

WK. 2 FIREBIRDS VS STORM

GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 21ST | KICKOFF 7:00PM

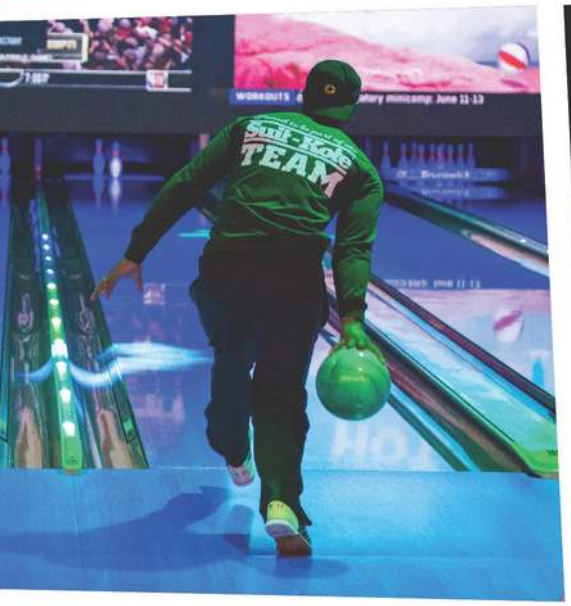
APEX ENTERTAINMENT®

FOOD • ATTRACTIONS • EVENTS

CROSSGATES

VISIT TODAY!

Arcade | Bowling | Laser Tag | Escape Rooms
Hologate VR | Sports Simulators | Bumper Cars
Bar & Restaurant | Event & Meeting Space







apexentertainment.com



Cetera® | INVESTORS



- Retirement Stratgies
- Income Sustainability Analysis
- RMD Planning
- Roth Conversions
- LTC Planning
- Asset Protection Analysis



Anthony J. Accetta Jr.
Senior Financial Advisor
Cetera Investors
43 British American Blvd, 1st Floor
Latham, NY 12110
518-724-5004
Anthony.Acetta@ceterainvestors.com

Mitchell Hansen, MA
Financial Advisor
Cetera Investors
43 British American Blvd, 1st Floor
Latham, NY 12110
518-724-5004
Mitchell.Hansen@ceterainvestors.com

Complimentary Consult/Website

SCAN ME SCAN ME

Complimentary Consult/Website

SCAN ME SCAN ME

Cetera Investors is a marketing name of Cetera Investment Services. Cetera Investment Services LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Securities and insurance products are offered through Cetera Investment Services LLC (doing insurance business in CA as CFG STC Insurance Agency LLC), member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services are offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC.



PARTY BEFORE KICKOFF!

GET READY TO KICK OFF GAME DAY IN STYLE AT THE ALBANY FIREBIRDS PRE-GAME BLOCK PARTY! STARTING TWO HOURS BEFORE EVERY HOME GAME 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
53	Brandon Nicholson	OL	6' 4"	300 lbs	Notre Dame College
74	Colby Byrd	OL	6' 3"	300 lbs	Norfolk State
21	Darien Townsend	WR	5' 10"	180 lbs	Youngstown State
	De'Jahn Warren	DB			
9	Dejon Walden	LB	6' 0"	230 lbs	Shorter
6	Derrick Jones	DB	6' 2"	185 lbs	Ole Miss
	Desmond Maxwell	FB			
8	Drew Singleton	LB	6' 2"	235 lbs	Rutgers
3	Duane Brown	WR	6' 0"	190 lbs	IUP
5	Ezekiel Rose	DL	6' 3"	310 lbs	West Virginia
99	Harold Love	DL	6' 3"	340 lbs	Bethune Cookman
23	Henry Nell	K	5' 11"	200 lbs	International
77	Isaiah Hardy	OL	6' 5"	330 lbs	West Virginia
7	Isiah Scott	WR	6' 3"	215 lbs	West Virginia State
90	Jamall Hickbottom	DL	6' 2"	305 lbs	South Alabama
15	Jonathon MacCollister	DL	6' 4"	265 lbs	Central Florida
69	Joshua Zacher	OL	6' 2"	300 lbs	Duquesne
10	Markus Smith	DB	6' 2"	205 lbs	Nevada
0	Marquel Wade	WR	5' 11"	170 lbs	Arkansas
11	Mike Lee	DB	5' 9"	180 lbs	Kansas
4	Robert Mccoy Jr	QB	6' 2"	190 lbs	Charleston Southern
2	Sam Castronova	QB	6' 2"	215 lbs	Bethany
24	Tre Wortham	DB	6' 1"	200 lbs	UConn
1	Trevon Shorts	LB	6' 1"	220 lbs	Fairmont State
	Tristen Vance	LB	6' 1"	220 lbs	Northern Arizona

