

ALBANY EMPIRE

WEEKLY GAME NOTES

ALBANY EMPIRE (0-0)

Vs

PHILADELPHIA SOUL (0-0)

7 p.m. Saturday, April 14, 2018 Times Union Center, Albany, NY

QUICK FACTS

Albany Empire (0-0) vs Philadelphia Soul (0-0)

Date: Saturday, April 14, 2018

Kickoff: 7 p.m. EST

Site: Times Union Center (17,500)

Officials: Johnson, Colosimo, Leffle, Valenti, Bell

TV: CBS

Radio: ALT 105.7

Series Record: 0-0

Coaches: Rob Keefe (0-0 with Albany); Clint Dolezel (70-25 with Soul)

2018 SOUL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Kickoff	Result
April 14	PHILADELPHIA	7 p.m.	
April 21	@ Washington	7 p.m.	
April 28	@ Baltimore	3 p.m.	
May 5	WASHINGTON	7:30 p.m.	
BYE WEEK			
May 19	@ Philadelphia	6 p.m.	
May 26	WASHINGTON	6 p.m.	
June 2	BALTIMORE	7 p.m.	
June 9	BALTIMORE	7 p.m.	
June 16	PHILADELPHIA	6 p.m.	
June 23	@ Baltimore	7:30 p.m.	
June 29	@ Washington	7 p.m.	
July 7	PHILADELPHIA	7 p.m.	

MEDIA CONTACTS

Albany	Philadelphia
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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY	OFF
TUESDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
WEDNESDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
THURSDAY	Practice 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m
FRIDAY	Walk Through
SATURDAY	Albany vs. Soul 7 p.m.

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EMPIRE VS SOUL

MATCHUP PREVIEW

The first matchup to lookout for is the Albany Empire backfield versus Soul star receiver, Darius "Money" Reynolds. The Empire backfield is comprised of AFL ball hawking veterans who all invite the ball to be thrown in their direction. Varmah Sonie, Marrio Norman, Brandon Stephens, and Arthur Hobbs are just a few of the names who will share time shadowing Reynolds on Transfinder Field. Reynolds led the soul last season, compiling 84 receptions for 1,272 yards and 35 touchdowns.

Another matchup to watch out for is between The Empire's big touchdown grabbing wideouts, Greg Carr and Doug McNeil III, against Soul defensive backs, James Romain and Dwayne Hollis. Both Carr and McNeil III stand over 6 feet, three inches and expect to be capping off each drive with a different dance move to celebrate a touchdown. Romain and Hollis finished first and second on the Soul last season in tackles and interceptions.

The third and potentially most electrifying matchup is between Empire QB Tommy Grady and Soul QB Dan Raudabaugh. Grady, holds many records in the AFL, as he posted the greatest single season ever in the history of the league in 2012. During that season, he threw for 142 touchdowns, nearly 6,000 yards, and tossed an incredible 12 touchdowns in a single game. Last season, Raudabaugh led the Soul to it's second consecutive championship, and threw for 3,175 yards and 82 touchdowns.

THE IFS:

If the Empire defeats the Soul it would...

- * Be the first win in the history of the Albany Empire
- * Give the Empire a 1-0 record for the 2018 season
- * Be the first AFL game won in Albany since the 1999 Championship game, won by the Albany Firebirds

PHILADELPHIA TIES

- * Empire Head Coach, Rob Keefe, won a championship playing with the Philadelphia Soul in 2008
- * Pass Rush Coordinator, Beau Bell, played the last three seasons with the Philadelphia Soul, winning two ArenaBowl's and receiving All-Arena Honors and Defensive Player of the Year
- * The Empire have three players on the 24-man roster that have played on the Philadelphia Soul in years past

OPPOSING PLAYERS TO WATCH

Coming off of the team's second championship in as many years, **Dan Raudabaugh**, looks to continue his string of success against the Empire's elite defense. Raudabaugh is a three-time All-Arena recipient, two-time AFL passing touchdowns leader, and was the AFL MVP in 2015.

