

Veteran AU women's lacrosse team looks to climb ranks of the Empire 8

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ALFRED, NY — With seven of 12 starters returning from a season ago five of them juniors and seniors the 2013 Alfred University women's lacrosse team is an experienced, veteran squad, optimistic it can improve on a 4-10 season in 2012, when the Saxons went winless in Empire 8 Conference play.

Scoring goals shouldn't be a problem, as the team's top three goal scorers (and four of the top five) return. Sophomore attacker Kaitlyn Button (Canastota, NY/Cazenovia) led the team in goals (34) and with 10 assists tied for the team lead in points with 44. Senior midfielder Ali Garcia (Salt Lake City, UT/Judge Memorial) also had 44 points on 32 goals and team-best 12 assists, and her 42 groundballs were second on the team. She and Button each earned honorable mention from the Empire 8 Conference.

Junior attack Ashley White (Islip, NY/Islip) had 26 goals and three assists to go with a team-leading 57 draw controls. She added 25 groundballs and her 10 caused turnovers were tied for second on the team with Button.

Adding depth on attack will be sophomore Maria Bentley (Seneca Falls, NY/Mynderse), who saw action in 10 games (four starts) in 2012 and had three goals and two assists; and sophomore Atsede Scarseth (Ithaca, NY/Ithaca), a first-year player.

A four-year starting senior will help anchor the midfield. Tracie McGinnity (Rochester, NY/Gates-Chili) had 11 goals and five assists and led the team in groundballs (47) and caused turnovers (16). White could also see time at midfield.

Three newcomers sophomore Sarah Evans (Lafayette, NY/Manlius-Pebble Hill) and freshmen Daphne Croop (Williamson, NY/Williamson) and Rachel Winter (Bergen, NY/Byron-Bergen) will provide depth at the midfield.

Two of four starting defenders from a season ago return: junior Janelle Gallipeau (Rochester, NY/Greece Olympia) and sophomore Haley Nannig (North Kingston, RI/North Kingston). Gallipeau a starter since her freshman year, had 19 groundballs and six caused turnovers in 2012 to go with three goals and a pair of assists. Nannig had 15 groundballs and eight caused turnovers.

One returnee who saw limited time in 2012 and a trio of newcomers will compete for time on defense. Junior Lynn Veverka (Schroon Lake, NY/Schroon Lake) played and started in three games in 2012 and had three groundballs. Newcomers on defense include first-year junior Amanda Pellino (Valley Stream, NY/Valley Stream North) and freshmen Kerry Mack (Weedsport, NY/Jordan-Elbridge) and Jackie O'Sullivan (Cazenovia, NY/Cazenovia).

Sophomore Taylor Tarajos (Rochester, NY/Greece Olympia) is the incumbent starter in goal. The only keeper on the

roster in 2012, she posted a 14.29 goals against average and .375 save percentage while picking up 21 groundballs. Freshman Erin Nevin (York, PA/Lancaster Catholic) will challenge Tarajos for time in goal.