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Contact: Timothy Farrell, Asst. Commissioner
tfarrell@empire8.com

EMPIRE 8 ANNOUNCES MEN'S LACROSSE ALL-CONFERENCE
Matt Nelligan of Ithaca and Dave Decker of Stevens Earn Top Honors

ROCHESTER, NY – The Empire 8 announced its Men's Lacrosse All-Conference team with senior attack Matt Nelligan of conference champion Ithaca College being named the 2008 Empire 8 Men's Lacrosse Player of the Year and freshman goalie Dave Decker of Stevens Institute of Technology being selected 2008 Empire 8 Goalkeeper of the Year.

Nelligan, who earned first-team all-conference honors for the third time, leads the Bombers with 46 goals and is second on the team with 66 points. He scored six goals in the Empire 8 championship tournament, including four in the title game.

Decker has posted an 8-4 record with 148 saves and a .664 save percentage in 13 games. He was injured in the first quarter of the conference tournament semifinals after making three saves and allowing only one goal.

Freshman attack Vito DeMola of Hartwick College earned Rookie of the Year honors after pacing the Hawks with 40 goals and 52 points.

Four other Ithaca players were named to the all-conference first team, including three repeat selections. Senior midfielder Craig Lepiane, who has tallied 43 goals, joined senior long-stick midfielder Brandon Rose and junior defenseman Neth Wiedemann as repeat first-team selections. Rose has recorded 111 ground balls and 41 caused turnovers, while Wiedemann ranks second on the team in both categories. Senior Logan Bobzien was also named to the first team and leads the Bombers with 71 points and 40 assists.

Jeff Long was chosen as Coach of the Year for leading the Bombers to the Empire 8 title and their second straight trip to the NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship.

Five players from runner-up Rochester Institute of Technology garnered first-team honors this season, including three-time first-team selections Andrew Ruocco and Jacob Tuller. Ruocco is a midfielder who leads the Tigers with 35 goals and 55 points, while Tuller joined classmate Phil Davenport as first-team choices on defense.

Senior short-stick specialist Jacob Brunner of the Tigers earned first-team honors for the second straight year. Senior midfielder Dan Rago, who has scored 32 goals, was also named to the first team.

Senior Aaron Civalier of Nazareth College was selected as a first-team all-conference attacker after leading the Golden Flyers with 29 goals and 42 points.

Senior attack John Dolny of Stevens was chosen to the first team and leads the Ducks with 35 points on 21 goals and 14 assists.

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2008 Empire 8 Men's Lacrosse Awards

Player of the Year: Matt Nelligan, Ithaca College

Goalkeeper of the Year: Dave Decker, Stevens Institute of Technology

Rookie of the Year: Vito DeMola, Hartwick College

Coach of the Year: Jeff Long, Ithaca College

First Team All-Conference

Logan Bobzien	Sr.	Ithaca	Attack
John Dolny	Sr.	Stevens	Attack
Matt Nelligan	Sr.	Ithaca	Attack
Aaron Civalier	Sr.	Nazareth	Midfielder
Craig Lepiane	Sr.	Ithaca	Midfielder
Dan Rago	Sr.	RIT	Midfielder
Andrew Ruocco	Sr.	RIT	Midfielder
Brandon Rose	Sr.	Ithaca	Long-Stick Midfielder
Jacob Brunner	Sr.	RIT	Short-Stick Specialist
Phil Davenport	Sr.	RIT	Defense
Jacob Tuller	Sr.	RIT	Defense
Neth Wiedemann	Jr.	Ithaca	Defense
Dave Decker	Fr.	Stevens	Goalie

Second Team All-Conference

Eric Bressler	Fr.	RIT	Attack
Vito DeMola	Fr.	Hartwick	Attack
Dave Malone	So.	St. John Fisher	Attack
Kevin Bush	Sr.	Ithaca	Midfielder
Matt Keating	Jr.	Stevens	Midfielder
Corey Remoli	Fr.	Nazareth	Midfielder
Brandon Wilk	So.	Hartwick	Midfielder
Kyle Brown	So.	Nazareth	Long-Stick Midfielder
Dave Wood	Jr.	St. John Fisher	Short-Stick Specialist
Nick Daniello	Sr.	Stevens	Defense
Mike Serron	Jr.	Ithaca	Defense
Ryan Welch	Sr.	Hartwick	Midfielder
Brad Conlon	Sr.	RIT	Goalie

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Sportsman of the Year

Name	Yr.	School
Jeremy Florence	Sr.	Alfred
John Dean	Jr.	Elmira
John Meade	Jr.	Hartwick
Matt Cutter	Jr.	Ithaca
Steve Cutia	Sr.	Nazareth
Justin Ross	Sr.	RIT
Dennis Bell	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Frank Sorrentino	Sr.	Stevens
Chris Tarkowski	Sr.	Utica

Honorable Mention All-Conference

Mike Bulger	Utica	Attack
Sean Gillies	RIT	Attack
Wes Adam	RIT	Midfielder
Matt Aloï	Nazareth	Midfielder
Bobby Steinhauser	Stevens	Midfielder
Chris Ford	Stevens	Long-Stick Midfielder
Bill Empey	St. John Fisher	Defense
John Hanss	Nazareth	Defense
Adam Schutz	Alfred	Goalie

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