Raudabaugh's top target, **Darius Reynolds**, is another AFL vet who will be looking for any opening he can find against the Empire secondary. Reynolds is a three-time ArenaBowl Champion, two-time All-Arena, and led the Soul in touchdowns, yards and catches in 2017.

THE SERIES

This will be the first time the Albany Empire and Philadelphia Soul compete against each other in AFL history.

WHAT'S AHEAD

After the inaugural game, the Empire set course for the franchise's first away game at the Washington Valor. The game on Saturday, 4/21 will be at 7 p.m. Tune into Alt 105.7 for full coverage!

THE COACHES

ALBANY EMPIRE HEAD COACH ROB KEEFE

Keefe enters his ninth season as a coach in the AFL. At the age of 29 he became the youngest head coach in AFL history to win an Arena Football League Championship, when he led the Spokane Shock to an ArenaBowl victory in their first year in the AFL. He is the only person in Arena Football history to win an Arena Cup (AF2) and ArenaBowl (AFL) title as both a player and a coach.

As a player, Keefe was a defensive back. During his playing days, he set team records for the Spokane Shock as their all time leader in tackles and interceptions. Making the transition from AF2 to AFL, Keefe joined the Philadelphia Soul, where he won a championship in 2008.

Keefe's first season as a head coach, the Spokane Shock boasted the league's top-ranked defense, allowing a mere 37.6 points per game. The shock won an ArenaCup in that same season.

Posting a career 61-30 record as a head coach in the AFL (#1), Keefe most recently led the Orlando Predators as head coach and vice president of football operations from 2014-2016. In his stint in Orlando, Rob won a division championship in each of his three years leading the team.

VS. THE SOUL

This will be Coach Keefe's first time facing the Philadelphia Soul.

COACHING RECORD

Coach Keefe's record as a head coach in the AFL:

2018 Regular Season: 0-0
Career Regular Season: 61-30
Career Playoff: 5-3
Career Total: 66-33

PHILADELPHIA SOUL HEAD COACH CLINT DOLEZEL

Dolezel begins his sixth season as Head Coach of the Philadelphia Soul. During his first season with the team, the fourth-year AFL head coach led the team to an ArenaBowl appearance, a 14-7 record and an American Conference Championship.

Dolezel landed his first professional head coaching position with the San Angelo Stampede (IFL) and guided them to the second round of the playoffs. In 2011, Dolezel was tabbed as head coach of the AFL's Dallas Vigilantes and made the playoffs with an 11-7 regular-season record and a playoff appearance in his rookie head-coaching season.

Dolezel spent 2012 as the Offensive Coordinator of the Philadelphia Soul, where the team shattered offensive scoring records... 1,228 points and 68.2 average per game.

The 2012 AFL Hall of Fame inductee had a storied 13-year playing career where he still finds himself amongst the all-time leaders in passing yards (No. 3 with 44,564), touchdown passes (No. 2 with 931), passing attempts (No. 4 with 5,698), and completions (No. 4 with 3,749). He was also named the No. 8 top player in AFL history by the Silver Anniversary Committee in 2012.

VS. THE EMPIRE

This will be Coach Dolezel's first time facing the Albany Empire.

COACHING RECORD

Coach Dolezel's record as a head coach in the AFL:

2018 Regular Season: 0-0
Career Regular Season: 73-29
Career Playoff: 8-4
Career Total: 81-33

EMPIRE LEADERS

THE INAUGURAL SEASON: Since 1999, Arena Football has been absent from the Capital Region. The Albany Empire organization is honored to bring football back to the city of Albany. Playing on the brand new Transfinder Field in the Times Union Center, the Empire look to instantly become a staple in the league for years to come.

LEADING THE WAY: QB Tommy Grady brings a world of experience to the Empire. Standing at 6 feet, seven inches, Grady easily sees over offensive lines and slings the ball all over the field. In 2012, Grady posted the greatest single season for a quarterback in AFL history. At the helm of the Utah Blaze, Grady threw for single season records with 142 touchdowns and 5,863 yards. He also tossed for 12 touchdowns in a single game against the Cleveland Gladiators, another AFL record.

