

The data confirms it: Baby, it's cold outside

Whether snow makes you think of walking in a winter wonderland or driving in a slippery traffic nightmare, it affects us all.

Sometimes, it paralyzes us. Remember the surprise storm of 1987? Sure, it was only 6 and a half inches, but the Oct. 4 storm – one of the earliest ever recorded – dumped heavy, wet snow on trees not yet bare of leaves. The result was snapped limbs, downed trees and power outages across the region.

Or how about the blizzard of '93? While Albany was suffering through the second-worst snowstorm in its history, the giant storm cell was wreaking havoc from Havana to Ottawa.

But snow can also cheer us up. Talk to a skier, if you can find one who isn't already on

the slopes. And who hasn't wished for a white Christmas? It's about 50/50 on whether we'll see snow on Dec. 25, though there still could be snow on the ground from the last storm.

And sometimes, the snow misses us entirely. The winter of 2011-12 brought less than two feet of snow. Total. All winter. Full stop.

By comparison, parts of Buffalo recently got enough snow to bury all of 6-foot-8 LeBron James, while the average Syracuse winter – and its 99 inches of snow – would make some of us cry "Uncle!"

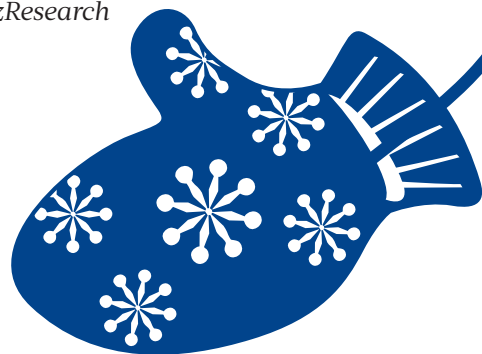
There's a reason those cities have won the "Golden Snowball" many times, a contest started by National Weather Service meteorologists to see which upstate, central or western New York city gets the most snow in the winter.

– Todd Kehoe, @AlbBizResearch



-52 degrees

Coldest ever recorded temp in New York. Old Forge, Feb. 18, 1979



DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS

Ever since Bing Crosby sang and danced with Danny Kaye, people have been dreaming of a white Christmas. Could it happen this year? The forecast says we have about a 50/50 shot. So do the odds: Albany has had at least a trace of snowfall 10 times since 1994. Here are some Christmas weather extremes:



2002

WHITEST CHRISTMAS

You probably remember this one. We had 19.2 inches of snow on Christmas Day, making it the snowiest holiday ever recorded. In total, that storm dropped 21 inches on Albany.



1987

WETTEST CHRISTMAS

It doesn't rain often on Christmas. But in 1987, we received 0.57 inches of precipitation – and no snow.



1969

COLDEST CHRISTMAS NIGHT

The temperature got all the way down to -22 on Christmas, the coldest temperature ever recorded locally in December.



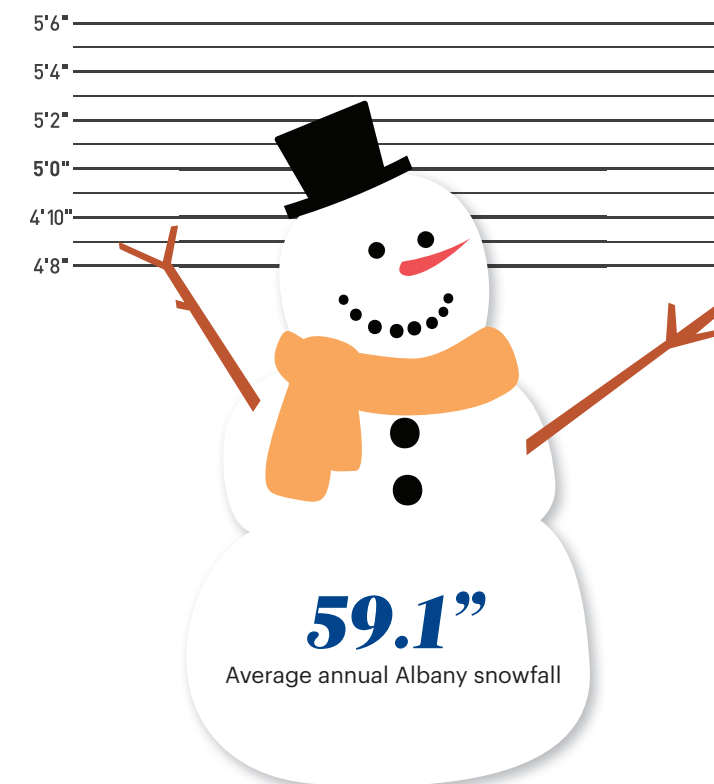
1889

WARMEST CHRISTMAS DAY

Forget the hats and coats – the high on Christmas Day in 1889 was a spring-like 66. The high on Christmas has only topped 60 one other time, in 1964.

