

Alfred University's Downing named Division III First Team All America

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ALFRED Devon Downing, a point guard on the Alfred University men's basketball team, has been named a First Team All-America by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). The 6-2 junior from Canton, OH, was one of only eight Division III players in the country chosen for the first team. Downing was considered for the NABC All-America team by virtue of his being selected NABC East Region Player of the Year. The NABC East region comprises more than 30 institutions, all in New York State. The top vote-getter on each All-Region team goes on to represent his respective region on the All-America squad. It marks the first time a Saxon player has ever garnered such an honor. In 1982, guard Bill Byrne was named an NABC All-East Region First Team selection, but was not the top vote-getter in the region and was thus not named to the national All-America team. Four other Saxons - Mike Wing (1986), Brian Andrews (1987), Brian Quinlan (1999) and E.J. Docteur (2000) - were named NABC All-East Region Second Team selections. Downing has received numerous accolades after helping the Saxons to a 14-11 record (8-6 Empire Eight, third place in conference) and a berth in the ECAC Upstate New York tournament. He was named Empire Eight Co-Player of the Year after leading the conference in scoring (21.4 points per game) and steals (2.4 per game). He was recently named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Upstate NY First Team. In three years at AU, Downing has amassed 1,644 career points, second on the school's all-time scoring list. He should surpass career scoring leader Byrne's 1,931 points next season.