

AU's Downing, Valitutto finish as top scorers in Empire Eight conference

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ALFRED Alfred University's Devon Downing (Canton, OH/Glenoak), a member of the men's basketball team, and Lisa Valitutto (Amherst, NH/Souhegan), a member of the women's team, each led the Empire Eight conference in scoring for the 2000-01 season. The conference issued its final statistical report Tuesday, taking into account only games played during the regular season. The AU men's team (14-10, 8-6 Empire Eight) qualified for the ECAC Upstate New York tournament and plays at St. Lawrence in a first-round game this afternoon, Feb. 28. The Lady Saxons' season concluded Feb. 17. Downing, a 6-2 junior guard, led the league in scoring (21.4 ppg) and steals (2.45 per game). The Empire Eight named Downing co-Player of the year with RIT's Brandon Redmond. Other Alfred men's players listed among the league leaders were junior forward Brock Stortini (Amenia/Arlington), sixth in rebounding (7.7 per game); senior center Kareem McKinnon (Brooklyn/Kingsborough), eighth in rebounding (7.2 per game) and third in field goal percentage (60.8 percent), and sophomore guard Brian Roegiers (Marion/Marion), 10th in three-point field goal accuracy (38.8 percent). Junior forward E.J. Docteur (Seneca Falls/Mynderse), who missed more than half the season with a broken thumb, averaged 15.4 points per game, sixth-best in the conference. Valitutto, a 5-10 forward, topped the league in scoring with a 17.2 points per game average. She was seventh in rebounds (7.9 per game), third in steals (2.3 per game) and second in free throw shooting (83.3 percent). Other Lady Saxons ranked among the conference statistical leaders were junior guard Amy Ratchuk (South Buffalo/Mt. Mercy), fourth in scoring (15.2 ppg); freshman guard Melissa Mayo (Rumford, ME/Mountain Valley) first in three-point field goal shooting (46.7 percent), and junior guard Melissa Stottlar (Colonie/Colonie), fourth in free throw shooting (80.6 percent).