SNOWIEST WINTERS IN ALBANY HISTORY

WINTER	INCHES OF SNOW
1970-71	112.5
1887-88	110
2002-03	105.4
1890-91	99.6
1981-82	97.1
1915-16	94.7
1992-93	94.2
1886-87	94.2
1947-48	90

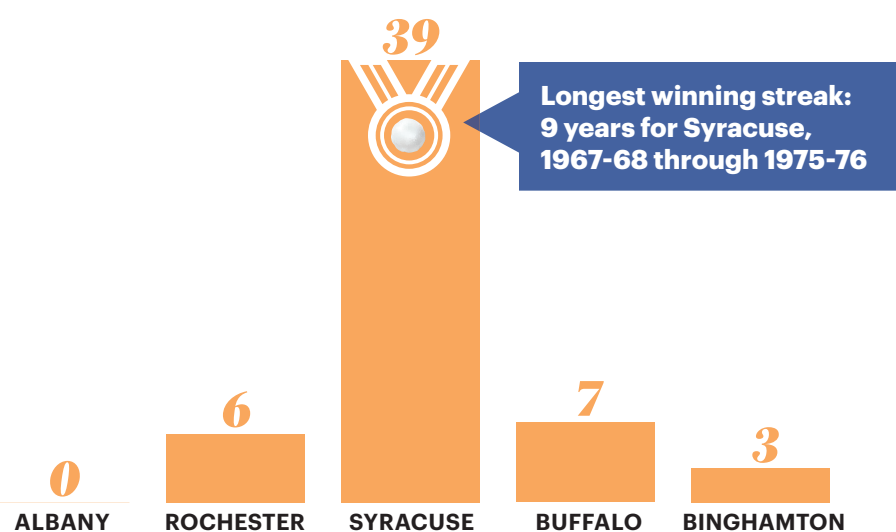


LEAST SNOWIEST WINTERS IN ALBANY HISTORY

WINTER	INCHES OF SNOW
1912-13	13.8
1988-89	19
2011-12	23.3
1929-30	24.8
1918-19	26.7
1979-80	27.4
1889-90	28.1
1936-37	28.4
1914-15, 1990-91	28.7

