AU men stennis team splits opening matches at Empire 8 championships 4/18/03

ROCHESTER The Alfred University men's tennis team split its opening two matches Friday afternoon at the Empire 8 championships, losing to St. John Fisher before rebounding to knock off Utica. The championships are being held today and Saturday, April 18 and 19, in Rochester. The fifth-seeded Saxons opened the tournament this afternoon with a 5-2 loss to St. John Fisher, the fourth seed. Alfred got singles wins from junior Randy Vecchione (Seaford/Seaford), 6-0, 6-1 in second singles, and senior Steve Harvey (Barker/Barker), 6-3, 6-1 in sixth singles. Vecchione and senior Bill Tuttle (Hamburg/Hamburg) teamed to take first doubles, 9-7. With the loss, Alfred was moved to the consolation bracket, where the Saxons shut out eighth seed Utica, 7-0. Single swinners for Alfred were Tuttle, 6-0, 6-0 in first singles; Vecchione, 6-0, 6-0 in second singles; freshman Steve Ventura (Hilton/Hilton), 6-0, 6-1 in third singles; freshman Andrew Lee (Scarsdale/Edgemont), 6-1, 6-0 in fourth singles; junior Dave Strei b (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker), 6-1, 6-1 in fifth singles; and Harvey, 6-1, 6-0 in sixth singles. Doubles winners for AU were Tuttle and Vecchione, 8-1 in first doubles; Ventura and Lee, 8-2 in second doubles; and Streib and sophomore Mike Garguilo (Hornell/Hornell), 8-0 in third doubles. Alfred will play for fifth place against a yet-to-be-determined opponent at 9 a.m. Saturday.