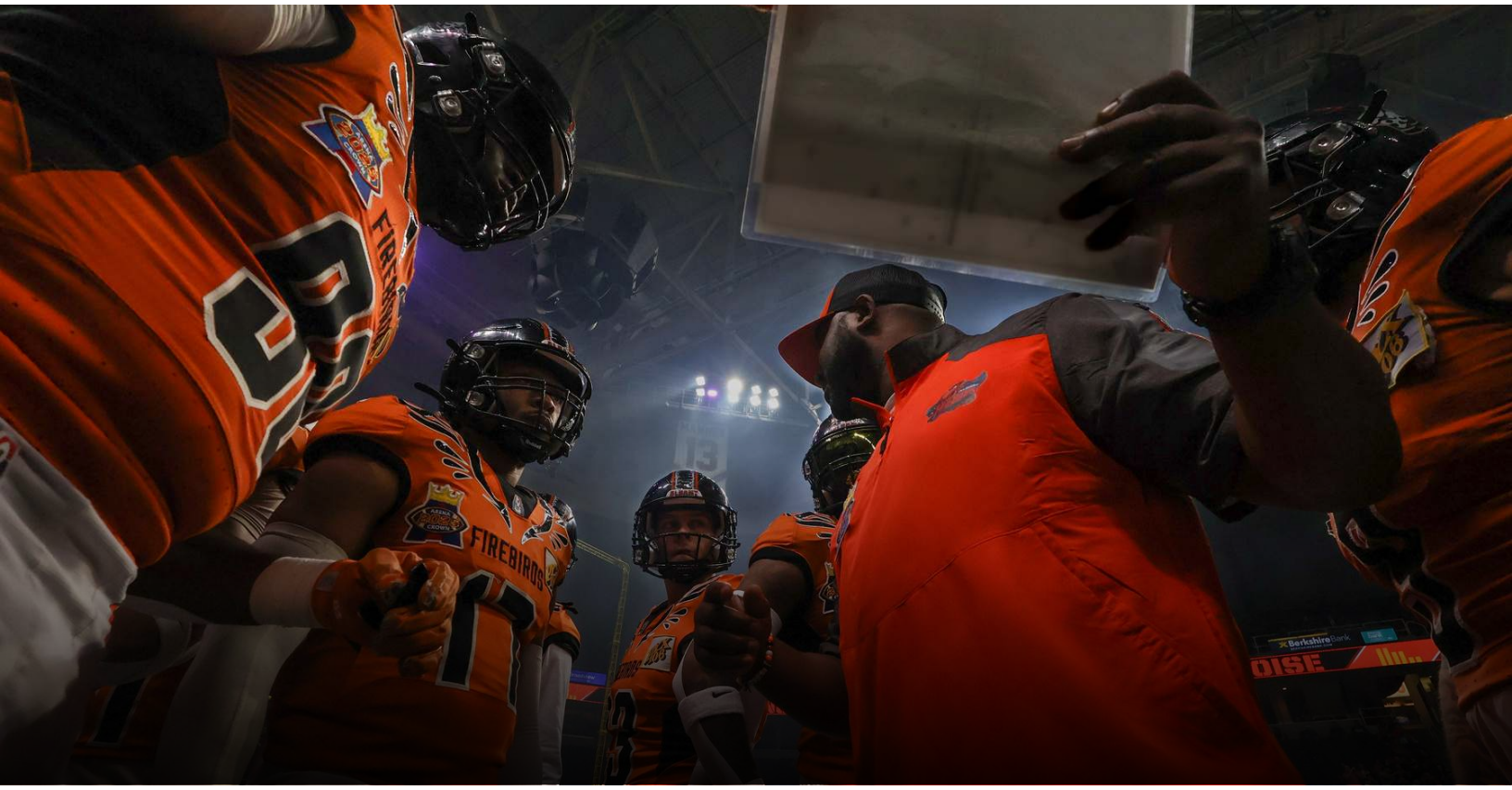

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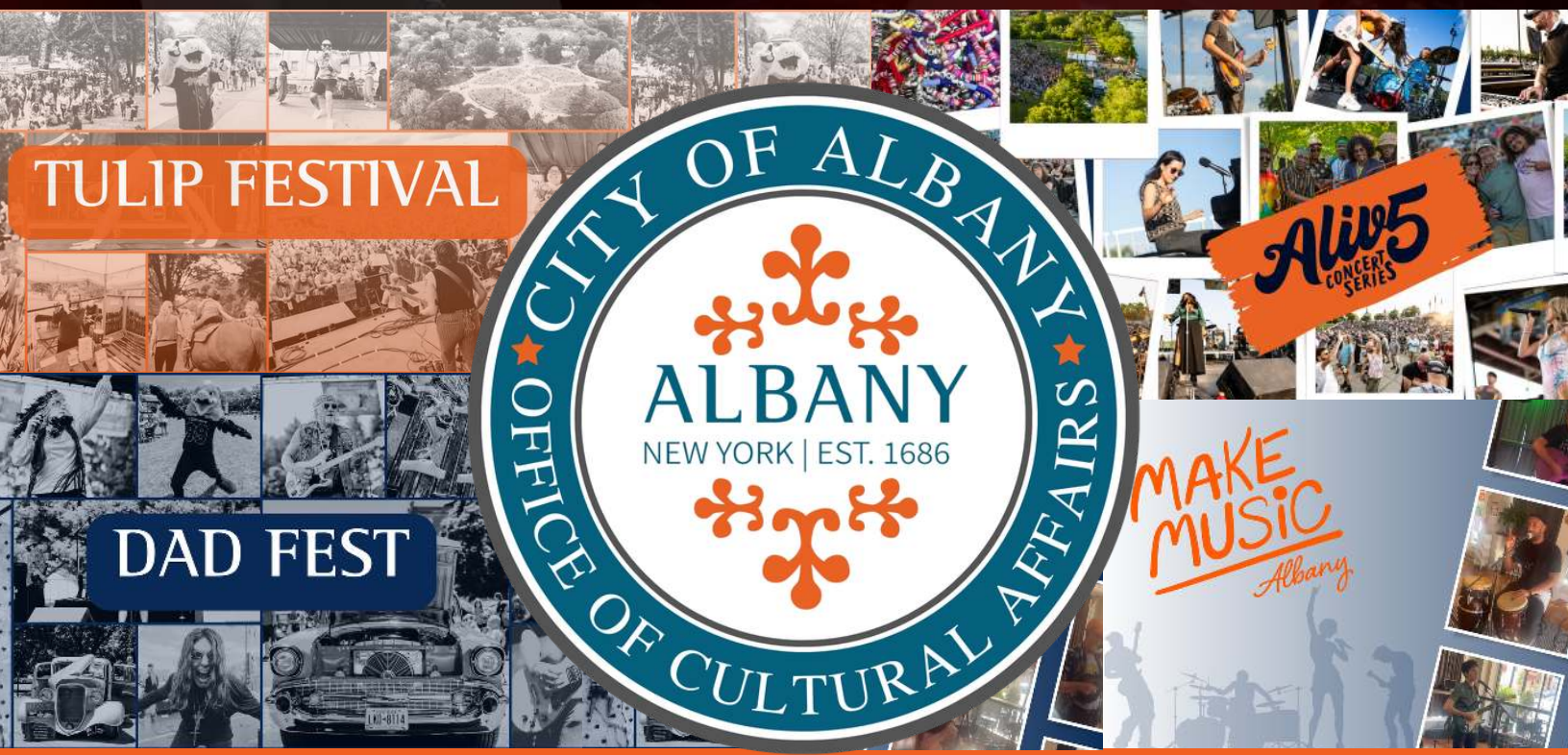
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2026 HOME OPENER GAME PREVIEW

AF1 Season Opener: Minnesota Monsters at Albany Firebirds
Saturday, April 11 – Kickoff 6:00 PM

The Albany Firebirds are back in action and ready to begin the defense of their title. This Saturday, April 11, MVP Arena will be electric as the undefeated 2025 Arena Crown Champion Firebirds open the 2026 Arena Football One (AF1) season against the Minnesota Monsters. With a 6:00 p.m. kickoff, fans can expect a high-energy start to what promises to be another unforgettable campaign. The matchup will also be nationally broadcasted as the VICE TV Game of the Week, bringing national attention to Albany for the season opener.

