

AU women's tennis team concludes season with third place at Empire 8 tournament

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ROCHESTER The Alfred University women's tennis team concluded one of its most successful seasons in recent years by claiming third place at the Empire 8 conference tournament, held in Rochester Saturday and Sunday. The Lady Saxons finished the season with an 11-3 record (5-1 against conference opponents.) Alfred defeated Elmira, 5-4, in the match for third place Sunday. Singles winners for AU were freshman Alicia Ballard (Burlington, VT/Burlington), 6-2, 6-2 in first singles; sophomore Beth Harris (Alfred/Alfred-Almond), 6-3 in first singles, and freshman Janice Brooks (The Bronx/Roosevelt), 6-0, 6-0 in sixth singles. Doubles winners were seniors Erin Sands (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) and Alexis Piekarsky (Cliffside Park, NJ/Cliffside Park), 8-3 in second doubles, and Harris and senior Jen Benson (Warren, PA/Warren), 8-5 in third doubles. Alfred, the third seed, began the tournament with a 6-3 first-round win over sixth-seeded St. John Fisher. Singles winners for AU were Ballard, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 in first singles; Piekarsky, 6-3, 7-5 in second singles; senior Lindsay deCsipkes (Unionville, PA/Unionville), 7-5, 6-0 in third singles, and senior Jessica Torrey (Limestone/Allegany-Limestone), 6-3, 6-3 in sixth singles. Sands and Piekarsky won second doubles, 8-5 and Benson and Harris took third doubles, 8-4. The Lady Saxons lost their semifinal matchup against second-seeded Ithaca, 0-5. Sands and Piekarsky lost their first second doubles match of the year.