

## Several AU men's soccer players earn honors for academic excellence

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ALFRED Several members of the Alfred University men's soccer team have been honored for excellence on the playing field and in the classroom. James Carroll III (Buffalo, NY/Bishop Timon), a senior defender for the Saxons and a ceramic engineering major, has been named a 2003 recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. He was among four AU students who received the award from SUNY Chancellor Robert L. King at a recent ceremony in Albany. The award recognizes 200 students statewide for combining academic excellence with significant contributions to the university community. A finalist for Alfred University's Male Student of the Year, Carroll earned a 3.61 GPA as a ceramic engineering major while playing four years of varsity soccer. He is the recipient of the Mark S. Miller Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Microscopy; a New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence; the Kazuo Inamori Endowed Scholarship and the Carborundum Scholarship. A member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Keramos and Tau Beta Pi honor societies, he is a teaching assistant and tutor and also volunteers as a counselor at the AU summer soccer camp. "The entire team is so proud of Jimmy," said his coach, Ken Hassler. "He has always excelled in all his activities and it's fantastic to see all his hard work result in such distinguished honors." Karl Gnann (Holley, NY/Holley) has been named Alfred University's ECAC Merit Medal winner. The award honors Gnann as AU's top senior student-athlete and recognizes his ability to combine excellence on the field with exceptional performance in the classroom and outstanding service to the institution. Gnann, who finished his playing career as the third-highest scorer in team history, is a ceramic engineering major. "Karl has been a tremendous leader and an incredible player for his entire career with Alfred," Hassler remarked. "His drive to succeed in all that he attempts and his commitment to his studies are qualities that very few individuals blend so effectively. It is an honor to have coached such an outstanding young man." Senior goalkeeper Kevin Ball (Wheeling, WV/Linsly School) was the winner of the Milton Tuttle Award for Excellence in Ceramic Engineering. The award (given to a male and female student-athlete) recognizes the academic and athletic accomplishments of the top student-athlete in the ceramic engineering program. Alfred's single-season record holder for shutouts and goals against average, Ball was the second ranked goalie among all Division III schools in the nation as a junior in 2001. He finished his career ranked second all-time in goals against average, victories and winning percentage. "Kevin is one of the best keepers ever to wear an Alfred jersey," Hassler said. "His desire, intelligence and hard work helped him to become one of the top keepers in the country." Three members of the men's soccer team were cited by the Empire 8 athletic conference for academic excellence during the fall semester. Carroll was joined by freshman midfielder Skylar Pais (Trout Run, PA/Liberty), an environmental science major, and senior defender Dale Owen (Endicott/Union-Endicott), an economics major, on the Empire 8 Presidents List. Student-athletes with a GPA of at least 3.75 are named to the Presidents List. "Earning a place on the Presidents List is a tremendous honor and reflects the pride that these players have for their academic achievement," Hassler stated. Earlier this year, Owen, along with senior defender Pat Mancini (Endwell/Maine-Endwell), a mechanical engineering major, were named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of American (MSCAA)/Adidas All-East Scholar-Athlete Team. It marks the second straight year Owen and Mancini were named to the All-East team. "Dale and Pat are terrific individuals," Hassler commented. "They were outstanding on the field and their quest for excellence clearly carried over into the classroom."