SW KANSAS STORM ROSTER

#	Name	POS	Height	Weight	College
	Dashaun Young	WR	6' 1"	185 lbs	Webber International
0	Demarius Washington	WR	6' 5"	205 lbs	Tyler JC
1	Daquan Bailey-Brown	WR	5' 9"	170 lbs	Dodge City / Southern Miss / West Florida
2	Dontra Matthews	DB	6' 3"	190 lbs	Victor Valley JC
3	Brian Hughes	DB	6' 3"	190 lbs	Independence / Bethel
4	Michael Lawson	DB	5' 10"	185 lbs	CCSF / Lamar / WIU
5	Jairus Grissom	QB	6' 2"	215 lbs	Eastern Michigan / Morgan St / Saginaw Valley
6	Charles Hall IV	WR	5' 11"	200 lbs	Virginia Union / Arizona St
7	Jalen Morton	QB	6' 4"	225 lbs	Prairie View A&M
9	Logan Wright	RB	6' 0"	230 lbs	Georgia Southern
10	Tizell Lewis	DB	6' 0"	175 lbs	Northern Colorado
11	Marje Smith	DL	6' 6"	235 lbs	Baylor / Stephen F Austin
13	Shiloh Flanagan	WR	6' 5"	200 lbs	
14	Matt Friess Jr.	DB	5' 10"	190 lbs	Dodge City / Ft Hays
15	Dillon Burkhard	K	5' 9"	160 lbs	Dodge City CC/SE Louisiana
21	Joe Golden	DL	6' 4"	285 lbs	Northern Colorado / Oregon St
24	Nick Evans	DL	6' 4"	250 lbs	Charleston
42	David Faccone	DL	6' 2"	240 lbs	Morehead St
52	Alex Heil	OL	6' 2"	295 lbs	Cincinnati
55	Sama Paama	OL	6' 4"	335 lbs	Washington
56	Joshua Moore	OL	6' 4"	305 lbs	Keystone College
70	Caleb Shaffer	OL	6' 5"	335 lbs	Miami (OH) / Oklahoma
71	Omarr Roberts	OL	6' 3"	305 lbs	Carthage College
95	Robert Cooper	DL	6' 2"	320 lbs	Florida St


HOME SCHEDULE
SOUTHWEST KANSAS STORM
NASHVILLE KATS
VICE TV
MARCH 21ST
7:00PM
MAY 10TH
7:00PM
BILLINGS OUTLAWS
VICE TV
APRIL 13TH
6:00PM
CORPUS CHRISTI TRITONS
MAY 24TH
7:00PM
SALINA LIBERTY
MAY 3RD/4TH
7:00PM
JUNE 14TH
7:00PM
ALBANY FIREBIRDS
SECURE YOUR SEATS
SINGLE GAME TICKETS ON SALE NOW
(518)557-8799 OR FIREBIRDSAF1.COM
MVP ARENA

