

## ATHLETICS DIRECTORY

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## Basketball

Head Coach Rich Roche '87 ..... (315) 781-3620

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## General Information

Location: Geneva, N.Y.

Founded: 1822

Enrollment: 1,866 with William Smith

Colors: Royal Purple and Orange

Nickname: Statesmen

Home Field: Boswell Field

Surface: Natural grass

Press Box Phone: (315) 781-3765

President: Mark D. Gearan

Dean of Hobart College: Clarence E. Butler

Vice President of Enrollment &amp;

Dean of Admissions: Don Emmons

Director of Admissions:

Mara O'Laughlin WS'66

Director of Athletics: Michael J. Hanna '68

## Athletic Communications Staff

Director of Athletic Communications:

Ken DeBolt

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Office Fax: (315) 781-3531

Hotline: (315) 781-3991

Web site: www.hws.edu/statesmen

Radio Coverage: WEOS-FM (89.7/90.3)

Internet Broadcasts: www.weos.org

TEAMLINE: (800) 846-4700

TEAMLINE provides listeners away from the radio or computer the opportunity to listen to Hobart Football. Simply enter the access code (4972) and a valid VISA or Mastercard number when prompted.

## 2004 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept 11	<b>DICKINSON</b> .....	1 p.m.
18	at Franklin & Marshall .....	1 p.m.
25	*at Rensselaer .....	1 p.m.
Oct 2	<b>*WPI</b> .....	1 p.m.
	<b>Parents Weekend</b>	
9	<b>*COAST GUARD</b> .....	1 p.m.
16	*at Kings Point .....	2 p.m.
23	*at St. Lawrence .....	1 p.m.
Nov 6	<b>*UNION</b> .....	1 p.m.
13	<b>*ROCHESTER</b> .....	1 p.m.

\* Liberty League game

## HOBART QUICK FACTS

## Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Mike Cragg

Record at Hobart: 55-33 (9 seasons)

Overall Record: 55-33 (9 seasons)

Office Phone: (315) 781-3566

Office Fax: (315) 781-3570

E-mail: cragg@hws.edu

Assistant Coach: Aaron Backhaus '00

Office Phone: (315) 781-3572

E-mail: backhaus@hws.edu

Assistant Coach: Matt Daley '03

Office Phone: (315) 781-3669

E-mail: daley@hws.edu

Assistant Coach: Kevin DeWall '00

Office Phone: (315) 781-3716

E-mail: dewall@hws.edu

Assistant Coach: Randy Grenier

Office Phone: (315) 781-3572

E-mail: grenier@hws.edu

Assistant Coach: John Manley

Office Phone: (315) 781-3572

E-mail: manley@hws.edu

Assistant Coach: Terry Muffley

Office Phone: (315) 781-3572

E-mail: muffley@hws.edu

Assistant Coach: Craig Swanson '04

Office Phone: (315) 781-3683

E-mail: swanson@hws.edu

Assistant Coach: Scott Yoder '01

Office Phone: (315) 781-3683

E-mail: yoder@hws.edu

## Football Information

Captains: Alex Bell '05, Walt Bennett '05,

Ty Godinho '05, Chris Purtell '05

2003 Record (UCAA): 6-4, 3-1 (1st)

Football Seasons: 110

First Season: 1891

All-Time Record: 407-443-44

NCAA Tournaments: 2; 2000, 2002



Founded in 1995 as the Upstate Collegiate Athletic Association, the Liberty League made its debut on June 28, 2004. The nine member institutions chose the new moniker and logos to better reflect the expanding conference, which welcomes associate football members Coast Guard, Kings Point, and WPI. (More on p. 31)

# **HEAD COACH MIKE CRAGG**

**A**fter nine seasons at the helm of the Hobart football program, Mike Cragg has firmly entrenched himself among the great coaches of Statesmen football. With a 55-33 (.625) career record that includes all three of Hobart's postseason appearances, Cragg ranks second in career wins (behind Eddie Tryon, 64), second in career winning percentage (George Davis, .694), and third in wins per season, games coached, and seasons coached.

Cragg's Statesmen have earned a postseason bid in three of the past four seasons, including 2003's 34-18 victory in the ECAC North Atlantic Bowl. Under his direction, Hobart has finished atop the Liberty League (formerly the UCAA) standings four times (1998, 2000, 2002, 2003).

In 2003, the Statesmen posted a 6-4 record, marking the eighth consecutive season at .500 or above. The streak matches the longest runs of sustained success produced by teams led by Tryon (1951-58) and Vincent Welch (1921-28).

Last season, Cragg's stingy defense cleaned up in the postseason accolades, collecting seven All-UCAA honors, the Co-Defensive Player of the Year (Tony Clemente '06), and Rookie of the Year (Nolan Robinson '07) awards.

On the strength of a stunning 43-25 upset of previously unbeaten Rensselaer in the season finale, Cragg was voted UCAA Coach of the Year. He previously earned

conference coach of the year honors in 2000 and 2002.