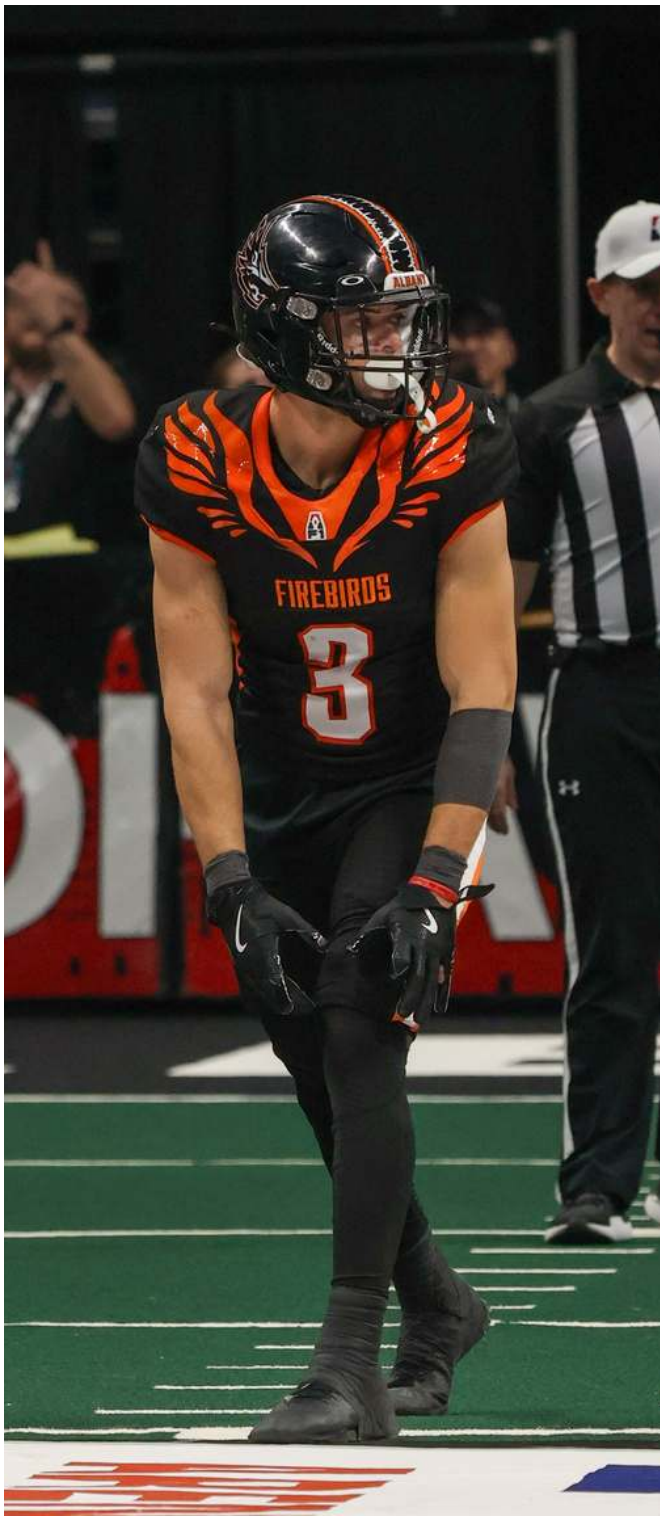
GAME PREVIEW CONTINUED (PAGE 7)

Firebirds Look to Repeat

Albany enters the 2026 season with plenty of championship pedigree. Led by 2025 Coach of the Year Damon Ware, the Firebirds completed a perfect season to capture the Arena Crown. Superstars like AF1 Offensive Player of the Year Duane Brown return to lead a roster that may be the most stacked Firebirds team yet.

Returning key contributors include wide receiver Isiah Scott, offensive lineman Isaiah Hardy, and defensive lineman Prince Umanmielen, along with several other veterans from the undefeated squad. With championship experience across the roster, the Firebirds bring a strong mix of talent, leadership, and depth on both sides of the ball, ready to make an immediate impact.

New players to watch in Week 1 include wide receivers Tyrese Chambers and Alphonso Taylor, defensive linemen Qaadir Sheppard and Akeem Smith, and linebacker Chizi Umunakwe, along with several other new additions ready to make their presence felt in Albany.



Minnesota Monsters: New to AF1,
But Not New to Winning

While the Monsters are new to AF1 in 2026, they arrive with a strong competitive history. The previous arena football team in Minnesota won back-to-back championships in 2024 and 2025. The Monsters bring a talented roster this season, led by Head Coach Daron Clark, and will be looking to make an immediate impact in the league. Fans can expect a competitive, fast-paced team that will challenge the Firebirds from the opening whistle.

Game Day Storylines

With the recent signing of AF1 MVP Sam Castronova to the Houston Gamblers of the UFL, Albany looks to new QB1 Joshua Kulka, Duane Brown's dominance on offense, Isiah Scott's explosive receiving ability, and Prince Umanmielen's presence on the defensive line will be central to the Firebirds' game plan. Expect new weapons like Tyrese Chambers and Alphonso Taylor to make an immediate impact in the passing game, while Qaadir Sheppard and Akeem Smith add depth and physicality up front. Linebacker Chizi Umunakwe will also be a key piece defensively, flying around the field and helping set the tone. On defense, Albany's disciplined unit will aim to control the pace, generate pressure, and force turnovers against a dangerous Minnesota squad.

The Monsters, meanwhile, will rely on their winning pedigree and new talent to make a splash in AF1. Their mix of championship experience and strong leadership under Coach Clark creates an intriguing matchup for the season opener.



Fan Experience & Why It Matters

Saturday's season opener is more than just the first game; it's a celebration of arena football's growth and the Firebirds' push to defend their title. Fans can expect a loud, electric atmosphere, nonstop in-arena entertainment, and a full night of fast, high-impact football.

Arrive early for the pregame party at 4:00 PM inside the MVP Arena Atrium to get ready for the game.
The Monsters bring a competitive edge with strong leadership under Coach Clark, promising an intense and hard-fought season opener.

Don't miss kickoff. Bring the noise, bring the energy, and be part of the excitement as the Firebirds open the 2026 AF1 season under the bright lights, chasing another Arena Crown.

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ARENA CROWN 2025 RECAP

2025 Arena Crown Championship Recap
Perfection achieved.

The Albany Firebirds completed a flawless undefeated season with a thrilling 60 to 57 victory over the Nashville Kats inside a packed MVP Arena, capturing the 2025 Arena Crown Championship.

The win delivered another title to Albany, one of the most iconic cities in arena football history, and cemented the Firebirds as the standard in Arena Football One.
Albany struck early and answered every challenge Nashville brought in a championship game filled with explosive plays, elite execution, and unforgettable moments.
Fast Start and Big Plays

All Arena kicker Henry Nell opened the scoring with a deuce, setting the tone immediately. League MVP Sam Castronova followed with a rushing touchdown on the Firebirds first offensive snap, igniting the crowd from the start.
Castronova continued to shine, connecting with playmakers all night, including a touchdown strike to Darien Townsend, who celebrated with his signature Dirty Bird dance as Albany took control.

A defining moment came in the second quarter when the Firebirds defense delivered a massive goal line stand, stopping Nashville four straight times inside the two yard line. Moments later, a wild play ended with Duane Brown recovering a bounce and taking it in for a score, pushing Albany ahead 32 to 19.
A Championship Finish

GAME PREVIEW CONTINUED (PAGE 10)



ARENA CROWN 2025 RECAP

The Firebirds remained in command throughout the second half. Castronova opened the third quarter with another touchdown pass to Brown, then repeatedly found Isaiah Scott, who delivered a dominant performance with 8 catches for 155 yards.