2024 HOME OPENER PHOTO GALLERY

















2024 HOME OPENER PHOTO GALLERY

















2024 FAN PHOTO GALLERY

















2024 FAN PHOTO GALLERY





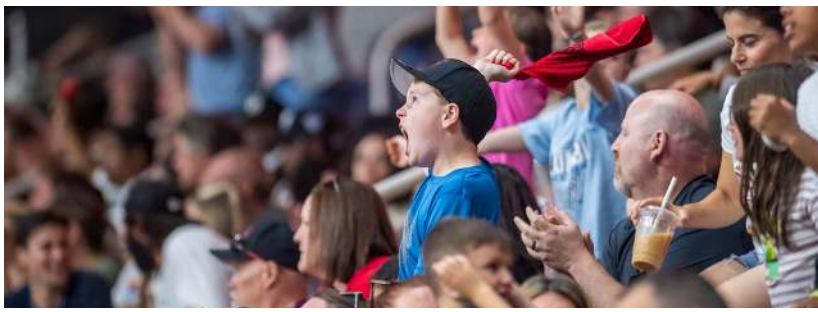














GET TO KNOW SPIKE

HEIGHT TALLER THAN YOU

WEIGHT HEAVY

BIRTHPLACE MVP ARENA

COLLEGE MASCOT ACADEMY CLASS OF 2024

HOBBIES ARENA FOOTBALL, GOING TO HOOTERS , HIKING AND ICE FISHING!

FAVORITE COLOR FIREBIRDS ORANGE

FAVORITE FOOD PIZZA FROM CUGINO'S





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

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.

TONY BOWICK

Offensive Line

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.

GABE YOUNG

Strength & Conditioning

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.

JORDAN GOOCH

Fullbacks

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.

SEAN JOHNSON

Scouting Director

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.