Cragg, who has served as the team's defensive coordinator since 1991, directed the 2000 Statesmen into the NCAA records book. The Hobart secondary, aided by a relentless pass rush, broke the NCAA Division III record for lowest pass completion percentage allowed. Hobart opponents were successful on just 31.3 percent (79-of-252) of their pass attempts, eclipsing the old mark, 33.5, set by Plymouth State in 1987. At the close of the regular season, Cragg's defense ranked first in the nation in pass efficiency defense, sixth in scoring defense, eighth in turnover margin, and 12th in total defense.

Cragg has mentored several All-Americans, including 1997 consensus All-American Dave Russell '98, and 2003 *D3Football.com* third-team All-American Alex Bell '05.

Named the 23rd head coach of the Hobart football program in January of 1995, Cragg is one of the veteran members of the Statesmen family, joining the football staff in 1986. Cragg also served as the head coach of the Statesmen tennis team for three seasons, compiling an overall record of 36-10 and three conference championships.

Cragg joined the Hobart family after serving as the head coach of the varsity football program at Corry High School in Corry, Pa. He led Corry to a third-place finish in the Erie County League in his first year, a first-ever appearance in the District X Playoffs in 1986, and was named Coach of the Year.

A 1983 graduate of Slippery Rock University with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, Cragg was a two-year letterwinner for the Rock at free safety and linebacker.

He still owns a share of the school's single game interception record (3, vs. Edinboro, 1980). His senior season was short-circuited by a knee injury, so he got an early jump on his coaching career, assisting the Slippery Rock staff with the defensive backs.

A native of Corry, Cragg graduated from Corry High School in 1978, where he was a stand-out in football, basketball, and baseball.

Cragg and his wife of 15 years, Holley, live in Geneva with their two children, Michael and Kristen Alexandria.



## **THE CRAGG FILE**

**AFCA Regional Coach of the Year: 2002**

**Liberty League Coach of the Year: 2000, '02, '03**

**NCAA Playoffs: 2000, '02**

**ECAC Bowl Champions: 2003**

## **Head Coaching Record**

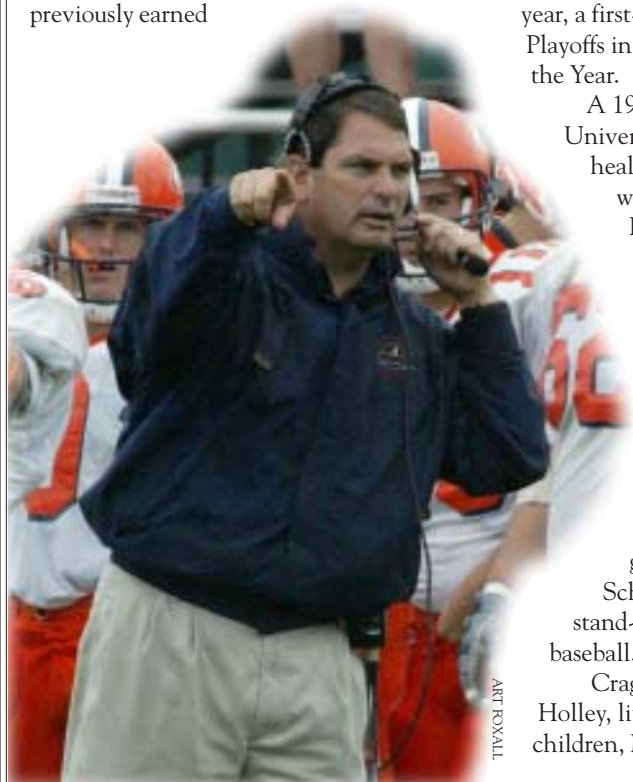
Year	Record	Pct	Conf	Pct	Finish
1995	4-6	.400	1-3	.250	4th
1996	5-5	.500	3-1	.750	2nd
1997	6-4	.600	2-2	.500	3rd
1998	6-3	.667	3-1	.750	1st
1999	5-4	.556	2-2	.500	3rd
2000	9-2	.818	3-1	.750	1st
2001	6-3	.667	2-2	.500	3rd
2002	8-2	.800	4-0	1.000	1st
2003	6-4	.600	3-1	.750	1st
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55-33</b>	<b>.625</b>	<b>23-13</b>	<b>.639</b>	

## **Coaching Experience**

1995-	Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator Hobart College
1991-95	Defensive Coordinator Hobart College
1986-90	Offensive Line Coach Hobart College
1985-86	Head Coach Corry (Pa.) High School
1984	Assistant Coach Titusville (Pa.) High School
1983	Assistant Coach Slippery Rock University

## **Education**

Slippery Rock University, B.S., 1983



ART FOXALL

**KEVIN DEWALL '00****Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line**

Now in his fifth season on the Hobart sideline, Kevin DeWall is entering his second season as the offensive coordinator.

