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EMPIRE 8 ANNOUNCES MEN'S LACROSSE ALL-CONFERENCE
Ryan Hotaling of Nazareth and Dennis Butler of Ithaca Earn Top Honors

ROCHESTER, NY – The Empire 8 announced its Men's Lacrosse All-Conference team with senior attack Ryan Hotaling of Nazareth College being named the 2007 Empire 8 Men's Lacrosse Player of the Year and senior goalie Dennis Butler of Ithaca College being selected 2007 Empire 8 Goalkeeper of the Year.

Freshman attack Erinn O'Hara of Nazareth earned Rookie of the Year honors. He has scored 24 goals entering the postseason. Rob Randall was chosen as Coach of the Year for leading the Golden Flyers to the conference title and a berth in the NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship.

Hotaling, who received first-team all-conference recognition for the third year in a row, has totaled 31 goals and 19 assists in just 13 games. He scored five times in the conference title game as Nazareth edged top-seeded Ithaca 16-14.

Butler, who was named to the first team all-conference team for the fourth consecutive time and was named the conference's first Goalkeeper of the Year, has recorded a 14-3 record with a .612 save percentage.

Amidon, a second-team honoree last year, was the only player other than Hotaling from Nazareth to be named to the first team after scoring 32 goals and adding 19 assists.

Four Ithaca players in addition to Butler were named to the all-conference first team. Junior attack Matt Nelligan repeated on the first team after pacing the Bombers with 56 goals and 74 points. Junior midfielder Craig Lepiane (40 goals), junior long-stick midfielder Brandon Rose (106 ground balls), and sophomore defenseman Neth Weidemann (25 caused turnovers) were all named to the first team for the first time.

Four players from third-place Rochester Institute of Technology garnered first-team honors this season, including junior repeat selections Andrew Ruocco (midfielder; 24 goals) and defenseman Jacob Tuller (45 ground balls). Senior attack Scott Farress, who leads the Tigers with 45 goals was named to the first team for the first time as was junior Jacob Brunner, who became the initial short-stick specialist to be named all-conference.

Senior midfielder Pat McCormack (24 goals, 43 ground balls) and junior defender Ryan Welch of Hartwick College (44 ground balls) were named to the first team.

One member of each team was named that institution's representative on the 2007 Men's Lacrosse Sportsman of the Year Team. These honorees have distinguished themselves and consistently exhibit the critical traits as outstanding sportsmen.

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2007 Empire 8 Men’s Lacrosse Awards

Player of the Year: Ryan Hotaling, Nazareth College

Goalkeeper of the Year: Dennis Butler, Ithaca College

Rookie of the Year: Erinn O’Hara, Nazareth College

Coach of the Year: Rob Randall, Nazareth College

First Team All-Conference

Scott Farress	Sr.	RIT	Attack
Ryan Hotaling	Sr.	Nazareth	Attack
Matt Nelligan	Jr.	Ithaca	Attack
Chad Amidon	Sr.	Nazareth	Midfielder
Craig Lepiane	Jr.	Ithaca	Midfielder
Pat McCormack	Sr.	Hartwick	Midfielder
Andrew Ruocco	Jr.	RIT	Midfielder
Brandon Rose	Jr.	Ithaca	Long-Stick Midfielder
Jacob Brunner	Jr.	RIT	Short-Stick Specialist
Jacob Tuller	Jr.	RIT	Defense
Ryan Welch	Jr.	Hartwick	Defense
Neth Wiedemann	So.	Ithaca	Defense
Dennis Butler	Sr.	Ithaca	Goalie

Second Team All-Conference

Lee Austin	Sr.	Hartwick	Attack
Matt Hargather	Sr.	St. John Fisher	Attack
Eric Pritchard	Sr.	RIT	Attack
Wes Adam	Jr.	RIT	Midfielder
Kevin Bush	Jr.	Ithaca	Midfielder
Trevor Hoselton	Sr.	RIT	Midfielder
Jarrett Moffitt	Sr.	Alfred	Midfielder
Phil Davenport	Jr.	RIT	Long-Stick Midfielder
Francis Donald	Sr.	Nazareth	Long-Stick Midfielder
Dave Wood	So.	St. John Fisher	Short-Stick Specialist
Chris Bulawa	Jr.	RIT	Defense
Ryan Conley	Sr.	Nazareth	Defense
Pete Schick	Jr.	Ithaca	Defense
Pat Mullin	Sr.	Nazareth	Goalie

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Sportsman of the Year

Name	Yr.	School
Mike McCarthy	Sr.	Alfred
Greg Hanson	Sr.	Elmira
Pat McCormack	Sr.	Hartwick
Matt Hammes	Sr.	Ithaca
Jordan Hirsch	Sr.	Nazareth
Daniel Jernick	Sr.	RIT
Brian Cummings	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Nick Evanoff	Sr.	Utica

Honorable Mention All-Conference

Logan Bobzien	Ithaca	Attack
Erinn O’Hara	Nazareth	Attack
Steve Caramello	Hartwick	Midfielder
Dave O’Connell	Utica	Midfielder
Conor O’Keefe	Nazareth	Midfielder
Mark Kanellis	Nazareth	Short-Stick Specialist
Eric Guevara	Elmira	Defense
Mike McCarthy	Alfred	Defense
Will Tuttle	Nazareth	Defense
John Foley	RIT	Goalie