FIREBIRD FOCUS

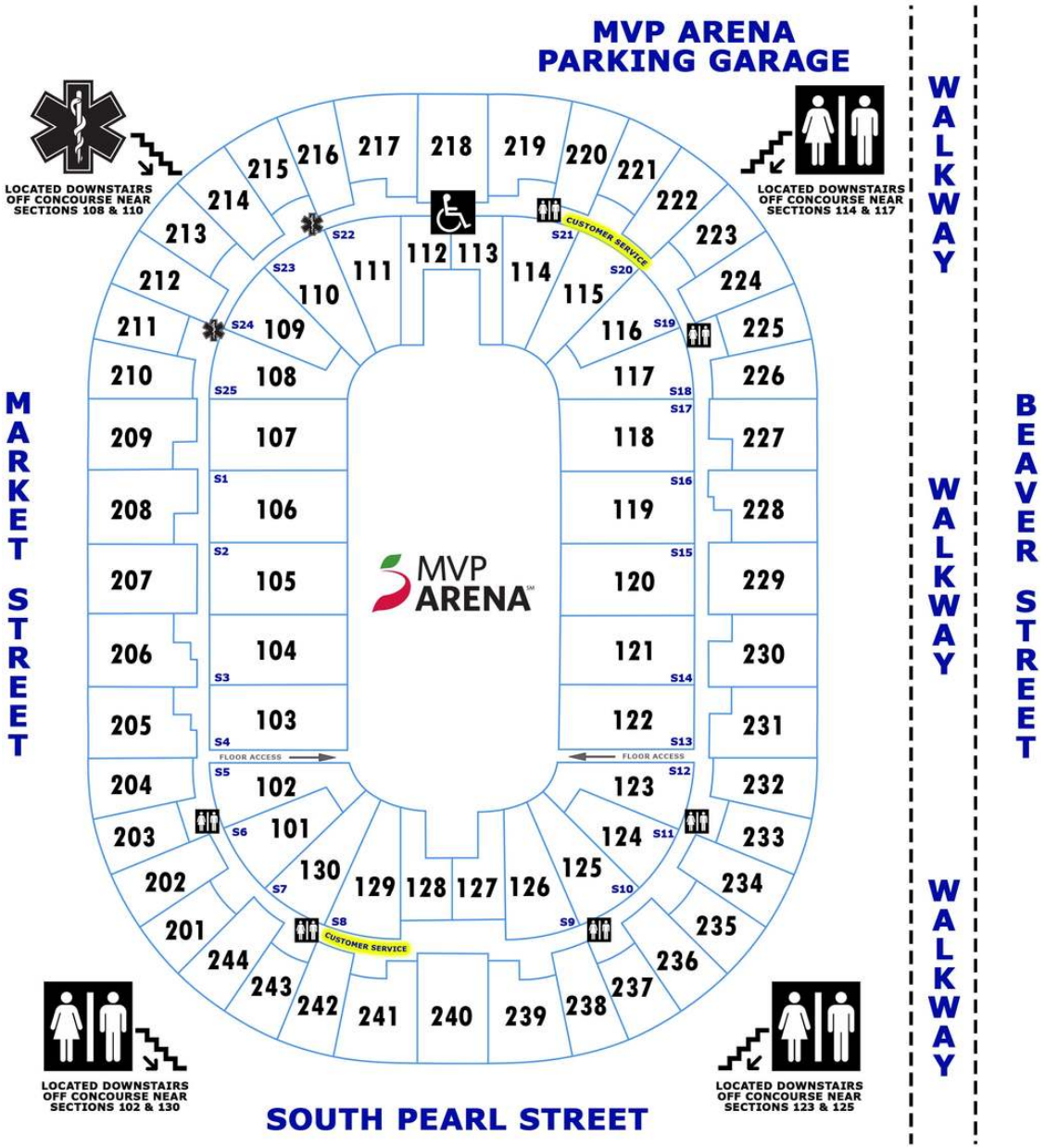




IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

EVERY WEEK ON YouTube

ARENA MAP

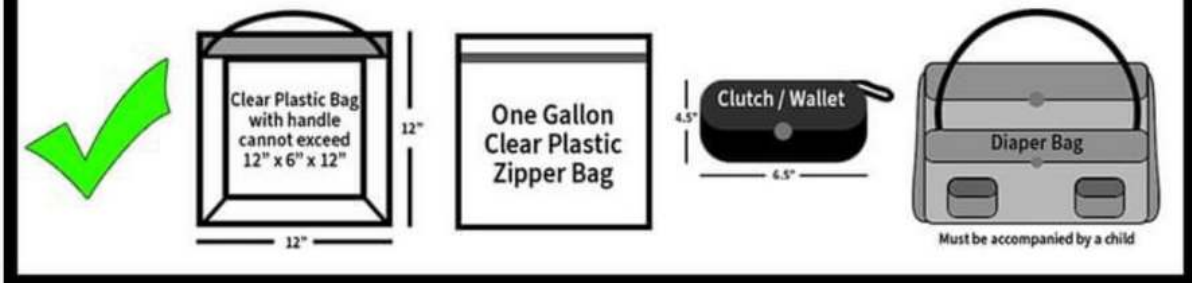


Any Questions? Visit: https://www.mvparena.com/plan-your-visit/faqs
Connect With Us: Phone: 518-487-2000
Executive Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

MVP ARENA℠ BAG POLICY

CLEAR PLASTIC, VINYL OR PVC BAGS NO LARGER THAN 12" x 6" x 12"
OR
SMALL CLUTCH BAGS NO LARGER THAN 4.5" x 6.5" (DOES NOT NEED TO BE CLEAR)





ANY BAG THAT DOES NOT FIT THE PERMITTED BAG REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED

ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH

PROHIBITED BAGS CANNOT GO IN CLEAR BAGS
EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY ITEMS AFTER INSPECTION
DIAPER BAGS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CHILD

