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

EMPIRE 8 ANNOUNCES BASEBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

Geoff Dornes of RIT Repeats as Player of the Year; Bryan Gardner of Ithaca Top Pitcher

ROCHESTER, NY – Rochester Institute of Technology sophomore outfielder Geoff Dornes was selected Empire 8 Player of the Year for the second consecutive year as the conference selected its Baseball All-Conference Team. Junior reliever Bryan Gardner of conference champion Ithaca College was named Pitcher of the Year. George Valesente of the Bombers and Rob Grow of RIT shared Coach of the Year honors.

Dornes finished the season hitting .386 with 40 runs scored, 51 hits, nine doubles, five home runs, 37 runs batted in, and a .583 slugging percentage. He was twice named Empire 8 Player of the Week this season and also garnered Pitcher of the Week honors. Dornes, who earned second-team honors as a starting pitcher, posted a 3-2 record with a 2.82 earned run average in 51 innings.

Gardner enters NCAA play with a 2-1 record, 1.48 earned run average, and a school-record seven saves in 20 appearances. He has yielded only 16 hits in 30.1 innings with 59 strikeouts.

Five other Ithaca players joined Gardner on the first team, including unanimous Rookie of the Year selection David Ahonen. The third baseman leads the Bombers with a .432 batting average and 57 hits. He has scored 34 runs with 11 doubles, two home runs, and 29 RBI.

Senior starting pitcher Nick Sottung earned first-team honors for the third time. He has won eight of nine decisions with a 1.57 earned run average and 70 strikeouts in 74.1 innings. Senior Shane Wolf was named to the first team as a starting pitcher and first baseman. The senior is 10-1 with a 2.80 earned run average, while batting .322 with 38 runs scored and 30 RBI.

Senior outfielder Rob Raux of the Bombers was named to the all-conference first team for the third time and is second on the team with a .409 batting average. He leads the team with 42 runs scored, 13 doubles, and seven home runs. 2006 Rookie of the Year Drew Ash, who missed most of last season with an injury, was named to the first team this season. The catcher is batting .364 with 27 runs scored and 30 RBI.

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Senior first baseman Dave Roth and three sophomores from St. John Fisher College garnered first-team all-conference recognition. Roth batted .295 with 27 runs scored, a team-leading eight home runs, and 34 RBI. Outfielder Marc Montesano, a second-team choice last season, hit .333 with 29 runs scored and a team-best 10 doubles.

Second baseman Kevin Wing of the Cardinals batted .320 with 23 runs scored, and designated hitter Jon Gibbs hit .304 with a team-leading 30 runs scored.

Junior shortstop Jeremy Tosh of RIT earned first-team honors for the second time. He hit .369 with 28 runs scored and 30 RBI.

2008 Empire 8 Baseball Awards

Player of the Year: Geoff Dornes, Rochester Institute of Technology

Pitcher of the Year: Bryan Gardner, Ithaca College

Rookie of the Year: David Ahonen, Ithaca College

Co-Coach of the Year: George Velesente, Ithaca College

Co-Coach of the Year: Rob Grow, Rochester Institute of Technology

First Team All-Conference

Drew Ash	Jr.	Ithaca	C
Dave Roth	Sr.	St. John Fisher	1B
Kevin Wing	So.	St. John Fisher	2B
Jeremy Tosh	Jr.	RIT	SS
David Ahonen	Fr.	Ithaca	3B
Geoff Dornes	Fr.	RIT	OF
Marc Montesano	So.	St. John Fisher	OF
Rob Raux	Sr.	Ithaca	OF
Jon Gibbs	So.	St. John Fisher	DH
Nick Sottung	Sr.	Ithaca	SP
Shane Wolf	Sr.	Ithaca	SP/1B
Bryan Gardner	Jr.	Ithaca	RP

Second Team All-Conference

Ryan Tryt	Sr.	RIT	C
Ed Hughes	Fr.	RIT	2B
Josh Smith	Sr.	Ithaca	SS
Matt George	Sr.	RIT	3B
Eric Ferguson	Sr.	Ithaca	OF
Adam Keller	Jr.	Utica	OF
Matt Samela	Sr.	Ithaca	OF
Raffale Parisi	Fr.	RIT	DH
Geoff Dornes	So.	RIT	SP
Dan Jurik	So.	St. John Fisher	SP
Chad King	Sr.	St. John Fisher	SP
Justin Lutes	Sr.	St. John Fisher	RP

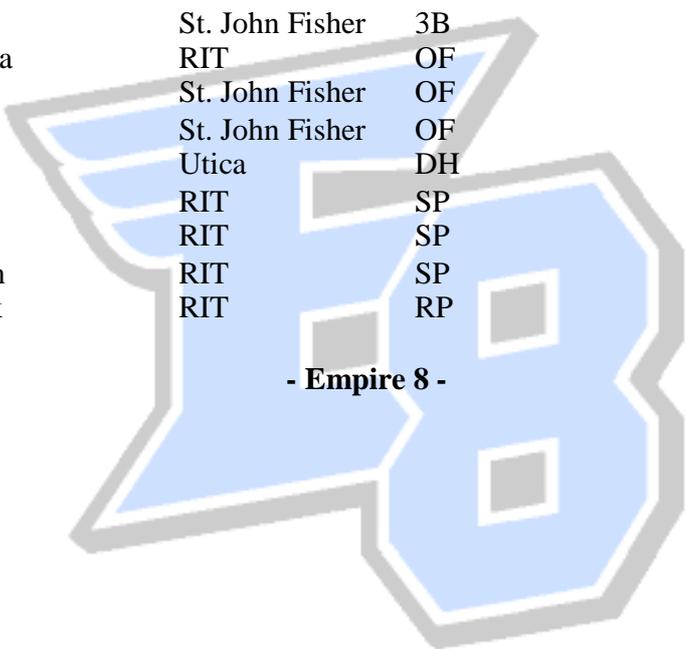
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Sportsman of the Year

Name	Yr.	School
Shane Wolf	Sr.	Ithaca College
Matt George	Sr.	Rochester Institute of Technology
Bob Toland	Jr.	St. John Fisher College
Matt Girnys	Jr.	Stevens Institute of Technology
Mike Gibbons	So.	Utica College

Honorable Mention All-Conference

Matt Austin	RIT	1B
Chad King	St. John Fisher	SS
Jason Nevada	St. John Fisher	3B
Anthony Culotta	RIT	OF
Ross Langevin	St. John Fisher	OF
John Quartironi	St. John Fisher	OF
Chris Hine	Utica	DH
Cory Langtry	RIT	SP
Mike Marsillo	RIT	SP
Greg McKeown	RIT	SP
Paul Schoeneck	RIT	RP



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