LOOK OUT FOR: WR Greg Carr, enters his fifth year in the AFL. After an accolade filled collegiate career at Florida State, Carr played four years in the Canadian Football League. He made his debut in the AFL in 2014, where he took home rookie of the year honors. Throughout his career in the AFL, Carr has tallied 311 receptions for 89 touchdowns.

ALL ARENA DEFENSIVE LINEMAN: DE Joe Sykes, is just one of the standouts on the Empire defensive line. At 6'5", 265lbs, Sykes is a nightmare for opposing quarterbacks. The two-time AFL Defensive Player of the Year looks to add to his career sack total, a number that currently ranks third in AFL history.

LOCKDOWN BACKFIELD: Being a defensive back himself, Keefe loaded up the backfield with ball-hawking AFL veterans. As if the defensive line wasn't striking fear in opposing quarterbacks enough, the backfield will make sure that opposing receivers will have a long day trying to get open against the Empire. Varmah Sonie, Marrio Norman, and Arthur Hobbs are just a few of the names to look out for in the backfield.

2017 INDIVIDUAL REGULAR SEASON LEADERS:

Philadelphia	Category	Albany
Raudabaugh (268.8)	Total Offense	N/A
Raudabaugh (69.3)	Completion Pct.	N/A
Raudabaugh (101)	Pass TDs	N/A
Raudabaugh (125.0)	Passer Rating	N/A
Raudabaugh (4303)	Passing Yds	N/A
Raudabaugh (339)	Pass Comps	N/A
Raudabaugh (268.9)	Pass Yds/Gm	N/A
Reynolds (252)	Scoring	N/A
Reynolds (42)	Touchdowns	N/A
Reynolds (112)	Receptions	N/A
Reynolds (1447)	Receiving Yds	N/A
Reynolds (38)	TD Receptions	N/A
Richardson (320)	Rush Yds	N/A
Richardson (20)	Rush TDs	N/A
Duvalt (49)	KO Returns	N/A
Duvalt (878)	KOR Yards	N/A
Reynolds (1486)	All-Purpose Yds	N/A
Belton (80)	Tackles	N/A
Hollis (9)	Interceptions	N/A
Metz (8.0)	Sacks	N/A

2017 LEAGUE TEAM RANKINGS

Category	Philadelphia (Rank)	Albany (Rank)
Scoring Offense	61.4 (2)	N/A
Scoring Defense	48.4 (3)	N/A
Total Offense	297.5 (2)	N/A
Total Defense	271.4 (4)	N/A
Pass Offense	275.4 (2)	N/A
Pass Defense	256.7 (4)	N/A
Rushing Offense	22.1 (2)	N/A
Rushing Defense	14.8 (2)	N/A
Interceptions	25 (1)	N/A
Turnover Margin	+5 (4)	N/A
Kickoff Return Avg.	15.3 (6)	N/A
3rd Down Conversions	47.2 (5)	N/A
4th Down Conversions	58.6 (2)	N/A
Sacks By	22 (2)	N/A
Sacks Against	5 (1)	N/A

AROUND THE LEAGUE



2018 AFL STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Albany	0	0	0	0	0
Baltimore	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0

2018 AFL SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	
<i>Friday, April 13</i>	
Washington @ Baltimore	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, April 14</i>	
Philadelphia @ Albany	7 p.m.
WEEK 2	
<i>Saturday, April 21</i>	
Albany @ Washington	7 p.m.
Baltimore @ Philadelphia	7 p.m.
WEEK 3	
<i>Saturday, April 28</i>	
Albany @ Baltimore	3 p.m.
Washington @ Philadelphia	7:30 p.m.
WEEK 4	
<i>Friday, May 4</i>	
Philadelphia @ Baltimore	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, May 5</i>	
Washington @ Albany	7:30 p.m.
WEEK 5	
Universal Bye	
WEEK 6	
<i>Saturday, May 19</i>	
Baltimore @ Washington	3 p.m.
Albany @ Philadelphia	6 p.m.
WEEK 7	
<i>Friday, May 25</i>	
Philadelphia @ Baltimore	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, May 26</i>	
Washington @ Albany	6 p.m.