Last season, DeWall's balanced attack offense led the league in time of possession, was second in scoring, and averaged more than 340 yards per game. The Statesmen boasted the league's top rusher, an 1,800-yard passer, and three receivers with at least 25 catches. That success translated into seven All-UCAA awards for the offense.

During his first three seasons on staff, DeWall coached the defensive backs.

While earning a bachelor's degree in biology (pre-med) and education, DeWall was an attackman on Hobart's Division I lacrosse team and led the defense at free safety for the football team. He helped the lacrosse program to two NCAA Tournament appearances and the 2000 Patriot League title and aided the football program's ascent towards the pinnacle of Division III.

A native of nearby Waterloo, DeWall was the 2000 Patriot League Lacrosse Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

**RANDY GRENIER****Special Teams Coordinator**

Randy Grenier begins his 14th year on the Hobart football staff. He will serve as the special teams coordinator and assist with the quarterbacks this season.

Under Grenier's watchful eye, quarterback Craig Swanson '04 rewrote the Hobart passing records, graduating with every major game, season, and career mark. On special teams, Hobart ranked 20th in the nation in net punting (35.0 yds/p).

Prior to his arrival at Hobart, he served as the head coach at Geneva High School from 1984 through 1989, guiding the Panthers to a Section V runner-up finish in 1985. A teacher in the Geneva Public School system, Grenier coached the Panthers' softball team to the 1999 New York State Class B Championship.

As a player at Norwich University, he was the starting quarterback, piloting a wishbone offense that set a Division III record, rushing for 383.1 yards per game.

Grenier lives in Geneva with his wife, Terri, and their children, Randy Jr. and Santana.

**JOHN MANLEY****Running Backs**

John Manley enters his fifth season as running backs coach. He joined the Statesmen after 14 seasons as the head coach at Penn Yan Academy.

Manley has overseen the meteoric development of running back Ty Godinho. The two-time All-UCAA selection rushed for 1,077 yards—the most by a Hobart back since 1998—and a league leading 13 touchdowns last season.

At Penn Yan Academy, Manley guided the Mustangs to 13 Section V tournament appearances, including back-to-back championship game appearances in 1994 and 1995. A physical education instructor in the Penn Yan School System since 1973, he has coached the Eddie Meath All-Star Football Game three times.

Accomplished and multifaceted, Manley has coached basketball, baseball, hockey, lacrosse, track, and softball.

Manley graduated from SUNY-Brockport with a bachelor's degree in physical education. He lives with his wife, Rita, and their four children in Keuka Park.

**CRAIG SWANSON '04****Quarterbacks**

New to the coaching staff this year, Craig Swanson '04 could prove to be a key to the team's success this season. He remains at his alma mater for a fifth year as he pursues a master's degree in education and will mentor his replacement at quarterback.

A three-year starter, Swanson holds every major Hobart passing record. He completed 454 career passes for 5,678 yards and 47 touchdowns for a 129.7 pass efficiency rating, all Statesmen records. Swanson's career encompassed all three of Hobart's postseason appearances and three of the school's four UCAA Championships.

In 2003, Swanson led Hobart to a 6-4 record, including the UCAA Championship and a 34-18 win over Norwich in the ECAC

North Atlantic Bowl. He earned second-team All-UCAA honors after throwing for 1,851 yards and 15 touchdowns.

As a junior, Swanson enjoyed his most prolific season passing for 2,209 yards and 21 touchdowns for a 139.6 pass efficiency rating. After leading the Statesmen to an 8-2 record and the program's second NCAA Tournament berth, he was named the UCAA Offensive Player of the Year and a finalist for the Gagliardi Trophy, the Division III Player of the Year award.

A physics major, Swanson was a standout in the classroom, earning CoSIDA Academic All-America second-team honors as a senior.



**ASSISTANT COACHES**

**SCOTT YODER '01**
**Receivers**

Scott Yoder is back for his fourth season as an assistant coach. The 2001 graduate of Hobart will work with the wide receivers and tight ends.

Last season, Yoder mentored a talented and deep corps of receivers, including two All-UCAA selections. Under his watchful eye, Dan Suozzi '05 broke the Hobart record for receptions in a season with 63 catches for 906 yards, moving within 50 yards of the all-time mark.

A reliable target himself, Yoder holds the Hobart record for consecutive games with at least one reception. Yoder finished his career with 108 receptions (third all-time) for 1,361 yards. Following the 2000 season, he earned first-team accolades from the ECAC and the UCAA.

The economics major was also a varsity letterman for the Division I Hobart lacrosse team. A defensive midfielder, he helped guide the Statesmen to the 2000 Patriot League Championship and the program's 23rd NCAA postseason appearance.


**TERRY MUFFLEY**
**Defensive Line**

Now in his sixth season on the Hobart coaching staff, Terry Muffley will mentor the defensive line. Over the past five seasons, he has overseen the development of eight all-conference linemen.

In addition to his responsibilities with the football team, Muffley also serves as a volunteer assistant coach for Hobart's Division I lacrosse team.

