

AU women's tennis team sweeps Empire 8 Conference awards

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ROCHESTER, NY -Alfred University dominated the Empire 8 all-conference women's tennis teams, announced today by the conference. Senior Alicia Ballard (Burlington, VT/Burlington) was named conference Player of the Year; freshman Katie Calfee (Kirkwood, Mo/Kirkwood) was named Rookie of the Year; and head coach Brian Friedland was named Coach of the Year. Ballard, who earned Player of the Year honors in 2003, was also named to the all-Empire 8 First Team. A First Team conference all-star all four years at Alfred, Ballard finished her college career with a 43-6 record in singles play. Calfee, who was also named a First Team conference all-star, had an outstanding first year at AU. She had an 11-1 record in second singles and advanced to the semifinals at last weekend's state championships. Friedland was named the conference's top coach after guiding AU to its first-ever Empire 8 Conference championship. The Lady Saxons' perfect season -(12-0 overall; 8-0 Empire 8) culminated in a 5-4 victory over top-seeded Ithaca in the conference tournament championship match. Friedland was also named Coach of the Year in 2001. Sophomore Jodi Butterfoss (Elizabethtown, PA/Elizabethtown) was named to the all-Empire 8 First Team after finishing with a 12-0 record in third singles. Butterfoss, who was Empire 8 Rookie of the Year and a First team all-star in 2003, has a career 21-3 singles record. Two AU doubles teams were also named conference all-stars. Ballard and Butterfoss were named First Team all-stars after compiling a 9-0 record in first doubles. The pair, which had a 17-1 record in first doubles over the last two seasons, also earned First Team honors last season. Calfee and sophomore Jamie Drooz (Pittsford/Pittsford-Mendon) were given honorable mention after logging a 6-3 mark this season in second doubles. The Empire 8 Conference is made up of Alfred University, Elmira College, Hartwick College, Ithaca College, Nazareth College, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher College and Utica College.