

## **AU men's soccer team knocks off Ithaca to earn spot in conference championship game**

11/01/03

ITHACA, NY -- The Alfred University men's team will play Sunday for the Empire 8 championship and a berth in the NCAA playoffs after knocking off Ithaca College Saturday afternoon in the first round of the conference tournament. Alfred, the fourth seed in the tournament, advanced to the championship after defeating the top-seeded Bombers 4-3 on penalty kicks. With the score tied at 1-1 after regulation, the teams played two scoreless overtime periods, setting up the penalty kick round. The Saxons (9-5-3, 3-3 Empire 8) will play second-seeded Nazareth at 1 p.m. Sunday at Ithaca, with the winner earning the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III championship tournament. Nazareth defeated the third seed, St. John Fisher, 2-1 in overtime in Saturday's other semifinal. Ithaca (11-2-4, 5-0-1 Empire 8), ranked 23rd in the nation among Division III schools, struck first on Saturday, with Tom Nevinger scoring unassisted three minutes into the game. AU junior forward Keith Phelan (Baldwin/Baldwin) tied the contest on a penalty kick with just over 13 minutes remaining in the opening half. Freshman Brian Middleton (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) played all of regulation and both overtimes in goal for Alfred, making eight saves. Freshman Jim Roberts (Syracuse/Westhill) got the nod in goal for Alfred during the penalty shot round. Ted Meyer went the distance in goal for Ithaca, making five saves.