Nashville made a late push, cutting the lead to just three in the fourth quarter. But Albany responded the way champions do. With just over a minute remaining, Castronova delivered the final statement, a rushing touchdown to make it a two score game. Nashville scored once more in the closing seconds, but the Firebirds recovered the final kickoff to secure the title. Mission Complete

Castronova was named Championship MVP of the game, adding another title to his Albany legacy.
He finished with seven total touchdowns and 251 yards in a legendary performance. The Firebirds defense came through with timely stops, and the offense proved unstoppable when it mattered most.

Head Coach Damon Ware called the season unfinished business. After a perfect year and the Arena Crown raised in Albany, that business is officially complete.

The Albany Firebirds are your 2025 Arena Crown Champions.

ARENA CROWN CHAMPIONS 2025


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CHAMPIONS SPOTLIGHT: DAMON WARE

Damon Ware has quickly established himself as one of the premier leaders in Albany football. In 2024, his first season as Head Coach of the Firebirds, Ware guided the team to a 7–2 record and an appearance in Arena Bowl XXXIII at American Dream Mall in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

He followed that breakthrough year with a historic 2025 campaign. In the inaugural season of Arena Football One, Ware led the Firebirds to a perfect 10–0 undefeated regular season and delivered an Arena Crown Championship to Albany, as the Firebirds defeated the Nashville Kats 60–57 in a thrilling title game.

Ware's championship pedigree in Albany runs deep, having also played a key role in the city's back-to-back title runs in 2021 and 2022.

Respected across the league for his sharp offensive mind and steady leadership, Ware has built a team that consistently sets the standard on both sides of the ball. As the Firebirds look ahead to 2026, Damon Ware remains the driving force behind one of arena football's most dominant franchises.

FULL DAMON WARE BIO (PAGE 28)



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#	Name	POS	Height	Weight	College
10	Markus Smith	DB	6'2"	205	Nevada
23	Kyle Chandler	DB	6'0"	200	Tarleton State
24	Tre Wortham	DB	6'1"	200	UCONN
13	Prince Umanmielen	DL	6'6"	275	East Central
21	Darien Townsend	WR	5'10"	180	Youngstown ST
9	Joshua Kulka	QB	6'3"	220	Saint Joseph
74	Colby Byrd	OL	6'3"	300	Norfolk State
79	Brandon Nicholson	OL	6'4"	300	Notre Dame College
69	Joshua Zacher	OL	6'2"	300	Duquesne
5	Drew Singleton	LB	6'2"	235	Rutgers
4	Trevon Shorts	LB/FB	6'1"	220	Fairmont ST
6	Alphonso Taylor	WR/DB	6'1"	200	Arizona State
58	Akeem Smith	DL	6'3"	325	Sam Houston ST
70	Justin Redd	OL	6'6"	335	East Carolina
22	Will Caviness	K	6'1"	190	Averett
17	Jakobe Thomas	FB	6'0"	225	Mississippi Valley State
8	Isiah Scott	WR	6'1"	225	West Virginia
20	Chizi Umunakwe	LB/DE	6'1"	225	Central Connecticut ST
65	Isaiah Hardy	OL	6'5"	330	West Virginia
97	Qaadir Sheppard	DL	6'4"	260	Ole Miss

ALBANY FIREBIRDS ROSTER

#	Name	POS	Height	Weight	College
1	Tyrese Chambers	WR	6'0"	195	FIU/ Maryland
3	Duane Brown	WR	6'1"	185	IUP
16	Seth Robertson	DB	5'11"	195	GA Southern/APP ST
7	Sha'haun Williams	DL	6'3"	260	Notre Dame College
99	Jack Daly	DL	6'4"	320	FIU
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#	Name	POS	Height	Weight	College
5	Ja'Vonte Johnson	QB	6'1	195	Dakota College/ Livingstone
4	Shannon Brooks	FB	6/0	215	University of Massachusetts
99	Toree Boyd	OL	6'4	315	Howard University
77	Gunner Halbert	OL	6'4	315	Wisconsin Eau Claire
71	Kyler Edwards	OL	6'6	310	Eastern Kentucky
6	Jamal Couch	WR	6'5"	227	Mississippi State
3	Clarence Williams	WR	6'0"	185	New Mexico Military JUCO
82	Otis Odum	WR	5'5"	150	
12	Ladarian McAlester	WR	6'4"	220	Kentucky State University
15	Aedan Johnson	K	5'9"	170	San Diego State
9	Claude Davis	DL	6'4"	285	South Florida
95	Sha'ki Holines	DL	6'4"	260	University of Massachusetts
0	Robert Fuentes	DL	6'5"	235	Central Oklahoma
1	Chei Hill	MAC	6'1"	245	Jones College
16	Dontorian Best	JACK	6'0"	225	Wingate University
2	Delvon Randall	DB	6'1"	205	Temple University
14	Charles Reid	DB	5'9"	180	Assumption University
24	Svante Davenport	DB	5'11"	185	North Alabama
25	Lorenzo Jones	DB			
8	Javonte Haynes	DB	6'3"	190	IUP

MINNESOTA MONSTERS ROSTER

#	Name	POS	Height	Weight	College
10	Tyriq Starks	QB			
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AF1 STANDINGS

Rk	Team	GP	W	L
1	Albany Firebirds	0	0	0
2	Beaumont Renegades	0	0	0
3	Kentucky Barrels	0	0	0
4	Michigan Arsenal	0	0	0
5	Minnesota Monsters	0	0	0
6	Nashville Kats	0	0	0
7	Oceanside Bombers	0	0	0
8	Oregon Lightning	0	0	0
9	Washington Wolfpack	0	0	0

ARENA CROWN CHAMPIONS 2025

FIREBIRDS SCHEDULE

Sat Apr 11 6:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		VS		Minnesota Minnesota Monsters	MVP Arena	PREVIEW
Sat Apr 18 4:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		AT		Beaumont Beaumont Renegades		PREVIEW
Sat Apr 25 9:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		AT		Oregon Oregon Lightning	First Interstate Bank Center	PREVIEW
Sat May 2 6:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		AT		Everett, Washington Washington Wolfpack	Angel of the Winds Arena	PREVIEW
Sat May 9 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		VS		Kentucky Kentucky Barrels	MVP Arena	PREVIEW
Sat May 16 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		AT		Michigan Michigan Arsenal	The Dow Event Center	PREVIEW
Sat May 30 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		VS		Oceanside Oceanside Bombers	MVP Arena	PREVIEW
Fri Jun 5 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		VS		Beaumont Beaumont Renegades	MVP Arena	PREVIEW
Fri Jun 12 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		VS		Michigan Michigan Arsenal	MVP Arena	PREVIEW
Sat Jun 20 5:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		AT		Nashville Nashville Kats	F&M Bank Arena	PREVIEW
Sat Jun 27 7:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		AT		Kentucky Kentucky Barrels	Truist Arena	PREVIEW
Sat Jul 11 6:00pm EDT	Albany, New York Albany Firebirds		VS		Nashville Nashville Kats	MVP Arena	PREVIEW

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HEAD COACH DAMON WARE

Damon Ware joined the historic Albany Firebirds in October 2023 as Head Coach and General Manager, the same day it was announced that the Firebirds were returning to arena football. Prior to taking over as head coach, Ware spent the 2021 and 2022 seasons in Albany as Offensive Coordinator and Assistant Head Coach, helping the team secure back-to-back National Arena League Championships.

The 2024 season marked Ware's first as Head Coach, guiding the Firebirds to a 7–2 record and an appearance in Arena Bowl XXXIII at American Dream Mall in East Rutherford, New Jersey. In 2025, Ware led Albany to a perfect 10–0 undefeated season and captured the Arena Crown Championship, defeating the Nashville Kats 60–57. His outstanding leadership earned him AF1 Coach of the Year honors, cementing his reputation as one of arena football's top coaches.

Ware's coaching career spans nationally and internationally, with experience at every level of the game. In the 2020 shortened season, he served as Offensive Coordinator for the Omaha Beef. In 2019, Ware was Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line Coach for the Nebraska Danger, helping lead the team to the third-ranked rushing attack in the Indoor Football League, highlighted by Rookie of the Year Tommy Armstrong (Nebraska).