WEEK 8	
<i>Saturday, June 2</i>	
Philadelphia @ Washington	6 p.m.
Baltimore @ Albany	7 p.m.
WEEK 9	
<i>Saturday, June 9</i>	
Baltimore @ Albany	7 p.m.
<i>Sunday, June 10</i>	
Washington @ Philadelphia	4 p.m.
WEEK 10	
<i>Friday, June 15</i>	
Washington @ Baltimore	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, June 16</i>	
Philadelphia @ Albany	6 p.m.
WEEK 11	
<i>Friday, June 22</i>	
Philadelphia @ Washington	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, June 23</i>	
Albany @ Baltimore	7:30 p.m.
Week 12	
<i>Friday, June 29</i>	
Albany @ Washington	7 p.m.
<i>Saturday, June 30</i>	
Baltimore @ Philadelphia	7 p.m.
Week 13	
<i>Saturday, July 7</i>	
Baltimore @ Washington	3 p.m.
Philadelphia @ Albany	7 p.m.

EMPIRE ROSTER

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
2	WR	Greg Carr	6'5	200	Florida State	4
3	DE	Darryl Cato-Bishop	6'4	265	NC State	4
68	OL	Ryan Cave	6'5	335	Hampton	7
6	DB	Oshay Dunmore	6'3	205	Southern Oregon	R
12	QB	Mike Fafaul	6'2	215	UCLA	R
92	DL	Calvin Fance	6'1	195	Angelo State	5
4	QB	Tommy Grady	6'7	245	Utah	7
75	OL	Hayworth Hicks	6'3	330	Iowa State	3
24	DB	Arthur Hobbs	5'10	190	Nebraska Kearney	2
7	WR	Malachi Jones	6'3	215	Appalachian State	R
66	OL	Shawn Lockett	6'1	335	American International	R
13	FB	Wes Mauia	6'1	280	Western New Mexico	5
25	DE	Lance McDowdell	6'4	310	Central Florida	R
56	DE	Willie McGinnis	6'3	295	Rhode Island	5
23	DB	Erick McIntosh	5'10	180	Florida Atlantic	6
9	WR	Doug McNeil III	6'3	210	Bowie State	1
8	LB	Terence Moore	6'2	225	Troy	7
21	DB	Marrion Norman	6'1	205	Coastal Carolina	6
72	OL	Bret Piekarski	3'4	305	St. Cloud State	1
99	DL	Nick Seither	6'3	270	Georgetown KY	2
10	DB	Varmah Sonie	5'8	190	Northern Iowa	4
19	K	Kenny Spencer	6'1	220	Northern Alabama	6
5	DB	Brandon Stephens	5'11	210	Miami, OH	4
58	OL	Kyle Steuck	6'3	310	Northern Michigan	R
56	DE	Willie McGinnis III	6'3	295	Rhode Island	5
58	OL	Kyle Steuck	6'3	310	Northern Michigan	R
50	LB	Derrick Summers	6'1	260	Toledo	7
1	DE	Joe Sykes	6'5	265	Southern	6
11	WR	Collin Taylor	6'1	205	Indiana	7
18	WR	Jordan Williams	6'3	220	Edinboro	R

EMPIRE COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Rob Keefe

ASSISTANT HEAD COACH: Les Moss

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Chris Thompson

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL/PASS RUSH COORDINATOR: Beau Bell

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER OPERATIONS: Brandon Goldstein

