



**Date:** November 15, 2007

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**EMPIRE 8 ANNOUNCES FOOTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM  
Jason Boltus and Steve Stepnick Named Players of the Year**

**ROCHESTER, NY** – The Empire 8 announced its 2007 Football All-Conference team with junior quarterback Jason Boltus of Hartwick College being named Offensive Player of the Year and St. John Fisher College senior defensive back Steve Stepnick chosen as Defensive Player of the Year. The Hawks and Cardinals shared the Empire 8 title.

Boltus, who was the unanimous choice as Offensive Player of the Year, enters postseason play leading NCAA Division III in total offense with a 394.9 yards per game average. He has completed 209 passes for 3,536 yards and 35 touchdowns. Boltus has recorded a 160.30 efficiency rating in leading the Hawks to a share of the conference title and the automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Football Championship.

Stepnick, in addition to being named the Defensive Player of the Year, earned first-team all-conference recognition for the third consecutive year. He enters NCAA tournament play with five interceptions this season and 19 for his four-year career. Stepnick also totaled 66 tackles and six pass breakups in the regular season.

Freshman outside linebacker Jason Springer of Norwich University earned the Rookie of the Year honor. He finished the season with 46 tackles, three sacks, five tackles for loss, two forced fumbles, and two fumble recoveries.

Mark Carr was the unanimous selection as Empire 8 Coach of the Year as he led Hartwick from a 4-6 record a year ago to an 8-2 mark and conference championship this season. Carr is leading the Hawks to their first NCAA appearance.

Stepnick was one of four defensive players to repeat as all-conference first-team selections. Senior defensive back Marcus Maroney of Utica College joined senior linemen Phil Byers of Ithaca College and Don Miller of Alfred University on the first team for the second consecutive season.

Senior Lindy Crea of Hartwick was named to the all-conference first team for the third straight season, this time as the first all-purpose player to be named to the first team. He was also chosen as a second-team all-conference running back. Senior offensive lineman Brennan Fortune of St. John Fisher earned his second consecutive first-team honor.

One member of each team was named that institution's representative on the 2007 Football Sportsman of the Year Team. Empire 8 emphasizes that "Competing with Honor and Integrity" is an essential component of a student-athlete's experience in conjunction with an institution's educational mission. These honorees have distinguished themselves and consistently exhibit the critical traits as outstanding sportsmen.

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## Empire 8 2007 Football All-Conference Awards

**Offensive Player of the Year:** Jason Boltus, Hartwick College

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Steve Stepnick, St. John Fisher College

**Rookie of the Year:** Jason Springer, Norwich University

**Coach of the Year:** Mark Carr, Hartwick College

### First Team Offense

Name	Position	Yr.	School
Jason Boltus	QB	Jr.	Hartwick
Jamie Donovan	RB	Sr.	Ithaca
Vinson Hendrix	RB	So.	Alfred
Trevor Bork	WR	Jr.	Alfred
Jack Phelan	WR	Jr.	Hartwick
Lindy Crea	All-Purpose	Sr.	Hartwick
Brian Weverbergh	TE	Jr.	Ithaca
Mike Callahan	OL	Sr.	Alfred
Brennan Fortune	OL	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Chris Gray	OL	So.	Ithaca
Corey Hogan	OL	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Sean Mirkov	OL	Sr.	Ithaca

### First Team Defense (Two players tied for final spot at linebacker)

Name	Position	Yr.	School
Phil Byers	DL	Sr.	Ithaca
Brian Hess	DL	Sr.	Springfield
Don Miller	DL	Sr.	Alfred
Dan Pollock	DL	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Tom Caporale	LB	Jr.	Springfield
Josh Gottlieb	LB	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Chad Pieri	LB	So.	Alfred
Matt Scalice	LB	Jr.	Ithaca
Joe Harasymiak	DB	Sr.	Springfield
Marcus Maroney	DB	Sr.	Utica
Steve Stepnick	DB	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Ryan Terlecki	DB	Sr.	Ithaca

### First Team Special Teams

Name	Position	Yr.	School
Chris Reynolds	PK	Sr.	Alfred
Ben Atwood	P	Jr.	Utica
Jason Chier	KR/PR	Jr.	Ithaca

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**Second Team Offense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Paul Keeley	QB	Sr.	Alfred
Lindy Crea	RB	Sr.	Hartwick
Darnell Jackson	RB/All-Pur.	Jr.	Norwich
Brian Hogan	WR	Sr.	Ithaca
Jimmy Smith	WR	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Chris Harmon	TE	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Brian Caston	OL	Sr.	Alfred
Andrew Cottet	OL	Jr.	St. John Fisher
P.J. DiGati	OL	Jr.	Hartwick
Justin Hanft	OL	Sr.	Alfred
Nate Germain	OL	Sr.	Springfield

**Second Team Defense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Reza Afsarmanesh	DL	So.	Norwich
Matt Becton	DL	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Adam Drescher	DL	So.	Ithaca
Mike Penkin	DL	Sr.	Alfred
Joe Flaherty	LB	Sr.	Hartwick
John Scanlon	LB	Jr.	Ithaca
Bryan Johnson	DB	Jr.	Utica
Scott Miranto	DB	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Brian Nitsche	DB	Jr.	Alfred
Charlie Stephens	DB	Sr.	Ithaca

**Second Team Special Teams**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Chris Pierri	PK	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Josh Rammacher	P	Sr.	Alfred
Jarred Burrell	KR/PR	So.	Springfield

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**Sportsman of the Year**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Paul Keeley	Sr.	Alfred University
Randy Browne	Sr.	Hartwick College
Mike Nowak	Sr.	Ithaca College
Justin Collens	Sr.	Norwich University
Chris Sharpe	Sr.	Springfield College
Chris Harmon	Sr.	St. John Fisher College
Cory Jure	Jr.	Utica College

**Honorable Mention Offense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Dan Juvan	QB	Jr.	Ithaca
Rob Kramer	QB	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Chris Sharpe	QB/All-Pur.	Sr.	Springfield
Jared Manzer	WR	So.	Alfred
Tim Marion	WR	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Vinson Hendrix	All-Purpose	Sr.	Alfred
Corey D'Agostino	TE	Sr.	Hartwick
Matt Gibbins	TE	Sr.	Alfred
Nick Ditcheos	OL	Sr.	Norwich
Andrew Murphy	OL	Jr.	Hartwick

**Honorable Mention Defense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Jeff Creeden	LB	So.	Springfield
Blake Fuller	LB	So.	Alfred
Eric Kahl	LB	So.	Utica
Derek Melnyk	LB	So.	St. John Fisher
Mike Nowak	LB	Sr.	Ithaca
Donovan Brown	DB	So.	Norwich
Dan Medlock	DB	Sr.	Alfred
Lazarus Morgan	DB	Jr.	Utica
Justin Oelgeschlager	DB	So.	Hartwick

**Honorable Mention Special Teams**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Ryan Boyea	PK	Jr.	Hartwick
Ricky Tatar	P	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Darnell Jackson	KR	Jr.	Norwich
Jared Manzer	KR/PR	So.	Alfred
Saucobie Riley	KR	Sr.	Alfred