HEAD COACH DAMON WARE

In 2018, Ware served as Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator for the Cedar Rapids Titans, leading the #1 passing offense in the IFL, with former Firebirds QB Jake Medlock (Florida International) topping the league in passing yards per game and touchdowns. He also held the title of Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator for the Colorado Crush in 2017. Ware was Head Coach of the Cheyenne Warriors during the 2012–2013 seasons in the American Professional Football League and also served as Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator for Adams City High School in 2013.

Internationally, Ware coached the Calanda Broncos in Switzerland in 2011, leading them to an undefeated season and a Swiss Bowl national championship, finishing ranked #1 in offense and defense and #5 in all of Europe. In 2010, he was Head Coach for the Finland Oulu Northern Lights, leading them to the championship game. He also served as Head Coach/General Manager of the Denver Titans (2009) and the Black Hills Red Dogs (2004–2005).
Ware's high school coaching tenure includes William Hinkley High School (1998–2000, 2002–2003), where he coordinated offense, defense, and special teams, winning two conference championships, including the school's first undefeated conference title, while coaching players of the year on both sides of the ball and breaking the state record with 28 interceptions, nine returned for touchdowns. **In 2001, he was selected to coach with the New Orleans Saints through the NFL Minority Internship Fellowship Program as an assistant wide receivers coach.**

For the 2026 season, Damon Ware brings his extensive experience, championship pedigree, and proven leadership to the Albany Firebirds. With a perfect 2025 season, an Arena Crown Championship, and AF1 Coach of the Year honors, Ware continues to set the standard for excellence in arena football.

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.



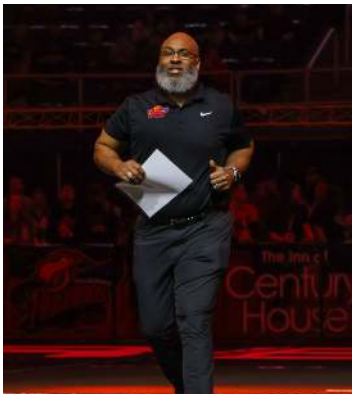
ARTHUR HOBBS

Defensive Backs Coach

Arthur Hobbs is the Defensive Backs Coach for the Albany Firebirds in AF1 and a 2025 Arena Crown Champion. A former professional player with the San Diego Chargers and multiple arena football teams, Hobbs won back-to-back championships with the Albany Empire in 2021 and 2022. He joined the Firebirds in 2024, helping lead the team to ArenaBowl 33, and transitioned to coaching in 2025, guiding a dominant secondary during their undefeated championship season. Known for his leadership and expertise, Hobbs remains a key part of the Firebirds' pursuit of excellence.

TONY BOWICK

Offensive Line



Tony Bowick is the Offensive Line Coach for the Albany Firebirds in AF1, entering his third season with the team. A former Atlanta Falcons player and former Firebirds Head Coach, Bowick brings decades of experience and championship insight. He helped lead Albany to ArenaBowl 33 in 2024 and an undefeated championship season in 2025. Known for his expertise and leadership, Bowick remains a key part of the Firebirds' pursuit of excellence.

GABE YOUNG

Strength & Conditioning



Gabe Young is the Strength & Conditioning Coach for the Albany Firebirds in AF1, entering his third season. A former professional player with the Albany Conquest, New England Surge, and New Jersey Revolution, Young brings extensive experience in speed, strength, and conditioning. He has coached at Shaker and South Colonie High Schools and founded Power House Athletics. Young played a key role in Albany's ArenaBowl 33 appearance in 2024 and their undefeated 2025 championship season, overseeing Wide Receivers and Strength & Conditioning.

JORDAN GOOCH

Fullbacks



Jordan Gooch is the Fullbacks Coach for the Albany Firebirds in AF1, entering his second season. He began with Albany in 2024 as a coaching intern, helping the team reach ArenaBowl 33, and in 2025 guided the Fullbacks to an undefeated championship and Arena Crown victory. Known for his dedication and leadership, Gooch remains a key part of the Firebirds' pursuit of excellence.

SEAN JOHNSON

Scouting Director

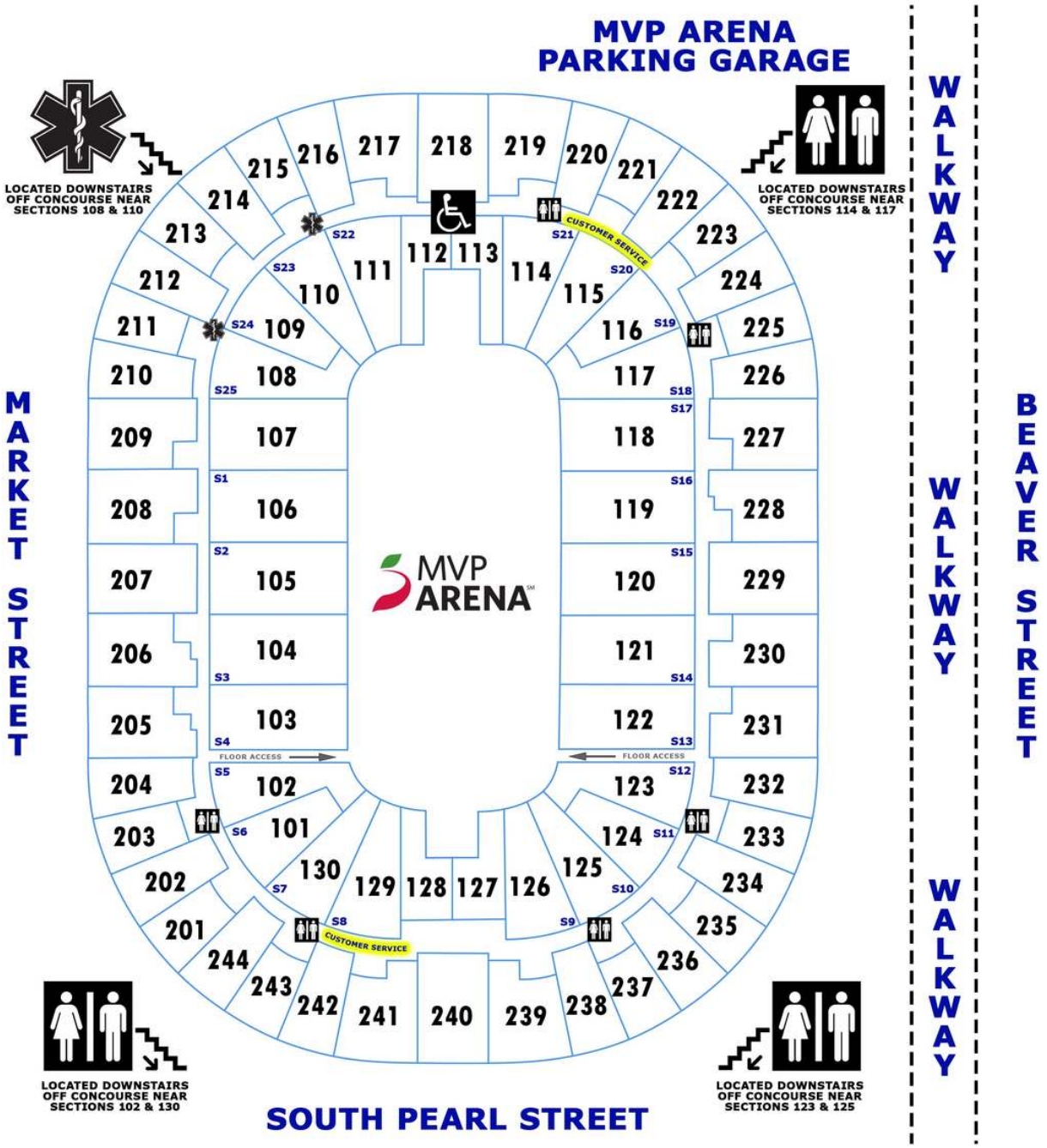
Sean Johnson is the Scouting Director for the Albany Firebirds in AF1, entering his third season. He helped guide Albany to ArenaBowl 33 in 2024 and an undefeated championship in 2025. Previously, Johnson coached with the Albany Empire during their 2022 championship season. Known for his talent evaluation and dedication, he remains a key part of the Firebirds' pursuit of excellence.

