

## **Improved AU women's soccer team lays foundation for success in 2005**

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ALFRED, NY The Alfred University women's soccer team finished the 2004 season with a 5-8-3 record (1-4-2 Empire 8). AU closed out the year with a 1-1 tie against visiting Buffalo State, a score that reflects the 2004 campaign. AU lost only three games by more than two goals and forced double-overtime in four contests. The Lady Saxons handed Elmira College (which finished third in the Empire 8) its first Empire 8 conference loss and played fourth place RIT to a scoreless double-overtime tie. The Lady Saxon offense was led by sophomore midfielder Chelsea Hall (Elmira/Elmira Free Academy), who ended the year with 20 points on nine goals and two assists. Hall, along with senior midfielder Ashley Van Wie (Gloversville/Gloversville) were given Empire 8 honorable mention. Van Wie was an everyday starter at midfield for the Lady Saxons and closed out the season with two assists. Freshman Sarah Guest (Cohocton/Wayland-Cohocton) also had a solid year for AU, scoring four goals and recording two assists. Senior Ellen Brandfonbrener (Franklin, MA/Medway) closed out a stellar career with three goals and one assist. In three seasons, Brandfonbrener accumulated 33 points on 14 goals and five assists. She was also responsible for scoring the lone goal in what head coach Jaime McLaughlin considers the biggest highlight of the season. "Elmira came into the game 10-2 overall and 4-0 in the conference," McLaughlin said. "We played our best game of the season and were able to walk away with a 1-0 win." The Lady Saxons were in every game but had a tough time scoring late in the season. The defense for AU had a solid year, anchored by senior Courtney Briganti (Canisteo/Canisteo), who also earned Empire 8 honorable mention, and freshman Yaicha Winters (Cambridge/Cambridge). Alfred allowed an average of less than eight shots on goal per game and made it very difficult for other teams to score. "As a team, we played really well," McLaughlin said. "We struggled to put the ball in the net late in the season and could not pull out the close games. Yaicha and the goalies did a great job of controlling the back." Sophomores Brianna Paquette (West Burke, VT/St. Johnsbury Academy) and Rebecca Pociask (Henniker, NH/John Stark Regional) split time in goal for AU appearing in nine and seven games respectively. The two goalies combined for five shutouts and a .806 save percentage. Other top players set to return in 2005 include junior defender Morgan Pierce (Schoharie, NY/Schoharie); sophomore midfielder Triona Moynihan (West Newbury, VT/Pentucket Regional), four goals and one assist in 2004; freshman forward Whitney Vitale (Red Creek, NY/Red Creek), one goal, two assists; and junior midfielder Adrienne Egglinger (Amityville, NY/Amityville Memorial) and freshman midfielder-defender Mara Limoncelli (Elmira, NY/Elmira Free Academy), each with a goal and an assist. There is a sense of optimism for coach McLaughlin looking ahead to next season. The team's improvement and the development of a very talented group of freshmen give the head coach reason to have higher expectations for 2005. "We started a lot of freshmen that played well for us," McLaughlin said. "We made a lot of progress during the season. I am very encouraged by the way the girls played and feel they have the potential to be a .500 team next season."