AU women steam splits opening matches at Empire 8 championships 10/12/02

ROCHESTER The Alfred University women's tennis team split its opening round matches Saturday at the Empire 8 conference championships. Alfred, seeded sixth, began the day with a rain-shortened 5-0 loss to third-seeded RIT, which placed the Lady Saxons in the consolation bracket. AU then defeated seventh seed Hartwick, 5-4. Singles winners for AU in the Hartwick match were sophomore Alicia Ballard (Burlington, VT/Burlington), 6-0, 6-0 in first singles; senior Alexis Piekarsky (Cliffside Park, NJ/Cliffside Park), 6-1, 6-2 in second singles; sophomore Janice Brooks (The Bronx, NY/Roosevelt), 6-3, 6-2 in third singles; and junior Beth Harris (Alfred/Alfred-Almond), 6-3, 6-4 in fourth singles Ballard and Piekarsky teamed for an 8-3 victory in first doubles. Alfred (7-7, 2-5 Empire 8) plays in the fifth place match Sunday at 9 a.m. at St. John Fisher College.