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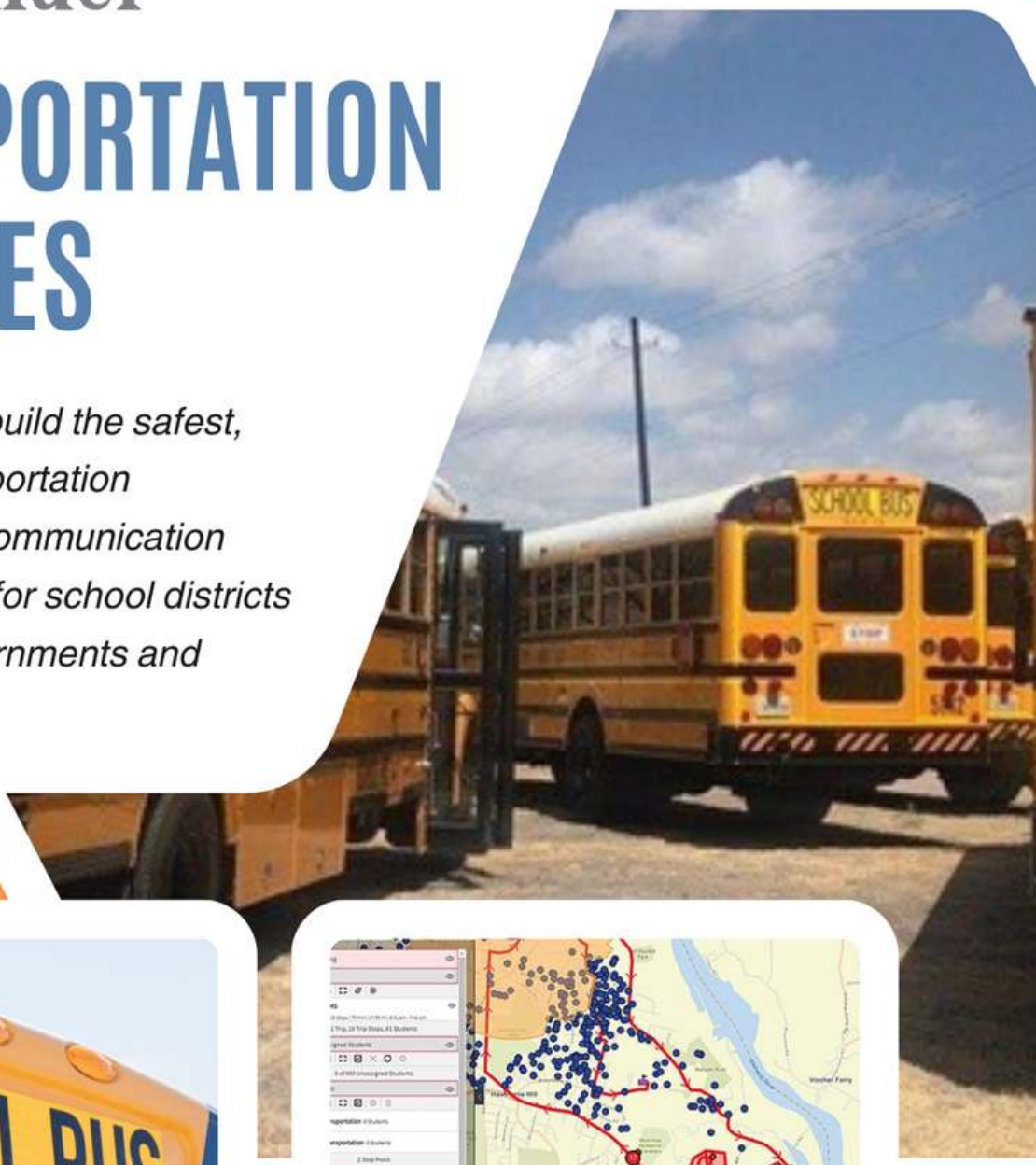


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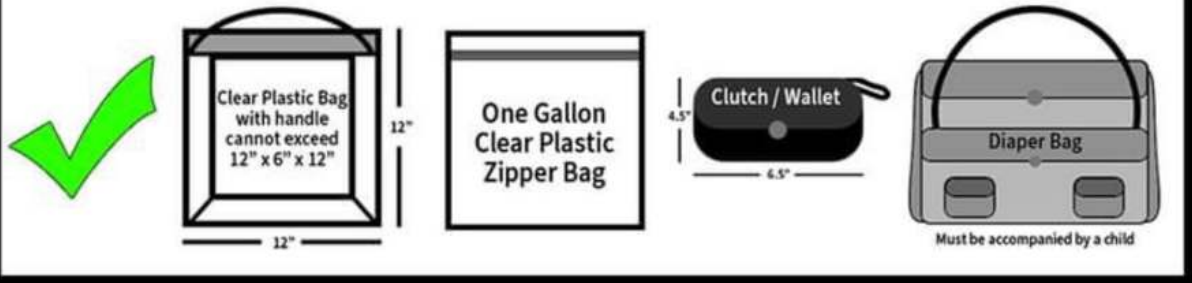
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FIREBIRDS IN THE COMMUNITY

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.

