

AU men's swimming and diving team crowned Empire 8 conference champion

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ALFRED The Alfred University men's swimming and diving team can add a conference title to its list of accomplishments this season. The Saxons, who won the University's first-ever state championship over the weekend and whose coach, Brian Striker, was named 2003 men's swimming and diving state Coach of the Year, have been named Empire 8 Conference champions. The conference champion is determined using preliminary times turned in by swimmers from Empire 8 Conference schools at the New York State meet. AU was joined by fellow conference institutions Hartwick, Ithaca, Nazareth, Rochester Institute of Technology and Utica at the state meet, held Feb. 27-March 1 in Webster, NY. Alfred scored 803 points to edge Ithaca (740 points) for the conference title. Alfred swimmers who won individual conference titles were sophomore Kevin Martin (Conesus/Livonia) in the 100 butterfly and junior Mike Dube (Williamsburg, VA/Lafayette) in the 200 backstroke. The 200 freestyle relay team of junior Matt Weems (Arlington, VA/Washington Lee), freshman Alex Crowell (Wayland, MA/Wayland), Martin and senior Carl Schwarting (Weedsport/Weedsport) and the 800 freestyle team of Martin, Weems, freshman Brian Gotham (Syracuse/Nottingham) and senior Federico Gentry (Peoria, IL/Richwoods) also won conference titles. Martin also placed second in the 50 freestyle and third in the 200 butterfly. Dube was third in the 100 backstroke, while Weems was second in the 200 freestyle and third in the 500 freestyle. Other top-three swimmers for AU were junior Bill Brown (Chaffee/Pioneer), third in the 100 butterfly, and Gotham, second in the 200 breaststroke. In the 400 medley relay, the team of senior Josh Chapman (Leicester/York), Crowell, Brown and junior Matt McNamara (Livonia/Livonia) took second and the team of Dube, Gotham, Martin and Weems placed third. The team of Dube, Gotham, Brown and Schwarting took third in the 200 medley relay, while the team of Weems, McNamara, Crowell and Martin took third in the 400 freestyle relay.