

Alfred University football team announces season awards

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ALFRED, NY The Alfred University football team announces its 2006 awards, handed out at the team banquet held recently on campus. Paul Keeley (Caledonia, NY/Caledonia-Mumford) was named the team's Most Valuable Player. The junior helped lead AU to a 8-3 record, capped by an overtime victory over visiting Rochester in the ECAC Northwest Bowl championship. Keeley was named outstanding player in the ECAC game (he earned the same honor last year) after leading Alfred on a fourth-quarter comeback. He was named an Empire 8 Conference Second Team all-star after setting new school records for career touchdown passes (46), single-season TD passes (25) and single-season passing yards (2,419). Junior tackle Don Miller (LeRoy, NY/LeRoy) was given the Alex Yunevich Award as Defensive MVP. Miller, a First Team American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) All-American, ECAC Northwest Region First Team all-star and Empire 8 Conference First Team all-star, had 57 tackles (six for loss), a four sacks, a forced fumble and two fumble recoveries in 2006. He also had a team-high five rushing touchdowns. Freshman wide receiver Jared Manzer (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City) was named winner of the Hal Brown Award as Offensive MVP. Manzer was the Empire 8 Rookie of the Year and a First Team Empire 8 and ECAC Northwest Region all-star. He caught 53 passes for 678 yards, and his 10 touchdown catches are a new school record. Other team awards presented include: Special Teams MVP Junior placekicker Chris Reynolds (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford-Sutherland). Reynolds made 33 of 34 extra point tries and eight of 11 field goal attempts in 2006 and was Alfred's second-leading scorer with 57 points. Already the school record-holder for points scored by a kicker, field goals made and extra points made in a season, Reynolds in 2006 established new school career records in those categories. Gene Castrovillo Award, Bob Carley Memorial Award Senior defensive end Andy Rantz (Montandon, PA/Milton Area). The Castrovillo award is given to a player who exhibits perseverance, hard work and dedication. The Carley award is given to a player who displays a positive attitude and exceptional work ethic. Rantz, a three-year starting defensive end and a team captain, played most of the season with a cast protecting a broken hand and registered 39 tackles (4.5 for loss and three sacks) and was named a Second Team Empire 8 all-star. Pete DeRose Memorial Award Junior cornerback/punter Josh Rammacher (Angola, NY/Lake Shore). The award recognizes character, heads-up play and scrappiness. Rammacher, who missed the ECAC title game after being injured in the regular-season finale, was sixth on the team with 41 tackles (two for loss, one sack) and added a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and one interception. He also averaged 32.7 yards per punt and was an Empire 8 honorable mention all-star. Fred Yanni Award Freshman tailback Vinson Hendrix (Rochester, NY/East). The award is given to a freshman who shows great enthusiasm and love for the game and is a team player. Hendrix ran for 374 yards and three touchdowns and caught 19 passes for 235 yards and a score. He also scored the winning touchdown in overtime in the ECAC title game against Rochester. Purple and Gold Awards Given to top players on the scout teams. Freshman lineman Dave Carletta (Webster, NY/Webster-Shroeder) won the award for offense and freshman linebacker Adam Brockway (New Hartford, NY/New Hartford) won for offense.