A veteran high school coach, Muffley was a fixture on the Geneva High School sidelines for more than two decades, assisting the Panthers' football team to two league titles and the lacrosse team to three Section V Championships.

Muffley earned a bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University, and holds a master's degree in education from SUNY-Oswego.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps with service in Vietnam, Muffley recently retired following nearly 30 years as a teacher in the Geneva City School District. He lives in Geneva with his wife, Cindy, and their two children, Patrick and Bess.


**MATT DALEY '03**
**Outside Linebackers**

Matt Daley returns for his second season as the outside linebackers coach at his alma mater. During his first season, he oversaw two all-conference players, including Co-Defensive Player of the Year Tony Clemente.

A two-sport star as a Statesman, Daley was a linebacker for the football team and a defenseman for the ice hockey squad.

On the gridiron, he recorded 140 career tackles, including 18 sacks, helping the Statesmen to their first two NCAA tournament appearances. He was an All-UCAA selection three times.

On the ice, Daley led Hobart's steady improvement from a team that won just six games during his first season to the 2002-03 squad that posted the first winning season for the Statesmen in a decade (14-10-2).

Daley served as a team captain in both sports, and was awarded the 2003 William C. Stiles '43 Award, presented to the Hobart senior for leadership, determination, and character most reflective of the traits and values of former Hobart Athletics Director Bill Stiles.


**AARON BACKHAUS '00**
**Inside Linebackers**

A familiar face returns to the sidelines for the Hobart football team for the 2004 season. Head Coach Mike Cragg welcomes back Aaron Backhaus '00 to coach the inside linebackers.

A tri-captain during his senior season, Backhaus was a four-year starter at inside linebacker. He led the team in tackles as a first-year with 98 stops. The following year, Backhaus finished the season with 65 tackles and two interceptions, earning second-team All-UCAA honors.

Backhaus posted 64 tackles and a career-high three interceptions as a junior, earning second-team All-UCAA accolades. He finished his career with 52 stops and another interception en route to his third

consecutive appearance on the All-UCAA second-team.

In addition to being a tenacious defender, Backhaus also spent his junior year as the team's place kicker, converting 12-of-15 point after tries.

Backhaus left the gridiron with 279 career tackles, six interceptions, and one and a half sacks.

Earning a bachelor's degree from Hobart in psychology in 2000, Backhaus went on to complete a master's degree in education at Alfred University.

Backhaus is currently a guidance counselor at Geneva Middle School and coaches the Geneva modified football team.

**Head Coach:** Mike Cragg (Slippery Rock '83)

**Record at Hobart:** 55-33 (nine seasons)

**Assistant Coaches:** Kevin DeWall '00, offensive coordinator/offensive line; Randy Grenier, special teams coordinator; Terry Muffley, defensive line; John Manley, running backs; Scott Yoder '01, receivers; Matt Daley '03, outside linebackers; Craig Swanson '04, quarterbacks; Aaron Backhaus '00, inside linebackers.

**2003 Overall Record:** 6-4

**Conference Finish:** 3-1, UCAA Champions

**Basic Offense:** Multiple

**Basic Defense:** 4-4

**First Year of Football:** 1891

**All-Time Record:** 407-443-44

**2004 Captains:** OL Alex Bell '05, DT Walt Bennett '05, RB Ty Godinho '05, DE Chris Purtell '05

#### ALL-LIBERTY LEAGUE OFFENSIVE RETURNEES:

- OL - Alex Bell '05
- OL - Jeff Bruckman '05
- RB - Ty Godinho '05  
2003 Stats: 228 rush, 1,077 yds, 13 TD; 19 rec, 120 yds, TD
- OL - Ryan Hallings '05
- WR - Rick Piñero '05  
2003 Stats: 44 rec, 414 yds, 5 TD; 20.9 yds/KR
- WR - Dan Suozzi '05  
2003 Stats: 63 rec, 906 yds, 8 TD

#### ALL-LIBERTY LEAGUE DEFENSIVE RETURNEES:

- CB - Jamie Anderson '06  
2003 Stats: 39 tackles (30-9), 17 PD, 5 INT
- DT - Walt Bennett '05  
2003 Stats: 51 tackles (23-28), 2.5 sacks
- ILB - Tony Clemente '06  
2003 Stats: 70 tackles (34-36), 1.5 sacks, INT
- OLB - Jimmy Gradis '06  
2003 Stats: 52 tackles (32-20), 2 INT, 0.5 sacks
- DE - Chris Purtell '05  
2003 Stats: 33 tackles (12-21), 4 FR, 1.0 sacks
- CB - Dyshawn Washington '06  
2003 Stats: 40 tackles (28-12), 12 PD, 2 INT

#### ALL-LIBERTY LEAGUE SPECIAL TEAMS RETURNEES:

- P/RS - Dan Suozzi '05  
2003 Stats: 53 punts, 1,871 yds; 22.0 yds/KR, 6.2 yds/PR