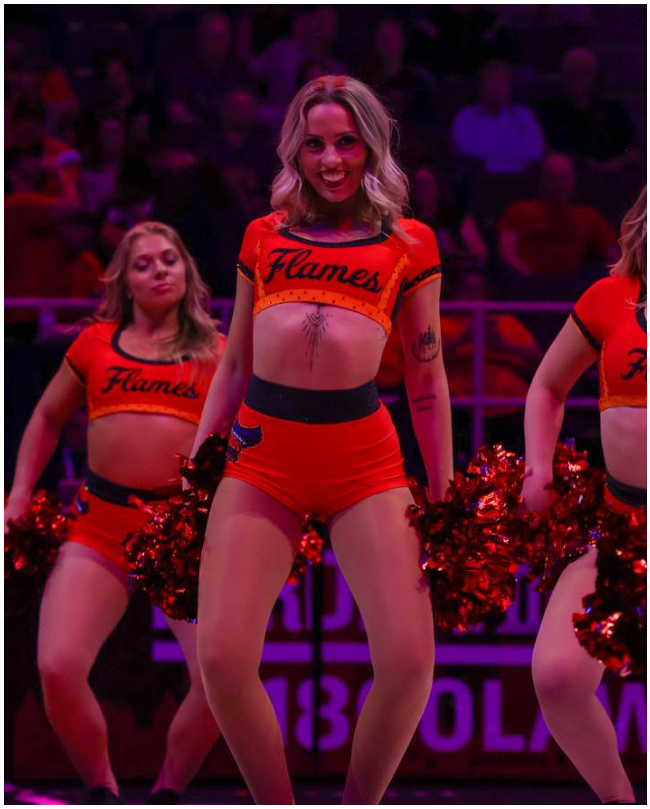


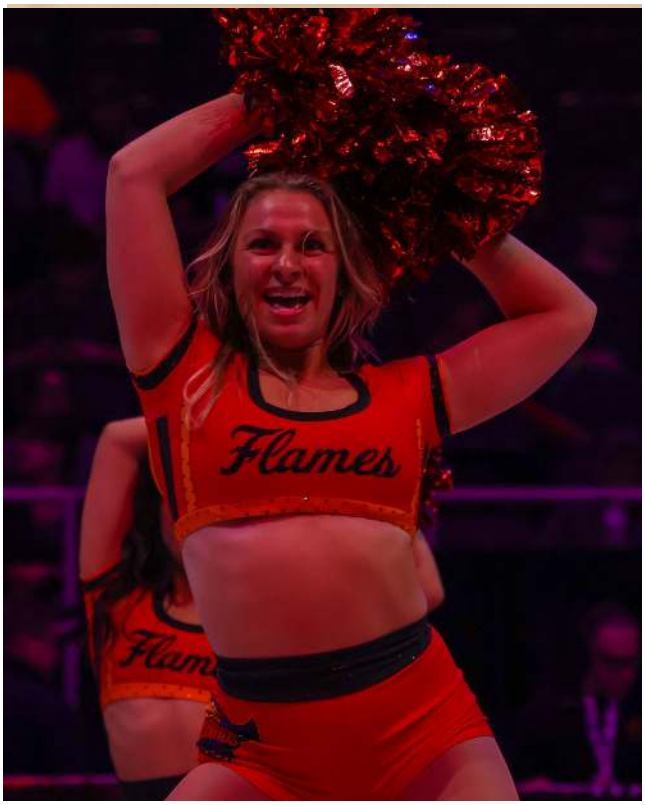
SPIKE APPEARANCE REQUESTS

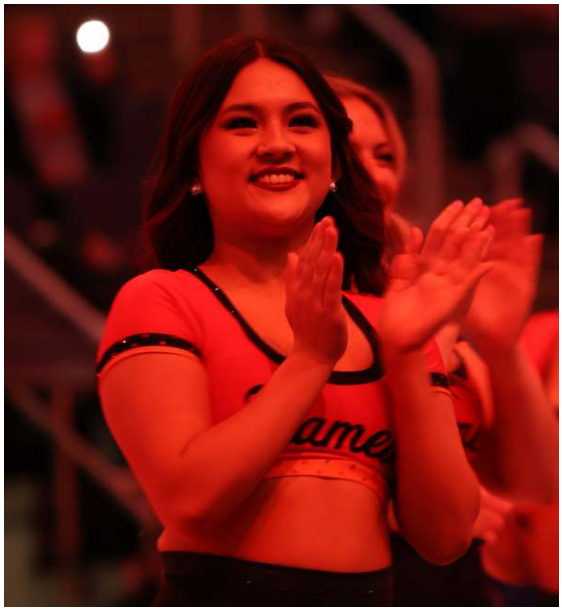
Want to add some extra excitement to your event? Invite your favorite mascot! Whether it’s for a birthday party or a community event, Spike is ready to bring his rockin’ energy and team spirit! Submit your request, and let’s make your event a memorable one.

