

## Three Saxons earn Empire 8 all-conference honors in men's tennis

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ALFRED, NY Three members of the Alfred University men's tennis team have been awarded all-conference recognition from the Empire 8, the conference announced today. Freshman Gary Kwiecien (Perry, NY/Perry) earned First Team honors in singles play; freshman Connor Houghton (Orleans, MA/Nauset Regional) made the Second Team in singles; Kwiecien and freshman Nick Schneider (Liverpool, NY/Liverpool) earned Second Team doubles honors; and Schneider was given honorable mention for his singles play. Kwiecien had an 11-3 record in singles play (10-3 second singles; 1-0 first singles), with his 11 singles victories the second-most all-time at AU. He also earned 10 doubles wins, with his 21 combined singles-doubles victories establishing a new AU single-season record. Houghton was 6-8 in first singles this year. He and junior Nick Middaugh (Belmont, NY/Genesee Valley) teamed to go 9-3 in doubles action, with the nine doubles wins the second-most ever at Alfred in a single year. Kwiecien and Schneider went 10-4 in first doubles this year, with their 10 wins setting a new AU record for most wins by a doubles pair in a season. Schneider had a 10-5 record in singles play this season (8-5 third singles; 2-0 second singles). The 10 singles wins are the third-most in a season at AU. Schneider's combined 20 wins in singles and doubles are second most in a season at Alfred behind Kwiecien's 21. Each season, the Empire 8 honors students-athletes from each conference school, who play on teams sponsored by the conference, with Sportsman of the Year awards. Honorees, chosen by their coaches, exhibited outstanding sportsmanship in keeping with the conference's mission of "competing with honor and integrity." Alfred's honoree from the men's tennis team is senior Rob Festa (Fairport, NY/Fairport). The Saxons finished the 2008 season with a 9-6 record (4-4 Empire 8) and set several new team single-season records, including wins (nine); singles victories (51); doubles victories (28) and combined singles-doubles victories (79).