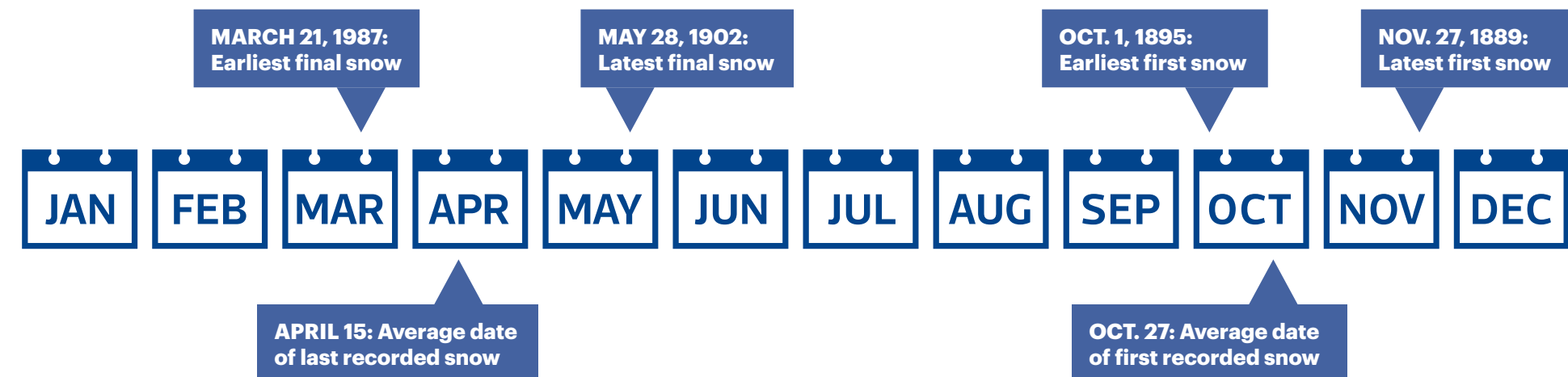
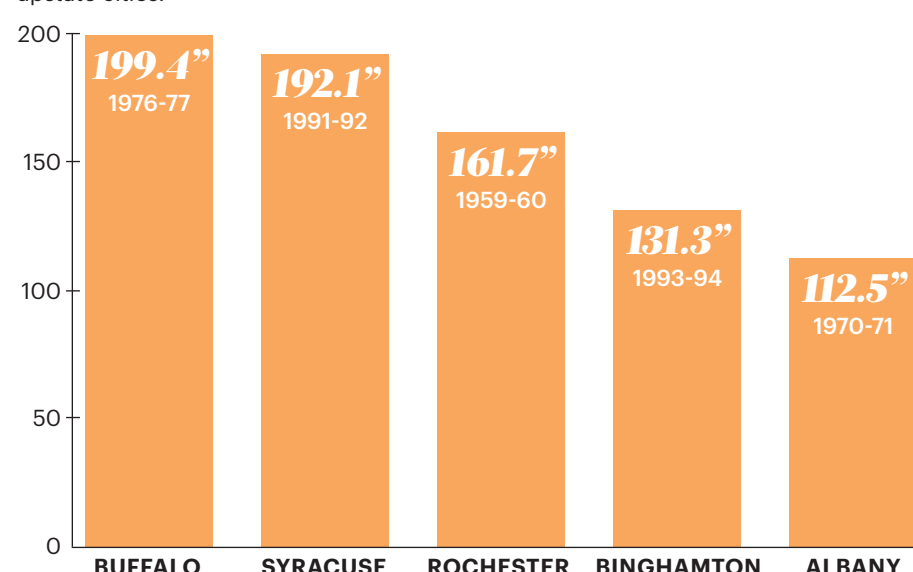
ABOUT THAT GOLDEN SNOWBALL AWARD

Golden Snowball winners from 1952 to today. This contest for the snowiest upstate city didn't officially start until the mid-70s, but 1952 is the starting point at which data is available for upstate cities. Syracuse, incidentally, has won 12 out of the last 14 winters.

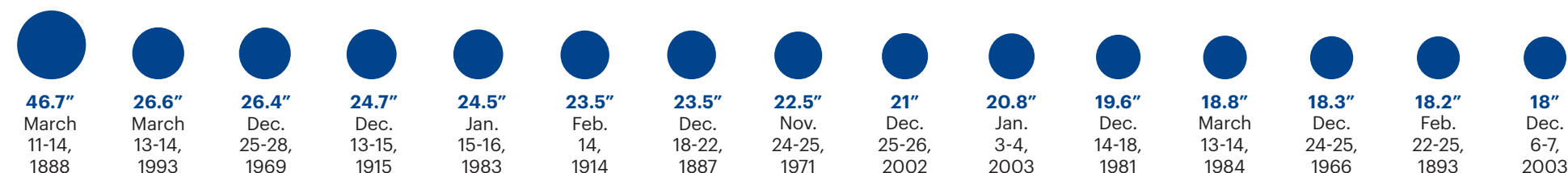


A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE...

The winter of 1970-71 brought the most snow Albany has ever seen in one season. All that snow, though, doesn't compare with snowfall records in some of the snowier upstate cities.



THE TOP 15 SNOWSTORMS IN ALBANY HISTORY



IT'LL BE A COLD DAY...

Coldest day on record	-28	Jan. 19, 1971
Warmest winter day	71	Happened 3 times, latest on Jan. 6, 2007
Coldest average winter temperature	17.3 degrees	1867-68
Warmest average winter temperature	32.7 degrees	1931-32
Warmest year by average temperature	51.6 degrees	2012
Most 0 degree days in a winter	32	1874-75
Fewest 0 degree days in a winter	0	Five times; has happened three times since 2000-01.
Longest cold wave*	15 days	Jan. 20-Feb. 3, 1961



1988-89
1991-92
2011-12

Winters in which there were zero 5-inch snowstorms