

ALBANY ACADEMY

New York State Co-Champs

By Dick Auclair

The Albany Academy, a private boys' school in Albany, New York, has been playing varsity-level, interscholastic football for 106 consecutive years. Consistently fielding exceptional, competitive teams, the Academy boasts of innumerable league and conference football championships during its proud, illustrious and valiant history. Coach Joe Sacco



The Cadets fighting hard and winning!

has been Head Mentor of the school's football program for the past five years, leading his squads to the conference title three times. In 1991, his club won New York's Eastern State Regional Championship. Coach Sacco is quick to credit his staff and talented athletes.

Despite having an enrollment of only 162 boys in grades 9 - 12, the Academy has a generous sports calendar in the fall, sponsoring such varsity, junior varsity and freshman (modified) sports activities as football, soccer, golf and cross-country. Clearly, this makes for a lot of competition among the coaches to attract quality athletes to their programs from within the student body. A team's overall success is a critical

factor in this regard as is the quality of the people on the coaching staff. As the school's Athletic Director, Joe Sacco has done a remarkable job recruiting extraordinarily talented coaches for each of the school's 28-teams. Clarion testimony to the exceptional level of varsity coaching talent on the 1992 football squad is found in their results: the Cadets were undefeated in the West Division of the Capital Conference, then captured both the Sectional and Regional B Championships for the second consecutive year. There was even more in '92. For the first time, the New York State Athletic Association sanctioned a Championship Playoff system and the Cadets proceeded to take the championship when they defeated Oteora for the State Class B Co-State Championship. In 1993, there will be an added game to determine the State Championship. Look for the Cadets to be vying for that honor.

Backfield Coach Dave Rider will be back to work his magic with the potent offensive backs' unit as well as the defensive back corps. Coach Rider is the Head Coach for the school's Independent Hockey Team and was recently selected as one of the coaches for the 1993 Hockey USA under-19 select team. Also returning



***Coach Joe Sacco and Team 1992
New York State Co-Champions***

next season will be rookie line-coach Larry Gillooley. Coach Sacco's right-hand man, seventh grader Ben Bodner was unquestionably the outstanding team manager of the year.

On the field, the cadets posted an



***Adam
LaVallee
Jr. All
State
Fullback
with
1211
yards***



11-1 record for the year. The only blemish was an overtime loss to Watervliet, 13-14, in the Buckley Cup Contest.

The Cadets combined one of the most prolific offenses (34 points per game) with one of the stingiest defenses (5.3 points per game) in the state. In 12 contests, the team outscored its opponents by a margin of 408 to 64. The Cadets posted five shutouts and never allowed more than two touchdowns in any game.

The 1993 season will provide yet another opportunity for the Academy Cadets to add to their illustrious tradition and history on the gridiron. Fourteen letter winners will return and there is some excellent JV talent to meet the challenge. With a strong and stable coaching staff posed to work hard to develop the available talent, don't bet against the Cadets to bring home the bacon at each level of competition next season.....□