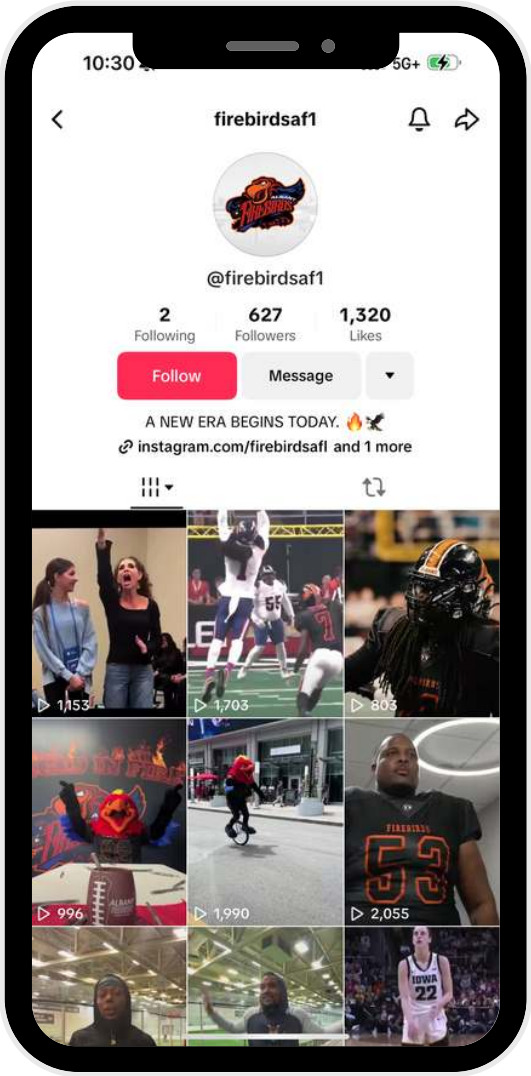
MICHAEL FORST

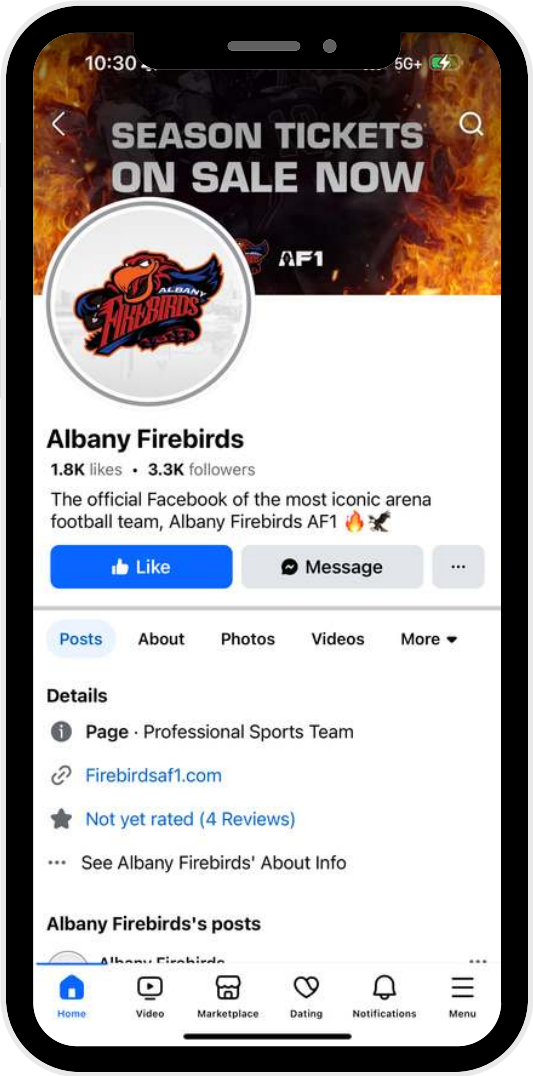
Official Team Photographer

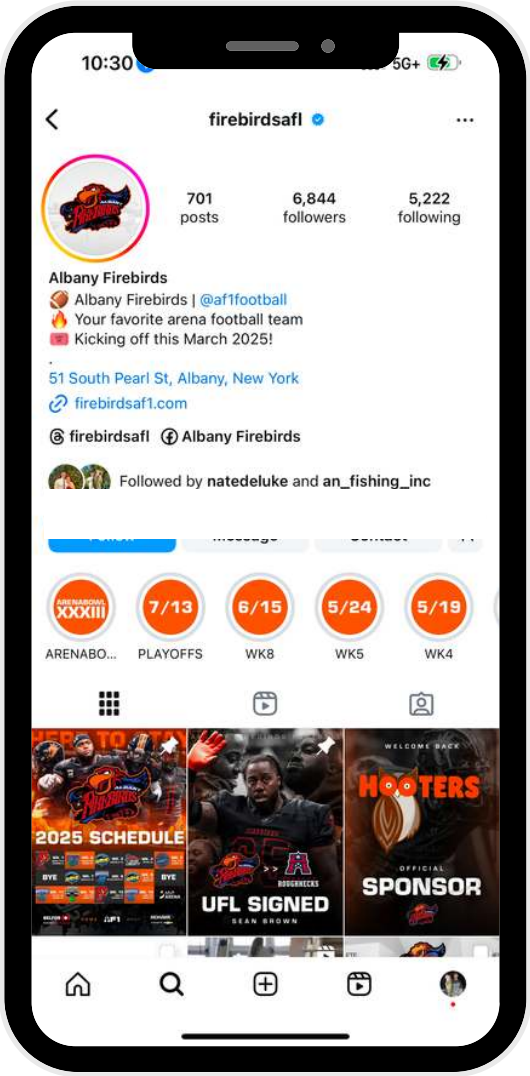
Michael Forst is a graduate of Colonie High School and is currently attending SUNY Polytechnic Institute, MIchael began his journey with the Firebirds as an intern during the team's return season in 2024. attending every home game and covering the team throughout their season, including ArenaBowl 33. His dedication and commitment to his craft led to his promotion