#### TOP OFFENSIVE LOSSES:

- QB - Craig Swanson '04  
Career Stats: 802-454-23, 5,678 yds, 47 TDs

#### TOP DEFENSIVE LOSSES:

- DE - Lawrence Moultrie '04  
Career Stats: 72 tackles (38-34), 6.0 sacks
- ILB - David Szentesy '04  
Career Stats: 229 tackles (100-129), 9.5 sacks, 5 INT, 9 FR

## LETTERMEN RETURNING: 37 (14 STARTERS)

### Offense — 19 (7 starters)

**Wide Receiver:** Colby Feane, Rich Keefe, RICK PIÑERO, DAN SUOZZI, Kent Thorpe

**Tight End:** Marcus Eriksson

**Tackle:** JEFF BRUCKMAN, Mike DePersis, Ryan Hallings

**Guard:** ALEX BELL, NINO GIAMBRONE, Matt Montroy

**Center:** JOSH VAN AUKEN

**Quarterback:** none

**Tailback:** Brian Bach, Doug Blakowski, TY GODINHO, Jack Holleran

**Fullback:** John Hennekey, Chris Whipple

### Defense — 14 (7 starters)

**Tackle:** WALT BENNETT

**End:** Andy Purdie, CHRIS PURTELL, Zack Young

**Inside Linebacker:** TONY CLEMENTE, Mark Lawrenz, Tyler Mason

**Outside Linebacker:** JIMMY GRADIS, NOLAN ROBINSON, Andrew Sweet

**Defensive Back:** JAMIE ANDERSON, Ryan Smith, Brian Sorhaindo, DYSHAWN WASHINGTON

### Special Teams — 4

**Kick/Punt Return:** Rick Piñero, Dan Suozzi

**Long Snapper:** Jeff Bruckman

**Placekicker:** Eric Ampuja

**Punter:** Dan Suozzi

## LETTERMEN LOST — 10 (8 STARTERS)

### Offense — 6 (4 starter)

**Wide Receiver:** none

**Tight End:** TONY PERILLO

**Tackle:** MATT KEHOE, Seth Urban

**Guard:** none

**Center:** none

**Quarterback:** Brian Goehle, CRAIG SWANSON

**Tailback:** none

**Fullback:** RICK SPIDALIERI

### Defense — 4 (4 starters)

**Tackle:** ALLY MOSIELLO

**End:** LAWRENCE MOULTRIE

**Inside Linebacker:** DAVID SZENTESY

**Outside Linebacker:** none

**Defensive Back:** PAT LESTER

### Special Teams — 0

**Kick/Punt Return:** none

**Long Snapper:** none

**Placekicker:** none

**Punter:** none

2003 starters in CAPS

# SEASON OUTLOOK

**D**uring the illustrious career of Craig Swanson '04, the Hobart football team won more than 70 percent of its games, captured three conference championships, made the first three postseason appearances in the 112-year existence of the program, and won the 2003 ECAC North Atlantic Bowl.

While battling a new-old conference, the Statesmen will enter uncharted territory this season without the two-time captain who is the only Hobart passer to eclipse 5,000 career yards. Over the summer, the Upstate Collegiate Athletic Association was renamed the Liberty League and welcomed three new associate members in football only, Worcester PolyTech, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy-Kings Point. This rose by another name will smell even sweeter for the champion. The Liberty League laurels will include an automatic berth in the NCAA Playoffs.

Despite the graduation of Swanson, Hobart will not lack for broken records or All-American candidates, and that should translate into continued success on the gridiron.

The A List of celebrity talent begins with offensive lineman **ALEX BELL**. The 6-foot-3, 330-pound senior right guard dominated the line of scrimmage last season, tossing aside would-be tacklers like so many toothpicks in a tornado. His efforts earned him third-team All-America honors from *D3Football.com* last season and two pre-season nods this year (*Don Hansen's Football Gazette* first-team, *D3Football.com* second-team). In 2003, the majority of Hobart's running plays traveled behind Bell, resulting in the only back in the conference to average more than 100 yards per game, another A-lister, **TY GODINHO**.

An elusive runner from Lancaster, N.Y., Godinho is on pace to rank among the top-five in career carries (2nd behind Rich Kowalski's 907), yards (3rd to Kowalski's 4,631 and Don Aleksiewicz's 4,525), and rushing touchdowns (3rd behind Kowalski's 47 and Keith Brandon's 45). Relegated to the All-Liberty League second-team despite leading the league in rushing in 2003 (107.7 yds/g), Godinho ranked 33rd in the nation in scoring (8.8 ppg) and is primed for an encore performance as a senior.

Both Bell and Godinho will serve as team captains.

At wide out, the Statesmen sport the top returning receiver in the conference in senior **DAN SUOZZI**. Suozzi, a receiver

prototype at 6-foot-1, 185 pounds, boasts three All-Liberty League selections, and that's just from last season (he has six total). The surest thing (as sure things go) to break a record this season, Suozzi needs just 18 receptions and 51 yards to break the career marks established more than 20 years ago by Hobart Hall of Famer Scott Geise '83 (141 catches for 1,899 yds). Averaging 4.8 rec/g and 71.1 yds/g, Suozzi should topple both marks relatively early in the season. That alone would make most All-America watch lists, but Suozzi is also one of the most effective punters (career: 34.6 yds/p) and one of the most dangerous return men in the nation.

