

Women's tennis team seeks return to Empire 8 dominance

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ALFRED, NY A veteran team, which features three members of the 2004 Empire 8 champion squad, hopes to lead the Alfred University women's tennis team back to the top of the conference standings. The Lady Saxons, led by first-year head coach Scott Cooper, hope to improve on last year's 4-8 record (2-6 in Empire 8 play). They will be paced by a trio of seniors who were instrumental in leading AU to its first and only Empire 8 crown three seasons ago. Katie Calfee (Kirkwood, MO/Kirkwood) has been a mainstay throughout her career at Alfred. The 2004 conference Rookie of the Year and three-time First Team all-conference selection has gone 34-3 in singles play during her career and went 12-0 on her way to being named Empire 8 Player of the Year in 2006. She has a 20-8 career doubles record. Calfee will be joined by fellow seniors Jodi Butterfoss (Elizabethtown, PA/Elizabethtown), a three-time First Team all-conference selection who did not play last fall, and Desiree Woods (Bradford, PA/Bradford), a fixture among Alfred's first-stringers since her freshman year who missed much of the 2006 campaign due to injury. Calfee, Butterfoss and Woods form a solid foundation for a team that also includes a pair of juniors who saw extensive playing time last fall Irene Brown (Syracuse, NY/West Genesee) and Elana Lewis (East Greenbush, NY/Averill Park) sophomore Holly Seidewand (Webster, NY/Webster Thomas) and freshmen Kate Cohen (Bradford, PA/Bradford) and Autumn McLain (Oneida, NY/Oneida). The return of Butterfoss is significant. In her three years with the team from 2003-05, she has gone 32-4 in singles matches (including a perfect 12-0 in 2004) and has been one of the Lady Saxons' top doubles players, with 20 career victories. Woods, the sixth singles player on the 2004 conference championship team, helps solidify the Alfred lineup, providing strength in singles and doubles. She has a career singles record of 15-12 and has teamed to go 11-8 in doubles action. Brown and Lewis went 1-6 and 4-8, respectively, in singles play in 2006. They went 2-3 and 4-5, respectively, in doubles. Alfred begins its 2007 season Sept. 8 and 1 p.m. at home against Empire 8 newcomer Stevens Tech.