

AU men's soccer team beats Elmira to earn spot in conference championship tournament

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ELMIRA The Alfred University men's soccer shut out host Elmira, 3-0, Wednesday afternoon to earn the fourth and final spot in the Empire 8 conference championship tournament. Alfred (8-5-2, 3-3 Empire 8) will take on top seed and tournament host Ithaca in the first round of the championships on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 11 a.m. Second-seeded St. John Fisher will face the third seed, Nazareth, in the other semifinal. The winners play for the conference championship, and an automatic berth to the NCAA Division III tournament, on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 1 p.m. Against Elmira (7-7, 2-4 Empire 8), Alfred got on the board 30 minutes into the contest on an unassisted goal by freshman forward Jarett Sanatar (Great Neck/Great Neck North). Eleven minutes later, an Elmira player knocked the ball into his own net and the Saxons took a 2-0 lead into halftime. Freshman midfielder Bobby Linaberry (Manlius/Fayetteville-Manlius) scored an insurance goal with 22 minutes left in regulation, off an assist from junior midfielder Ethan Weikleeng (Amherst/Amherst). Freshman Brian Middleton (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) played the first 82 minutes in goal for Alfred, making three saves. He was relieved by freshman Jim Roberts (Syracuse/Westhill), who played the final eight minutes and was not called upon to make a save. Elmira goalkeeper Kelly Brooks stopped 10 shots. Alfred wraps up the regular season Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. at home against Allegheny.