

Former Saxon standout appointed men's soccer coach at Alfred University

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ALFRED -- Scott Miller, a former soccer standout at Alfred University, has been appointed the University's head men's soccer coach. Miller, who graduated from Alfred in 1996, replaces Ken Hassler, who left AU earlier this year to take the head coaching job at Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, NC. He looks forward to continuing the recent accomplishments of the AU men's soccer program, which includes Empire 8 Conference co-championships in 2001 and 2003 and an NCAA tournament appearance last fall. "I'm delighted to come back to my alma mater," Miller said. "I'm excited to take over and try to build on what Ken has done." Miller, 30, a native of Rochester, played four seasons under Hassler at AU (1992-95), where he was a four-year starting midfielder. He was named to the Empire Athletic Association All-Conference Team three years (1993-95) and was named an NCAA Division III Regional All-American twice (1993 and 1995). He ranks second on the AU career assists list with 25 and third on the career points list with 69 (22 goals, 25 assists). Hassler said Miller was "one of the best players ever at Alfred" and feels his attributes as a player, combined with his continued involvement in the game as a player and coach, bode well for the AU men's soccer program. "What made Scott a standout was his passion for the game, his commitment and dedication to the team and an understanding of what it takes to be successful," Hassler commented. "I think Scott is going to do a great job. He has the experience as a player and coach at so many levels that he brings a lot to the table. He has an ability to relate to the players and is a good communicator. I think he will do extremely well." After graduating from Alfred with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Miller played professionally for three years. He played on season (1997) with the Rochester Rhinos, an A League team in the United Soccer Leagues (USL). He played two seasons in the USL D-3 professional level: in 1998 with the Vermont Voltage and in 1999 with Arizona Sahuaros. Miller has coached at various collegiate, club and youth levels since 1996. He served one season (1996) as assistant men's soccer coach at Norwich (VT) University and was preseason assistant coach of the men's and women's soccer teams at SUNY Plattsburgh in 1998. He trained players for the Paradise Valley Soccer Club in Phoenix, AZ, from 1998-99 and from 2000-01 was a coach and trainer for National Capital Soccer League (NCSL) boys teams in the DC Stoddert Soccer League (DCSSL), a prestigious youth soccer organization in Washington, D.C. In 2002, Miller served as an assistant coach in the Olympic Development Program of the Virginia Youth Soccer Association. He spent three seasons (2001-03) as an assistant coach of men's soccer at Division I George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Miller comes to Alfred after serving from 2003-04 as youth director for Curt Onalfo Soccer, a training and instructional school for youth soccer players in northern Virginia and Washington D.C. Onalfo is an assistant coach for the U.S. National Team and a former U.S. Olympian who played four seasons in Major League Soccer. He inherits a solid team, which lost only one player from a squad that went 9-6-4, won the Empire 8 Conference tournament and lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament. With some promising recruits joining the team this fall, Miller is optimistic the Saxons can build on their recent achievements. "It's a really talented group," he said. "Our goal is to compete for another NCAA tournament bid. We want to repeat (last year's) success and go even further in the tournament." For Miller, getting the head coaching job at Alfred is a dream come true. "It's always been my goal to coach at the collegiate level," he said. "Being able to come back to Alfred is great. I'm excited to have this opportunity."