While there is plenty of star power on offense for whoever gets the start under center, everyone knows defense wins championships and that is the main reason Hobart is the two-time defending Liberty League Champion.

The Statesmen were among the national leaders in rushing defense (24th, 108.0 yds/g), scoring defense (24th, 15.6 ppg), pass efficiency defense (40th, 97.5), and total defense (63rd, 308.3 yds/g). Hobart led the Liberty League in all but pass efficiency defense (2nd to RPI, 92.1).

At times, the 2003 defense looked capable of taking away possession at will. The Statesmen led the Liberty League in interceptions (1.7/g) paced by **JAMIE ANDERSON**'s team-high five. The 5-foot-11, 190-pound junior cornerback enjoyed a breakout season as a sophomore, ranking 13th in the nation in passes defended and 34th in interceptions. Combined with the 5-foot-10, 185-pound **DYSHAWN WASHINGTON** (2 INT, 10 pass break ups), Hobart boasts the best cover corners in the Liberty League.

The linebacking corps has always been



Senior wide receiver Rick Piñero finished 2003 with 44 receptions for 414 yards and five touchdowns, earning second-team All-Liberty League honors.

a strength of a **MIKE CRAGG** coached team and the 2004 Statesmen will be no exception. Led by 2003 Liberty League Co-Defensive Player of the Year junior inside linebacker **TONY CLEMENTE** (6-1, 225), Hobart also returns the 2003 Liberty League Rookie of the Year, outside linebacker **NOLAN ROBINSON** and second-team All-Liberty League junior outside linebacker **JIMMY GRADIS**. Last season, that trio combined for 180 tackles, eight forced fumbles, five and a half sacks, and four interceptions.

The defensive line also returns three of four starters, including team captains **WALT BENNETT** and **CHRIS PURTELL**. That leadership and a combined 84 tackles, including 15 for a loss, should translate into a dominant group of run-stoppers and a pesky pass rush.

Blending an experienced group of all-stars and solid veterans with a talented class of first-years is the challenge that lies before Cragg and his coaching staff. Here's a position-by-position look at the Statesmen:

## QUARTERBACK

The three-way battle to replace Swanson begins with sophomore **SHAWN MIZRO**. The 6-foot-2, 215-pounder out of nearby Newark High School is the early



## SEASON OUTLOOK

favorite, but certainly not the heir apparent. One of the most prolific passers in New York State scholastic history, he ranks 15th in NYS in career passing, just behind Miami Dolphins quarterback Jay Fiedler. Mizro boasts a stronger arm and fleet feet than Swanson, and has the potential to challenge his coach's records even before the ink is dry.

Mizro will face stiff competition from a pair of his classmates, **DAN MATUZAK** and **RYAN McWALTER**. A two-sport athlete, Matuzak, who could be mistaken for a tight end, is a classic drop-back passer and a power forward for the Hobart basketball team. McWalter might be the best athlete of the three. A quicker, option-style QB, he has a live arm and throws well on the run.

First-years **JIM BAUMAN** (McQuaid HS/Rochester, N.Y.) and **DAN GIACOMINI** (East Aurora HS/East Aurora, N.Y.) could also figure into the mix. Bauman quarterbacked the East squad in the 2004 Eddie Meath All-Star Game, while Giacomini, in addition to playing quarterback, punted for the Blue Devils and could contribute on special teams as well.

#### RUNNING BACK

While Godinho will be chasing history, he'll also have to keep an eye on his teammates. Hobart's greatest depth will be lining up behind the senior captain, starting with classmate **JACK HOLLERAN**. The 5-foot-8, 180-pound spark plug boasts 5.1 yards per carry and 7.5 yards per reception career averages. A leader on special teams, Holleran sports 25 career tackles and 22 yards per kick return.

Four untested Statesmen will also challenge for handoffs. Junior **BRAIN BACH** (5-8, 200), who was slowed by an ankle injury last season, is very strong and possesses an impressive work ethic. Sophomore **DOUG BLAKOWSKI** (5-9, 175) has blazing speed and great moves, while first-year **DON GILARDI** (5-9, 185), another Eddie Meath All-Star, brings similar speed to the backfield. Sophomore **HENRY STEMLER** is a tough player built for smashmouth football.

#### FULLBACK

There will be a new starter clearing the road for Godinho & Co. following the graduation of Rick Spidalieri. Hobart returns a pair of inexperienced but talented backs that will battle through the preseason for the starting nod, junior **JOHN HENNEKEY** (5-11, 230) and sophomore **CHRIS WHIPPLE** (6-0, 225). Hennekey is a tough, physical blocker, while Whipple is more

athletic and capable of breaking off impressive gains of his own. The duo could platoon at fullback with the game situation dictating which one plays.