PARKING FOR FIREBIRDS GAME

GREEN-HUDSON GARAGE

45 HUDSON AVE, ALBANY NY

www.parkalbany.com



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

2024 FLAMES PHOTO GALLERY





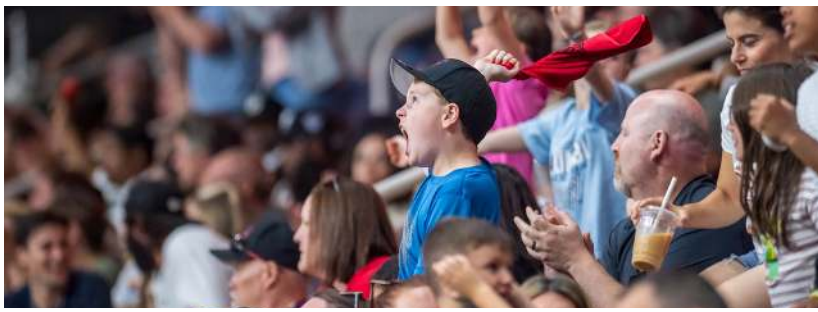


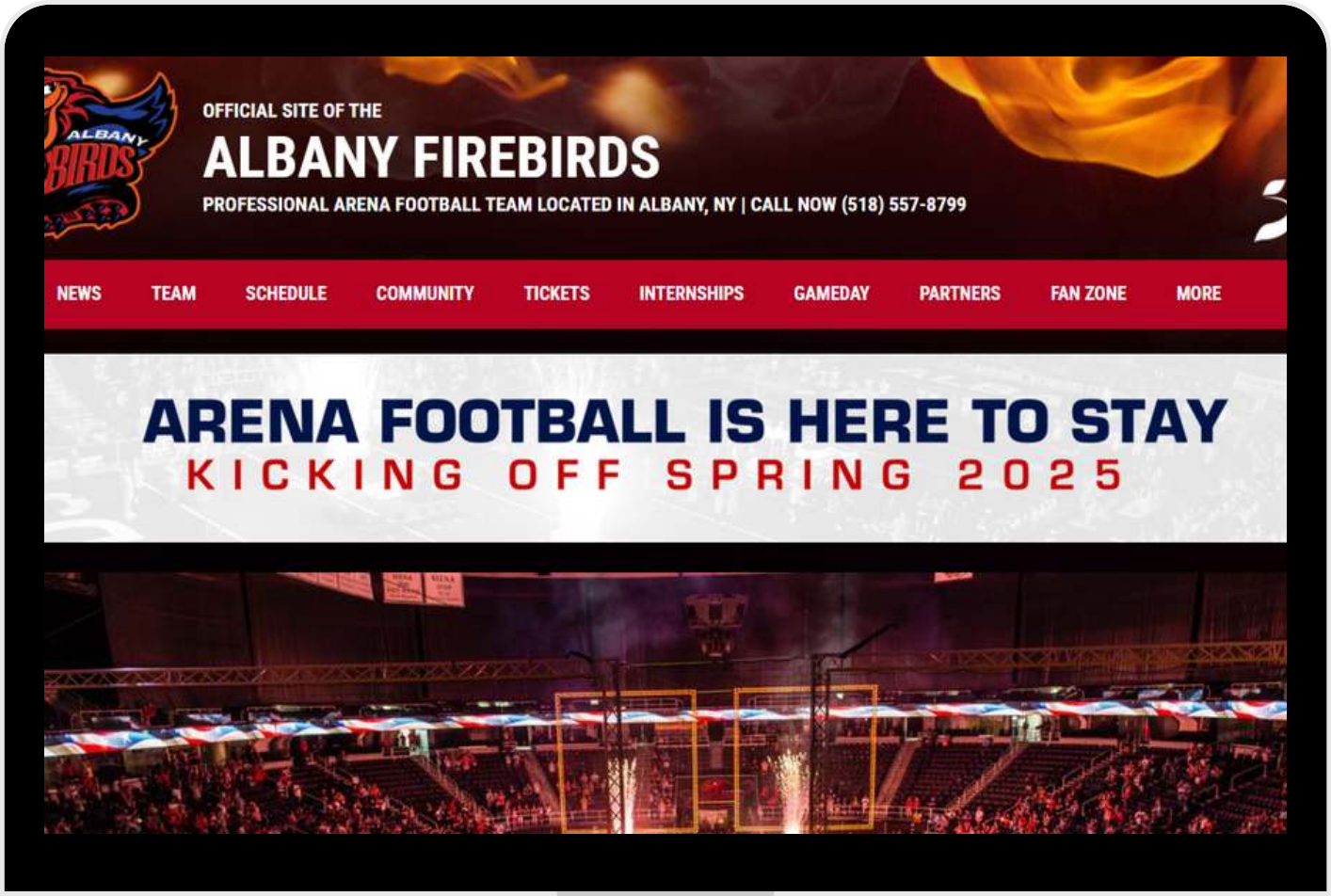












DON'T FORGET TO FLY ON OVER AND VISIT OUR NEST AT

WWW.FIREBIRDSAF1.COM

Bring Your Team, Feel the Fire

Group Tickets for All Ages!



GROUPS OF 25 PEOPLE OR MORE HAVE ACCESS TO
DISCOUNTED TICKETS AND MUCH MORE

CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT
518-557-8799

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.

COROPRATE 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.

COROPRATE 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 Empire before broadening his expertise with 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.

COROPRATE 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.



