

Nine matches played in second day of Empire 8 volleyball crossover tournament

10/20/07

ALFRED, NY First-place Stevens Tech won both its matches Saturday in the second day of the Empire 8 Crossover Tournament, being held this weekend, Oct. 19-21, at Alfred University. Stevens (28-1 overall) improved its Empire 8 record to 6-0 with 3-0 victories over St. John Fisher and Alfred. RIT won both its matches Saturday - 3-0 over Alfred and 3-1 over Nazareth - to improve its conference record to 5-1. RIT's lone loss in the conference came in the Empire 8's first-round crossover against Stevens, held last month at St. John Fisher. Nazareth wrapped up conference play with a 6-2 Empire 8 mark, beating Utica 3-0 and losing to RIT, 3-0. Ithaca will go into its final two conference matches Sunday (against Elmira and Utica) with a 4-2 Empire 8 mark, courtesy of a pair of wins Saturday: 3-1 over St. John Fisher and 3-1 over Hartwick. In other matches played Saturday, Hartwick beat Elmira to end conference play with a 3-5 record. Elmira, which beat Utica, 3-2, goes into Sunday's matches with a 2-4 record. Utica has a 1-5 conference mark going into Sunday. The host team, Alfred, ended its conference slate with an 0-8 mark. On Sunday, RIT plays Ithaca at 10 a.m.; Elmira plays Stevens and Utica plays Ithaca at 12:30 p.m.; and Utica plays Stevens and RIT plays Elmira at 3 p.m. The nine Empire 8 teams each played four matches in September at St. John Fisher in the first round of the round-robin crossover tournament and will each play four more this weekend at AU. The four teams with the best tournament records qualify for the Nov. 3 Empire 8 Championship tournament, the winner of which earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Championships.