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

FIREBIRD FLAMES









FIREBIRD FLAMES



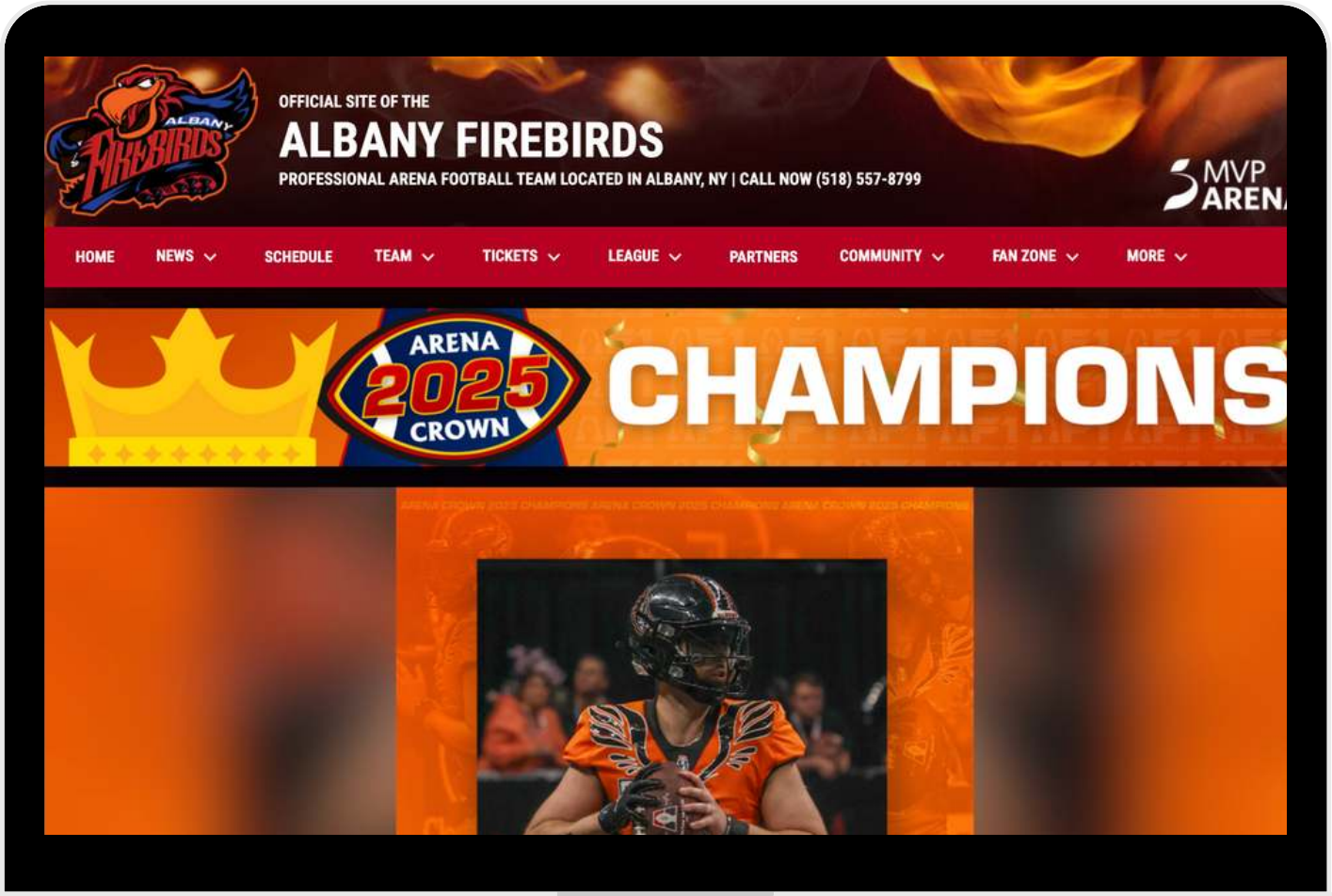


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FIREBIRD FLAMES







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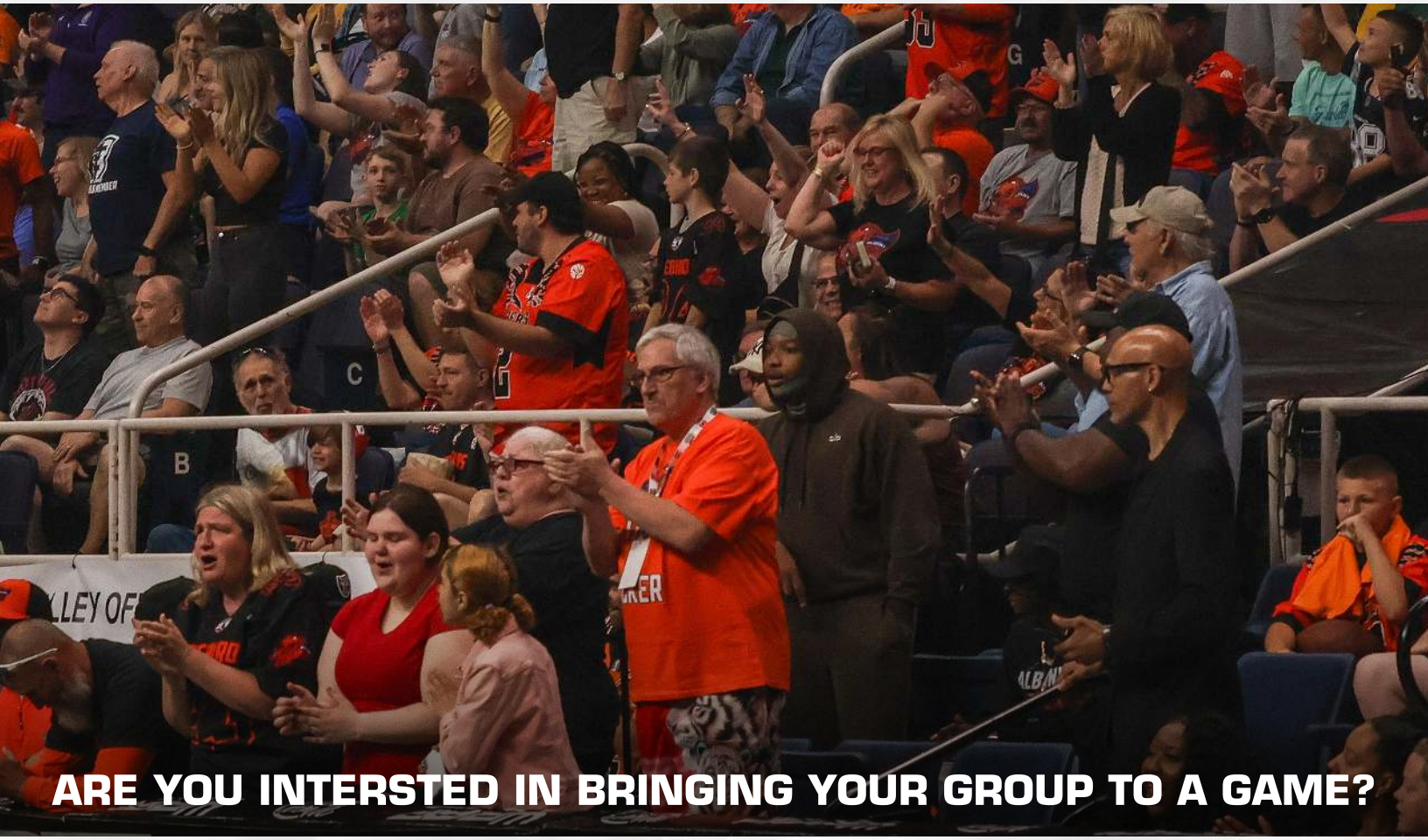




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FIREBIRDS COMMITMENT TO ALBANY

To our fans, the Albany Firebirds are committed to staying in Albany and representing the Capital Region for years to come. This is our city, our home, and we are dedicated to bringing electrifying arena football and championships to this community season after season.

Our focus extends beyond the field. From engaging with local schools and youth programs to supporting community initiatives and events, the Firebirds are proud to be an active part of Albany. Every game, every play, and every moment in MVP Arena is dedicated to you.

Game day in Albany is more than just football; it is an experience. From the roar of the crowd to the energy in the arena, every fan is part of the action. The Firebirds are committed to creating unforgettable moments on and off the field, dedicated to you and the community that supports us.

Albany is more than just a home; it is the heart of Firebirds football. We are committed to this city, this community, and to delivering thrilling arena football experiences for you for many seasons to come.

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



MATT WOODS

Team President

Matt Woods, a lifelong Capital Region resident and a graduate of Shaker High School and Hobart College, has been part of Albany Arena Football since 2022.

Named team president in March 2026, he is focused on growing the Firebirds' impact in the community and delivering an outstanding fan experience.

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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 3rd season as Director of Media for the Albany Firebirds in Arena Football One (AF1) and his 6th season working in professional sports. 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.



ZACH SODEN

Corporate Activations Manager

Zach Soden, a Siena College graduate, is entering his second season with the Albany Firebirds. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Sports Communication and brings experience in live entertainment, fan engagement, and corporate activations. Zach has worked with several organizations, including the Tri-City ValleyCats, Westchester Knicks, and Albany FireWolves, where he developed skills in event execution and partnership fulfillment. He previously served as the Firebirds’ In-Game Show Manager and now continues in an expanded role focused on delivering high-energy gameday experiences. A lifelong Capital Region sports fan, Zach is passionate about creating memorable moments for fans and enhancing the Firebirds’ experience at MVP Arena.

CORPORATE FRONT OFFICE



ANTHONY BISNER

Account Executive, Ticket Sales & Service

Anthony Bisner, a Watervliet High School graduate, is beginning his first year as an Account Executive for Ticket Sales & Service with the Albany Firebirds. He is pursuing a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Sport Management at Russell Sage College. Anthony gained his first professional sports experience with the Firebirds during the historic 2025 Championship Season, contributing to gameday operations, public relations, and ticket sales. He has also worked with the Savannah Bananas at Citizens Bank Park and Yankee Stadium, gaining experience in fan engagement and live event operations. Passionate about building connections with fans, Anthony is focused on delivering exceptional service and creating memorable experiences for Firebirds ticket holders.



CHRISTOPHER PELLEGRINI

Account Executive, Ticket Sales and Service

Christopher Pellegrini, a Sage College graduate, is beginning his first season in the Albany Firebirds' Ticket Sales Department. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Sport and Recreation Management and is a native of Colonie, NY. A four-year member and team captain of Sage's cross country and track programs, Christopher developed strong leadership skills and a disciplined work ethic. He gained professional sports experience during the 2025 season as a Ticket Sales Intern and Game Day Operations Intern, assisting with ticket initiatives, fan engagement, and gameday logistics. Passionate about sports and teamwork, Christopher is focused on contributing to smooth game-day operations and creating memorable experiences for Firebirds fans.



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.

CORPORATE FRONT OFFICE



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.