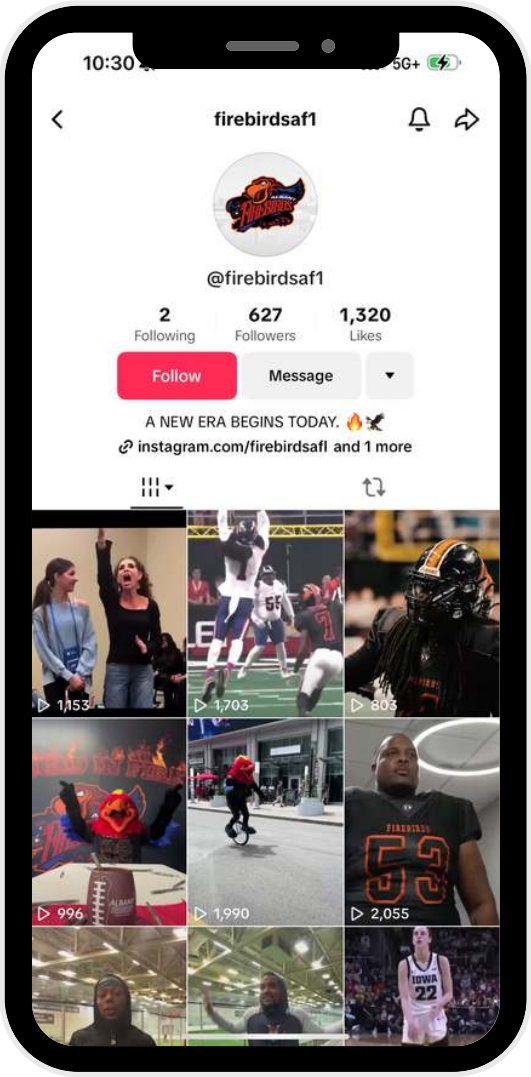
MICHAEL FORST

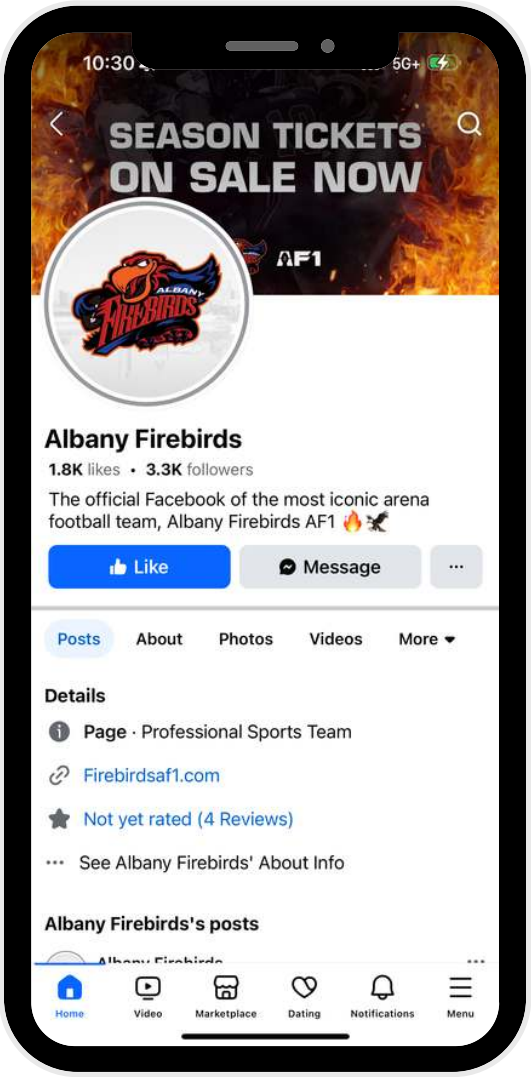
Official Team Photographer

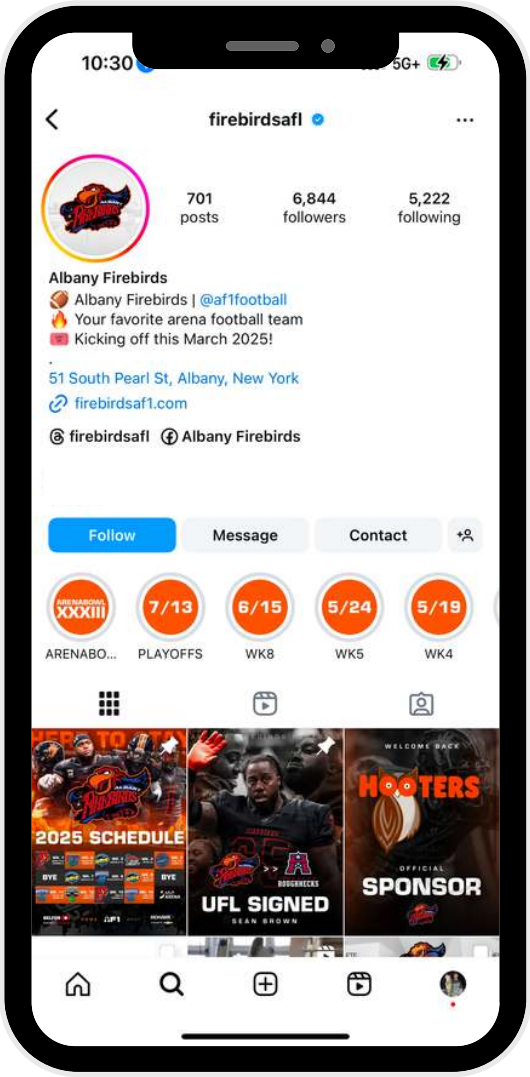
Michael Forst is a graduate of Colonie High School and is currently attending SUNY Polytechnic Institute, MIchael began his journey with the Firebirds as an intern during the team's return season in 2024. attending every home game and covering the team throughout their season, including ArenaBowl 33. His dedication and commitment to his craft led to his promotion to Official Team Photographer for the 2024 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.