First-year **DAN SPINELLA** (New Hartford HS/New Hartford, N.Y.) will bring added depth to the position and is expected to play midfielder for Hobart's Division I lacrosse team in the spring.

#### WIDE RECEIVER

Suozzi has drawn attention for his record-breaking performances, but, if not for his presence, those records could belong to classmate **RICK PIÑERO** (12.5 yds/rec). Although he took what defenses gave him—primarily the underneath routes last season—Piñero is a big play receiver capable of breaking open a game with a little shake-n-bake and a whole lot of burn.

Junior possession receiver **COLBY FEANE** is fundamentally sound, and very coachable. The point guard for the Statesmen on the hardwood, he plays with the same heads up confidence whether he's driving the lane or running a slant pattern.

The final spot on Hobart's two-deep, or, in the team's many spread formations, on the field, is up for grabs. Junior **RICH KEEFE**

and sophomore **KENT THORPE** will figure into the mix, but a pair of gifted first-years may have something to say about that.

**STEVEN SORHAINDO** (5-9, 180), younger brother of junior corner back Brian, and **JAMES WRIGHT** (6-0, 180) both have great speed and reliable hands. If the duo doesn't break through this season, they'll certainly be poised to fill the shoes of Suozzi and Piñero in 2005.

#### TIGHT END

Replacing the graduated Tony Perillo '04, the hero of the Rensselaer game for scoring the go-ahead touchdown from 41 yards out, will be no small task, but one Hobart's depth should lend itself to nicely. The Statesmen welcome back senior **MARCUS ERIKSSON** and his soft hands, but he'll be pushed by a trio of underclassmen.

Physical clones of each other, sophomore **KYLE MARTIN** (6-3, 225), first-year **ALEX SERLES** (6-3, 220), and first-year **LOU ZAPP** (6-2, 225) run in a dead-heat with Eriksson for the starting nod.

#### OFFENSIVE LINE

Hobart returns athletic and experienced

KEVIN COLTON/SPORTSPICS.NET



Hobart's offensive line returns six players that started at least four games last season, including sophomore Nino Giambone (#57) and All-Liberty League senior Jeff Bruckman (#61).

# SEASON OUTLOOK

offensive linemen but could run short on depth if the injury bug hits too hard. The entire unit was recognized by *D3Football.com* last season after clearing the way for a 248-yard rushing day at Rensselaer against an Engineer defense that came into the game allowing just 118.4 yards per game.

Bell, by virtue of his sheer magnitude both in terms of talent and physical size, grabs the attention of most opponents, overshadowing the exceptional play of senior left tackle **JEFF BRUCKMAN**. The two-time All-Liberty League selection has worked tirelessly over the past two seasons, protecting the quarterback's blindside, and carried that diligence even further during the past offseason leaving him poised for his finest season yet.

First-year **PHIL PERKINS** (6-3, 270), an All-State selection out of Andover, Mass., has all of the physical tools to step into the starting lineup right away and will serve as an understudy to Bruckman.

Second-team All-Liberty League right tackle **RYAN HALLINGS** returns for his senior season after stepping into an injury plagued line and providing a steady blocker along side Bell.

Sophomore **MIKE DEPERISIS** (6-0, 245) will move his size and strength to right tackle and will challenge for the a spot in

the starting lineup. With a glut of talent at tight end, the Hobart coaching staff opted to use DePersis' outstanding blocking to shore up the depth of the offensive line.

At left guard, **NINO GIAMBRONE**, praised by the coaching staff for his coachability and determination, outperformed expectations despite nagging knee injuries in 2003. Senior **MATT MONTROY** will start the season in Giambrone's spot until the sophomore is healthy. Montroy (6-0, 250) played a little bit of everywhere last season and could fill that role again this season.

In the middle, senior **JOSH VAN AUKEN** (6-2, 275) returns to his starting role. A Liberty League All-Academic team member, he is extremely intelligent, both in the classroom and on the field. He will be charged with adjusting the blocking assignments at the line.

## DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Bennett enjoyed a monster season last year, increasing his tackle production by 45 percent over 2002, while quadrupling his tackles for a loss total to a team-leading 10.5. He's quick to exploit an opponent's weakness and gives the Statesmen a strong pass rush.

Lining up next to him will be junior **RICK EICHELDINGER** (6-5, 275). An imposing figure, he's capable of dominating the line, but has been slowed by a shoulder injury. Sophomore **RYAN RAPAPORT** (6-2, 245) will be the first off the bench to fill in at either tackle. A strong run stopper, his development hit a speed bump when he lost the rest of the season to a knee injury in the Union game.

Sophomores **DAVID TIVIN** (5-10, 260) and **JOSH WEISS** (5-11, 235) also could compete for quality minutes.



Walt Bennett logged 2.5 tackles for a loss against Union in 2003, including this sack, and finished the season with a team-high 10.5 tackles for a loss.

