

## Alfred University men's lacrosse team confident, ready to build on success

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ALFRED The Alfred University men's lacrosse team prepares for the 2003 season confident in the wake of a 2002 campaign that produced eight victories, the most in a single season since 1997. Several talented returnees and some promising newcomers are poised to build on the team's success. AU (8-5, 4-3 Empire 8 in 2002) possesses a deep and talented attack, with four of the top five scorers from last season returning. Fifth-year head coach Preston Chapman hopes his offense will play well enough to take the pressure off a young and inexperienced defense, which lost several key players to graduation. "Offense is our greatest strength, with the personnel, talent and experience we have coming back. That isn't true with the defense," Chapman said. Indeed, Chapman is faced with replacing four key members of the defense - defensemen Tony Douglas, Andrew Reeve and long stick midfielders Steve Scanapieco and Marc Frechette. Perhaps the biggest void to be filled is in goal, where Kevin Kazmierczak turned in an outstanding season in 2002. Kazmierczak, an honorable mention All-Empire 8 selection, started every game and posted a 10.29 goals against average and .615 saves percentage. Sophomore Nicholas Hohman (Gibsonia/Pine-Richland) will look to fill Kazmierczak's shoes. In limited action last year (139 minutes in six games) he posted a 4.32 goals against average and .677 saves percentage. "Nicholas is an intense competitor. He has worked hard to improve his stick skills, moves well and has good hands. He has the potential to be a very good goaltender for us," Chapman said. Competing with Hohman for time between the pipes will be freshman Chris Wszalek (West Seneca/West Seneca) and senior Matt Jones (Waterloo/Waterloo). Alfred will rely on senior Adam Jwaskiewicz (Liverpool/Liverpool) to lead a young and fairly inexperienced defense. Jwaskiewicz, an honorable mention all-Empire 8 selection in 2002, will be joined on defense by seniors Jeff Podolak (Owasco/Skaneateles), Pat Wayne (Skaneateles/Skaneateles) and Chris Sgouris (Marietta/Marcellus) and sophomore Josh Parker (Hamburg/Hamburg). Jwaskiewicz was solid last season and Podolak played well before his season was cut short by a shoulder injury. Wayne and Sgouris have improved over the last year and will be asked to contribute more in 2003. Parker, who will take over at long stick, had the best fall of any Saxon, according to Chapman. "Josh runs well and has gotten more physical. He gives us takeaway ability in the midfield," Chapman said. Freshmen Tristan Hujer (Hamburg/St. Francis) and Matt Hall (Salt Lake City, UT/Judge Memorial) will add depth to the defense Chapman expects Hujer to contribute right away. "We're very excited about Tristan. He runs well, has a great stick, is intense and has one of the best work ethics on the team." Despite the inexperience on defense, Chapman is encouraged by the return of several outstanding veterans, including all three starting attackmen. Leading the attack is junior David Vail (Mt. Lakes, NJ/Mt. Lakes), who has led the Saxons in scoring each of his first two years on the team. With 106 points (52G, 54A) Vail already ranks in the top 25 in career points and goals and ranks ninth in career assists. He was a Second Team all-conference selection in 2002. "David is equally adept at scoring and passing," Chapman said. "He's such a competitor, just an intense individual. Pound for pound, he's our best hitter." Joining Vail on the attack are classmates Dylan Macro (Camillus/West Genesee) and Trevor Archer (Penn Yan/Penn Yan). Macro was the team's leader in goals, with 34, and was an honorable mention All-Empire 8 selection. Archer was third last year in scoring with 32 points (18G, 14A). Macro is one of the Saxons' biggest players, and because of his speed can present matchup problems for opposing defenses. He also possesses perhaps the hardest shot on the team. Chapman said Archer had a great fall season and will be counted on to carry more of the offensive load this season. "Trevor has improved so much off the ball and getting his shot off in traffic," Chapman commented. "His scoring should increase." Several newcomers will compete for playing time on attack, including freshmen Sergio Ibarra (Buellton, CA/Midland), Adam Griffin (New Hartford/New Hartford) and Brad Frey (Cornwall, VT/Middlebury) and junior Brad Boyd (Lake Worth, FL/Chenango Forks). The Saxon midfield lost some key performers from 2002, including Rob Strickland, now an AU assistant coach, as well as Bill Crehan and Bryan Bacon. Fortunately, several solid players, led by senior Steve Douglas (Horseheads/Horseheads), return. Douglas, an honorable mention all-conference pick, was fifth in scoring last year with 19 points (17G, 2A). He is a tenacious defender who will be counted on to again provide scoring punch. Another key member of the midfield will be junior Anthony Fiorelli (Endicott/Union-Endicott). Fiorelli will be expected to increase his offensive output after a 16-point (12G, 4A) sophomore year. Seniors Frank Radell (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) and Greg Gascon (Buffalo/Bishop Timon) are solid defensive midfielders who will see significant playing time and be counted on to boost their scoring. Freshmen Carlo DiRisio (Prattsburgh/Penn Yan), Forest Marble (Tecumseh, MI/Tecumseh), Jared Tetz (Kennebunk, ME/Kennebuck) and Mike Hartell (Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) will vie for playing time at midfield. Chapman said for the Saxons

to succeed, especially early in the year, the team will have to play well on offense and control the midfield in order to minimize pressure on the defense."We have to control the tempo while our defense improves," he said. "We're going to have to control the ball on offense, slow it down and show patience. We have to have quality possessions every time on the offensive end and avoid penalties."Alfred will once again face a challenging schedule, both in and out of conference. Six of the Saxons' 14 opponents are ranked in the top 30 nationally, including five (Ithaca, Whittier, Nazareth, RIT and Hartwick) in the top 20.t