FOLLOW THE FIREBIRDS 24/7

Turn on Push Notifications and Stay Up-To-Date



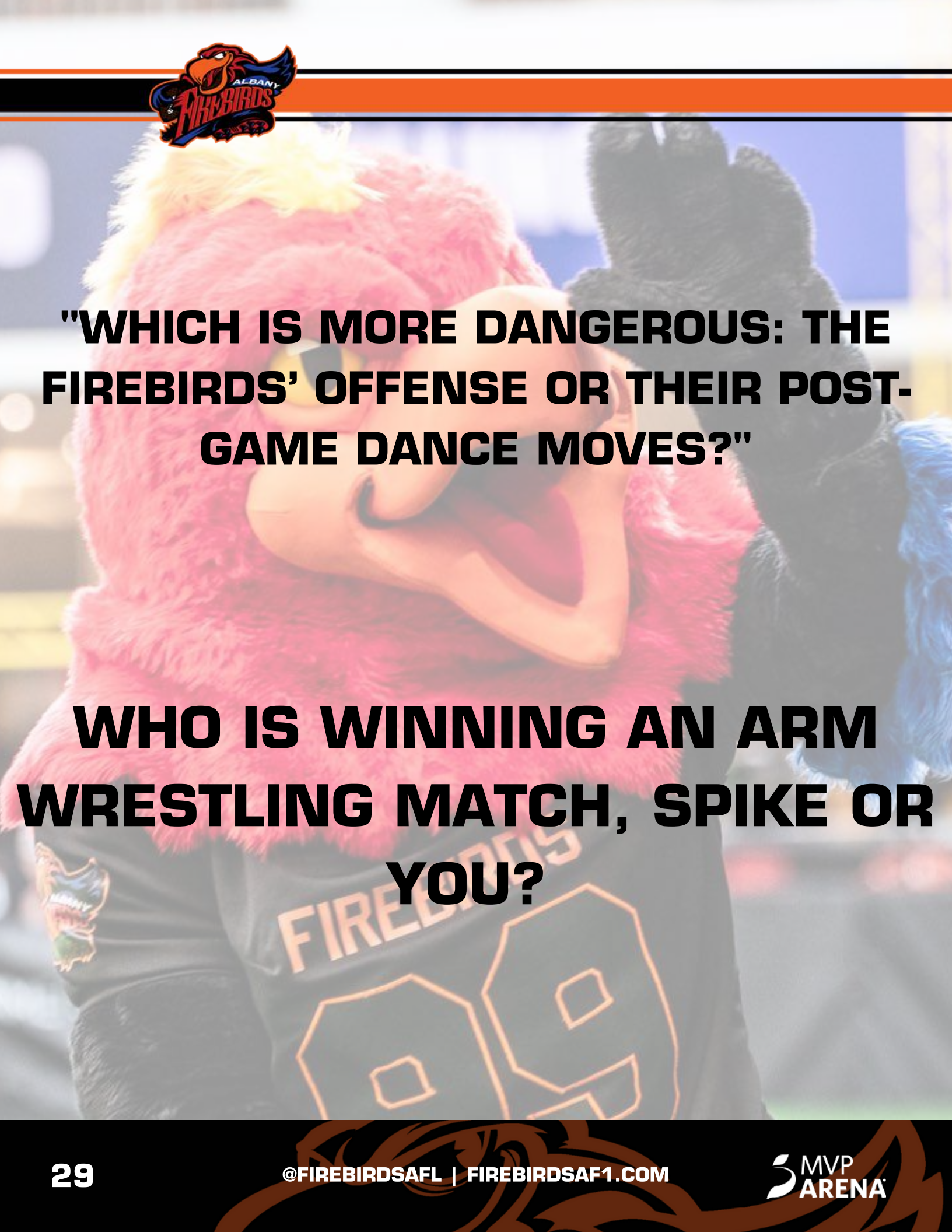




STAY CONNECTED

Breaking News, Schedule Info, Stats and Scores

Game action photos and so much more



"WHICH IS MORE DANGEROUS: THE FIREBIRDS' OFFENSE OR THEIR POST-GAME DANCE MOVES?"

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