## DEFENSIVE END

Purtell returns for what he hopes will be a healthy season. An exceptionally gifted athlete, Purtell has not played an entire season at 100 percent since his first season in Geneva. Sophomore **ANDY PURDIE** is a solid edge rusher as evidenced by his two sacks and team-high eight quarterback hurries (tracked only during Hobart home games).

Junior **ZACH YOUNG** also could figure into the starting rotation. His development has been slowed by a bum shoulder, but he has looked good in pre-season workouts and appears ready to contribute.

First-years **JIM DRURY** (Barrington HS/Barrington Hills, Ill.) and **DEREK PETERSON** (Xaverian Brothers HS/Westwood, Mass.) are strong and tough competitors that could work their way into quality playing time by midseason.

## OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

Gradis, pound-for-pound one of the strongest players on the team, is a brilliant talent in both passing and running situations. He thrived on the strong side last season. Manning the weak side will be Robinson. The team's leader in sacks in 2003, he is the first rookie to lead Hobart in that category in at least a decade. Junior



Jamie Anderson led the Liberty League and ranked 13th in the nation in passes defended in 2003.



**ANDREW SWEET** and sophomore **EVAN HOFFMAN** will give the team depth.

#### INSIDE LINEBACKER

Clemente will control the center. He enjoyed his strongest effort of the season at Ithaca, logging a career-best 16 tackles. Sophomore **TYLER MASON** is the early favorite to play on the weak side. He came on strong at the end of last season, and has raised the coaching staff's expectations for the 2004 campaign.

Sophomore **MARK LAWRENZ** is a versatile athlete who could see time at inside linebacker or at defensive tackle. First-year **JEFF SANDERS** (Camden HS/Camden, N.Y.) could prove to be one of the most athletic players on the team and will be difficult to keep off the field.

#### CORNER BACK

Anderson and Washington give Hobart one of the best sets of cover corners in the region, but the excellence doesn't stop there. In addition to speedy junior **BRIAN SORHAINDO**, the Statesmen welcome a triumvirate of first-years who will form the nucleus of the Hobart secondary over the next four years: **JAMES ALEXANDER**, **ANTHONY BRINE**, and **BRYAN NEWCOMB**.

Alexander, at 6-foot-2, 190-pounds, comes from one of the best prep school programs in New England (St. John's Prep/Beverly, Mass.) and is equal parts power and speed. Brine (5-9, 175) and Newcomb (5-8, 175), while not as tall as Alexander, are blessed with blistering speed and outstanding cover skills.

#### FREE SAFETY

Junior **RYAN SMITH** is slated to quarterback the defense from the free safety position, but he may not have much time to prove his worth. Smith played in all 10 games, starting two in relief of an injured teammate, raking up 29 tackles (22 solo) and a pair of interceptions.

Waiting in the wings will be first-year **MIKE KAPLUN** (6-1, 195). In three varsity seasons at Webster (N.Y.) Schroeder High School, Kaplun lost only one game, winning two state championships and one runner-up finish. A talented athlete, he was a defensive back and quarterback for the Warriors' 2003 New York State Class AA Championship team.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

Hobart's special teams will look much the same as they have over the past three seasons. The jack-of-all-trades, Suozzi will

continue to handle the punting and punt returns. Senior **ERIC AMPUJA**, a two-time All-Liberty League selection, returns for his final season looking to push his career records for PATs made (81) and points by a kicker (120) well beyond any of those who came before him. Piñero (21.1 yds/KOR) and Washington (32.1 yds/KOR) also will figure into the mix returning kicks.

Two players that didn't get enough recognition last season for their contributions on special teams were gunners Brian Sorhaindo and Kent Thorpe. The duo combined for 21 stops last season, primarily on special teams.

#### SCHEDULE

With the expansion of the Liberty League, Hobart will take a different approach to this season. To make room for Coast Guard, Kings Point, and WPI, Alfred, Ithaca, and St. John Fisher were dropped from the schedule and the Statesmen's two remaining non-conference games, Dickinson

and Franklin & Marshall, were moved to the beginning of the slate.

That adjustment essentially makes the showdowns with the Red Devils and the Diplomats exhibitions for the Liberty League calendar. It's not that the coaching staff won't try to win those games, but they're hardly must win games in terms of postseason implications as in the past.

The road to a third straight conference crown will begin where the 2003 title trip ended, at Rensselaer on Sept. 25. From there, the Statesmen will return home for dates with WPI and Coast Guard before heading back out on the road for contests at Kings Point and St. Lawrence.

The schedule closes the regular season on Boswell Field against Union and Rochester. Under the League's new scheduling, the Yellowjackets, who handed Hobart its lone conference loss last season, will be the Statesmen's season-ending game for the first time since 1971.

KEVIN COLTON/SPORTSPICS.NET



2003 Liberty League Co-Defensive Player of the Year Tony Clemente (#42) led Hobart in solo tackles (34), total tackles (70), and forced fumbles (3).