Empire 8 championship field set, Stevens earns top seed 10/21/07

ALFRED, NY The field for the Empire 8 Conference volleyball championship tournament is set, as Stevens Institute of Technology went through the round-robin crossover tournaments unbeaten at 8-0 to earn the top seed. Stevens will host the Nov. 3 tournament and will open with a match-up with fourth-seed Ithaca. Second-seeded RIT will play third seed Nazareth in the other semifinal, with the winners squaring off for the conference championship and the automatic bid to the NCAA Division III championship. The conference crossover tournaments were played last month at St. John Fisher and this weekend at Alfred University. RIT finished with a 7-1 record in the two tournaments; Nazareth was 6-2 and Ithaca was 5-3. On Sunday, Stevens earned 3-0 victories over Elmira and Utica, while RIT shut out Ithaca and Elmira. Ithaca defeated Utica, 3-0, to clinch its spot in the conference championship tournament. St. John Fisher finished conference play with a 4-4 record; Hartwick was 3-5; Elmira was 2-6; Utica was 1-7; and Alfred was 0-8.