NUMERICAL ROSTER

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
1	DE	Joe Sykes	6'5	265	Southern	6
2	WR	Greg Carr	6'5	200	Florida State	4
3	DE	Darryl Cato-Bishop	6'4	265	NC State	4
4	QB	Tommy Grady	6'7	245	Utah	7
5	DB	Brandon Stephens	5'11	210	Miami, OH	4
6	DB	Oshay Dunmore	6'3	205	Southern Oregon	R
7	WR	Malachi Jones	6'3	215	Appalachian State	R
8	LB	Terence Moore	6'2	225	Troy	7
9	WR	Doug McNeil III	6'3	210	Bowie State	1
10	DB	Varmah Sonie	5'8	190	Northern Iowa	4
11	WR	Collin Taylor	6'1	205	Indiana	7
12	QB	Mike Fafaul	6'2	215	UCLA	R
13	FB	Wes Mauia	6'1	280	Western New Mexico	5
18	WR	Jordan Williams	6'3	220	Edinboro	R
19	K	Kenny Spencer	6'1	220	Northern Alabama	6
21	DB	Marrion Norman	6'1	205	Coastal Carolina	6
23	DB	Erick McIntosh	5'10	180	Florida Atlantic	6
24	DB	Arthur Hobbs	5'10	190	Nebraska Kearney	2
25	DE	Lance McDowdell	6'4	310	Central Florida	R
50	LB	Derrick Summers	6'1	260	Toledo	7
56	DE	Willie McGinnis	6'3	295	Rhode Island	5
58	OL	Kyle Steuck	6'3	310	Northern Michigan	R
66	OL	Shawn Lockett	6'1	335	American International	R
68	OL	Ryan Cave	6'5	335	Hampton	7
72	OL	Bret Piekarski	6'4	305	St. Cloud State	1
75	OL	Hayworth Hicks Sr.	6'3	330	Iowa State	3
92	DE	Calvin Fance	6'1	245	Angelo State	5
99	DE	Nick Seither	6'3	270	Georgetown KY	2

EMPIRE COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Rob Keefe

ASSISTANT HEAD COACH: Les Moss

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Chris Thompson

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL/PASS RUSH COORDINATOR: Beau Bell

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER OPERATIONS: Brandon Goldstein

2018 SOUL ROSTER

#	POS	NAME	HT	WT	COLLEGE	EXP
1	WR	Poppy Livers	5'7	175	Villanova	1
2	QB	Greg McGhee	6'3	205	Howard	R
3	FB	Jeramie Richardson	6'1	270	Angelo State	6
5	QB	Dan Raudabaugh	6'3	225	Miami (OH)	8
6	WR	Darius Prince	6'1	185	Penn State Beaver	R
7	WR	Darius Reynolds	6'2	205	Iowa State	6
10	DB	Robert Brown	6'3	205	Seton Hill	1
11	DL	John Sheehy	6'5	270	West Texas A&M	1
12	K	Adrian Trevino	5'11	190	Missouri Valley	5
18	JLB	Joe Goosby	6'1	235	Tulane	6
19	WR	Aaron Wascha	6'3	205	N/A	R
20	DB	Bryce Peila	6'1	205	Western Oregon	5
21	WR	Shaun Kauleinamoku	5'7	175	Western Oregon	7
22	DB	Dwayne Hollis	5'10	180	NC Wesleyan	2
23	DB	LaRico Stevenson	5'10	205	West Georgia	8
24	DB	Torez Jones	6'1	190	West Carolina	2
25	DB	James Romain	5'11	175	Delaware State	8
44	OL	Phillip Keith Manley	6'5	330	Toledo	3
45	FB	Adrian Ferns	6'1	245	Chowan	1
55	DL	Sean Daniels	6'3	265	Temple	2
58	WR	Thomas Dover	6'3	260	Ediboro	1
69	OL	Wayne Tribue	6'5	330	Temple	3
72	OL	Keith Newell	6'6	310	Delaware State	5
76	OL	Lenny Sanelli	6'3	315	Millersville	R
77	OL	Neal Tivis	6'5	330	Abilene Christian	7
90	DL	Donte Rumph	6'4	330	Kentucky	R
99	DL	Robert Hayes	6'2	270	Shepherd	3

SOUL COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Clint Dolezel

GENERAL MANAGER, ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/LINE

COACH: Phil Bogle

DEFENSIVE BACKS COACH: Bernie Nowotarski

EQUIPMENT MANAGER: Shawn Cronin