

AU men's soccer team is co-champions of the Empire 8 and receives NCAA bid

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ITHACA, NY -- The Alfred University men's soccer team won a share of the Empire 8 conference championship and a berth in the NCAA playoffs by knocking off Nazareth College Sunday afternoon in a penalty kick shootout. AU won the penalty kick round, 4-1, after the teams played to a 1-1 scoreless double-overtime tie. The Saxon's lone goal came from junior forward Keith Phelan (Baldwin/Baldwin) at the 10:32 mark of the first half. With the score tied at 1-1 after regulation, the teams played two scoreless overtime periods, setting up the penalty kick round. The Saxons (9-5-4, 3-3 Empire 8) proceeded to net all four of their penalty attempts while Nazareth (8-5-3) only scored one. Freshman Brian Middleton (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) played all of regulation and both overtimes in goal for the Saxons, making three saves. Freshman Jim Roberts (Syracuse/Westhill) got the nod in goal for Alfred during the penalty shot round and stopped two shots. AU will play its first-round NCAA tournament game on Wednesday, Nov. 12, against a yet-to-be-determined opponent. The NCAA will select tournament pairings, as well as times and dates for first-, second- and third-round matches, on Sunday, Nov. 9. Alfred will be competing in the NCAA Division III championship tournament for the first time in 15 years. In 1988, AU defeated Clarkson, 2-1, in the first round of the Eastern Regional before bowing out of the tournament with a 3-0 loss to RIT in the second round.