to Official Team Photographer for the 2025 season. He is passionate about his work and takes great pride in documenting the legacy of one of arena football's most legendary teams, bringing the Firebirds' unforgettable moments to life for fans and the community.

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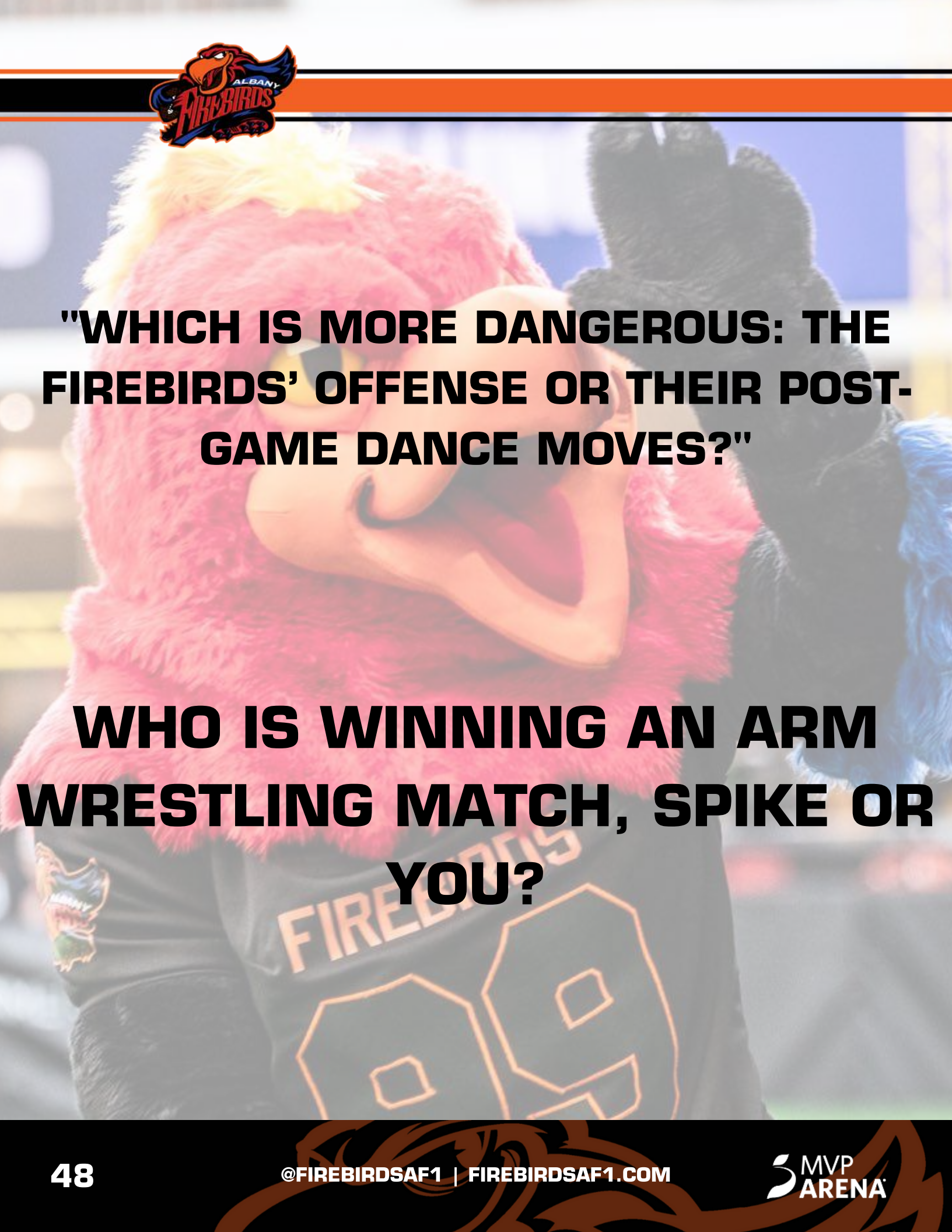






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WHO IS WINNING AN ARM WRESTLING MATCH, SPIKE OR YOU?



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