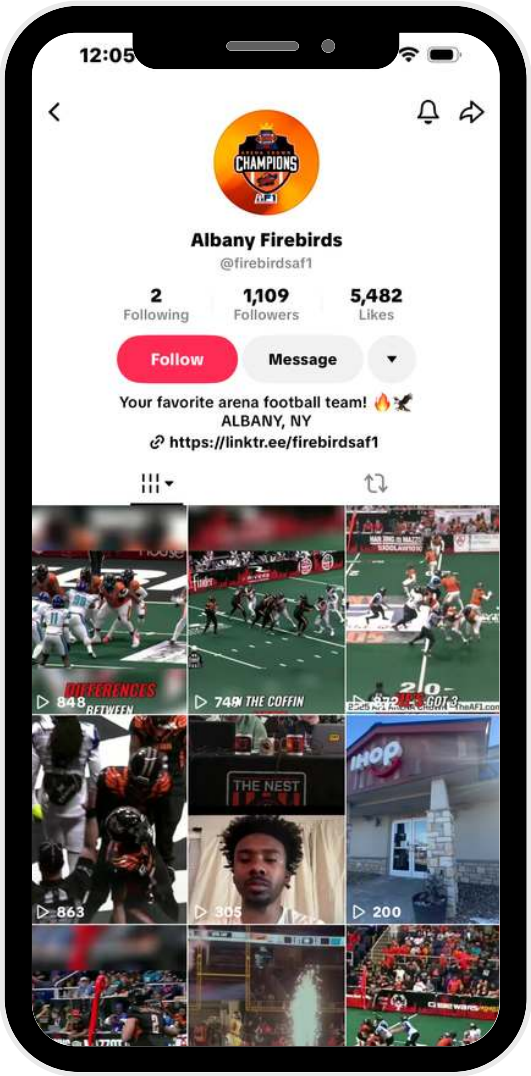
MICHAEL FELONG

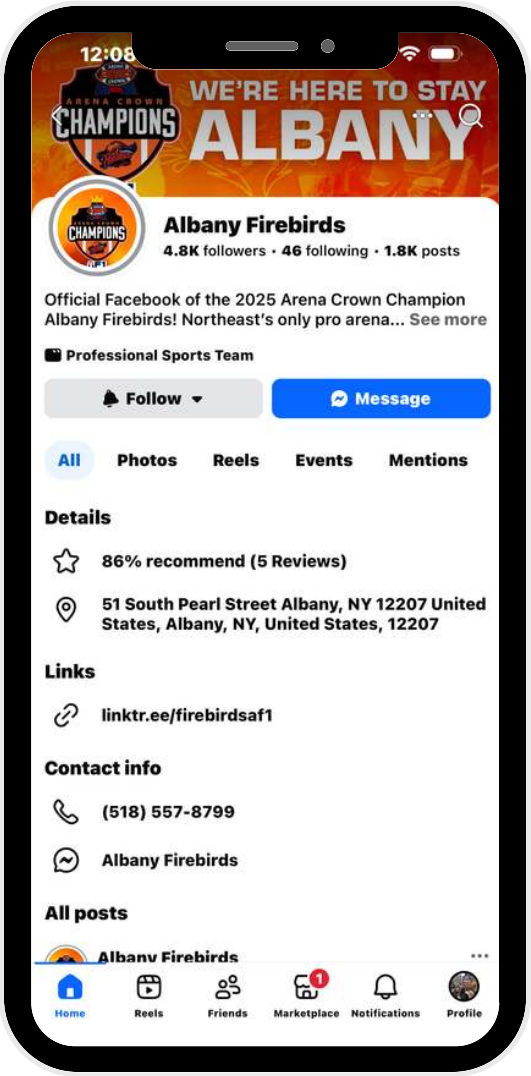
In-Game Show Manager

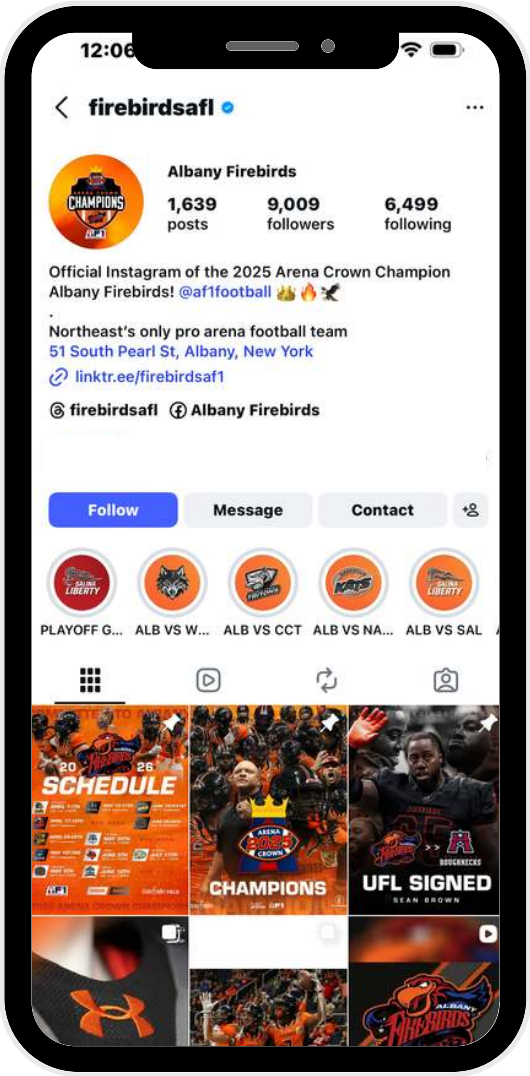
Michael Felong, a Siena College graduate, is entering his first year as In-Game Show Manager for the Albany Firebirds. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Marketing with a concentration in Sports and brings experience in live event production and fan engagement. Michael previously worked at the US Open, where he helped coordinate in-game entertainment and enhance the fan experience at a premier global sporting event. In his role with the Firebirds, he focuses on creating high-energy gameday entertainment and delivering memorable moments for fans at MVP Arena.

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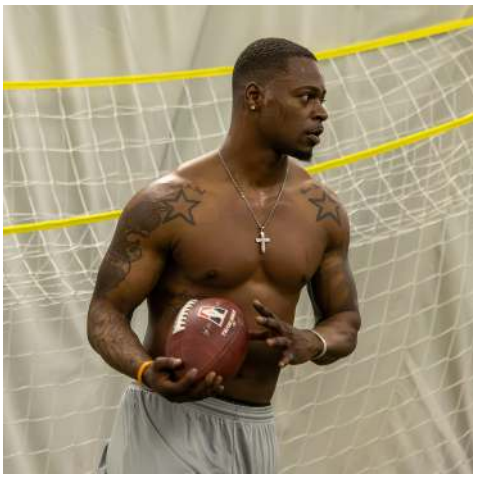




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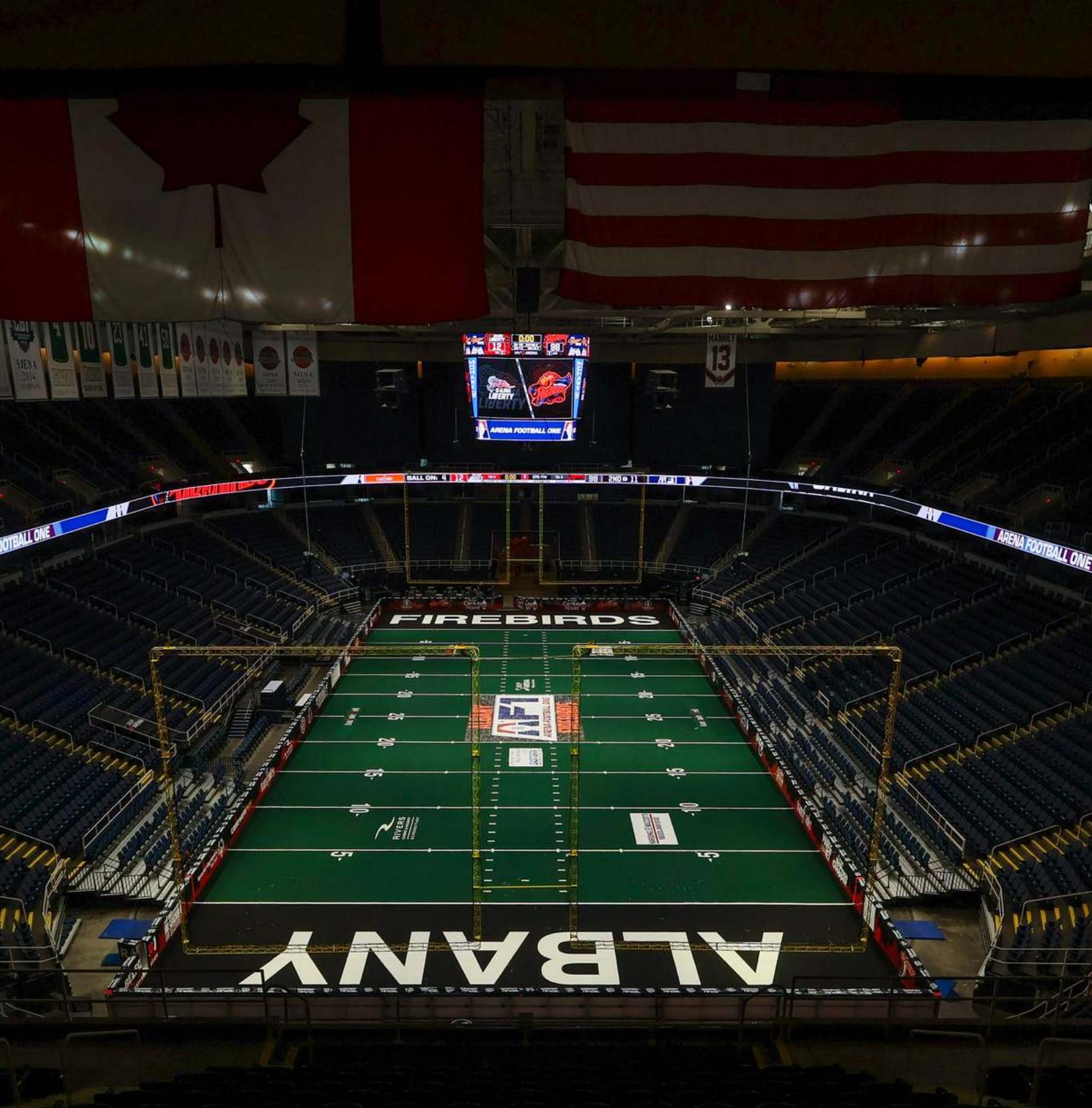

SCOTT
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VEAL II
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