

Alfred University to induct four into Sports Hall of Fame

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ALFRED, NY Four former standout student-athletes at Alfred University will be inducted into the University's Sports Hall of Fame this fall. John Walsh '84, William Ruffle '88, John Hoosock '92, and Julie Francis '93 will be inducted during banquet ceremonies Saturday, Oct. 8. The AU Hall of Fame banquet is held each year during homecoming weekend. The University will also be honoring the 1988 men's and women's soccer teams, which both competed in the NCAA tournament. Walsh was a three-year member of the track and field teams at AU (1982-84) and served as captain his senior season. During his career, he set several school records that still stand today. He owns individual records for the indoor high jump (2.07 meters, set in 1984) and the outdoor high jump (2.09 meters, set in 1984). He was also part of the indoor and outdoor 1,600-meter relay teams that established school records. He was Independent Collegiate Athletic Conference (ICAC) champ in the indoor and outdoor high jump in 1982 and was the ICAC indoor champ in both the high jump and 400-meter run in 1983, when he led AU to the team indoor ICAC title. Walsh graduated from AU in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering. He is a president and CEO of Ceramic Protection Corp. in Newark, DE, a manufacturer of ceramic products used in industrial and military applications. He lives in Newark, DE, with his wife, Rina, and their two children, daughter Amanda (12) and son Daniel (11). Ruffle was a standout member of the men's soccer team from 1984-87, when he was a four-year starter who helped lead the Saxons to ECAC titles in 1984 and 1987. A regional All-American and ICAC First Team All-Star as a senior in 1987, Ruffle ranks sixth all-time at AU in career points (66), second in career goals (27) and ninth in career assists (12). In 1988, he served as an assistant coach on the AU women's team, helping to guide the Lady Saxons to an NCAA tournament appearance. Ruffle graduated from AU in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He earned his master's degree in education from Alfred in 1989. He is currently an instructor of mathematics at Northern Virginia Community College in Manassas, VA. He and his wife, Sheri, live in Reston, VA, with their daughter, Anna (7), and son, Paul (4). Hoosock is one of the top defensive players ever to play football at AU. A three-year starting defensive lineman who played from 1987-90, he holds the school record for tackles in a season (154, set in 1990) and ranks third all-time in career tackles (350). Hoosock was a First Team Pizza Hut All-American in 1989, when he helped lead the Saxons to victory in the ECAC North Championship game, and a Second Team Champion All-American in 1990. Hoosock earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from AU in 1992. He lives in Skaneateles, NY, and is a materials logistics professional at IBM in Endicott, NY. Francis is perhaps the top goalkeeper ever to play women's soccer at AU. A four-year starter from 1989-92, she holds school career records for saves (542) and shutouts (22). She also holds the school records for lowest goals-against average in a season (.98, set in 1990). Francis was a First Team New York State Collegiate Women's Athletic Association All-Star in 1992 and a First Team Empire Athletic Association All-Star in 1991 and 1992. As a freshman in 1989, she was named team Rookie of the Year after helping lead AU to the ECAC championship. Francis graduated from Alfred in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She lives in Glenview, IL, and is vice president and general manager for Coca-Cola Enterprises, Lakeshore (IL) Division.