

AU places four on Football Gazette East Region All-Star teams

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ALFRED, NY Four members of the Alfred University football team have been named Football Gazette East Region all-stars. Senior offensive tackle Mike Yokopovich (Webster, NY/Webster Schroeder) was named to the Second Team, while freshman wide receiver Jared Manzer (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City), junior defensive tackle Don Miller (LeRoy, NY/LeRoy) and sophomore free safety Brian Nitsche (Portville, NY/Portville) were given honorable mention. Don Hansen's Football Gazette is a leading print and on-line publication dedicated to college football. Yokopovich was a four-year starting offensive lineman at AU, earning First Team Empire 8 Conference honors in this, his senior season. He anchored an offensive line that helped the Saxons produce 335 yards of offense per game while limiting opposing defenses to 14 quarterback sacks. Manzer, a record-setting receiver for AU, was named Rookie of the Year and a First Team all-star by the Empire 8 Conference. He led his team with 53 catches for 678 yards and 10 touchdowns. His 10 receiving TDs set a new AU single-season record. Manzer also averaged 21.6 yards per kick return and 7.8 yards per punt return. He led the Empire 8 in receptions and touchdown catches and was third in receiving yards per game and seventh in all-purpose yards. Miller finished the season with 57 tackles (34 solo), including six for loss and four sacks. He also had two pass breakups, two fumble recoveries and a forced fumble. The Saxons' short-yardage run specialist, he had a team-best five rushing touchdowns. Miller was named an American Football Coaches Association All-American and a First Team Empire 8 all-star. Nitsche earned First Team all-conference honors in 2006. He had 41 tackles and two interceptions (55 return yards) to go with a team-leading seven pass breakups, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Miller and Nitsche led a defense that allowed an Empire 8 Conference-best 256 yards of offense per game and ranked second in the conference in both run and pass defense. The Saxons finished the season with an 8-3 record, capping the year with an overtime victory in the ECAC Northwest Championship. AU has won 25 games since 2004, a school record for a three-year span, and has claimed ECAC titles each of those years.