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**Contact:** Timothy Farrell, Asst. Commissioner  
[tfarrell@empire8.com](mailto:tfarrell@empire8.com)

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

**ROCHESTER, NY** – The Empire 8 announced its 2008 Football All-Conference team with senior quarterback Jason Boltus of Hartwick College being unanimously selected as Offensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive year and Ithaca College senior linebacker Matt Scalice chosen as Defensive Player of the Year.

Boltus, enters ECAC play leading NCAAA Division III in total offense (414.4 yards per game) and passing yards per game (397.6). He ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally with 3,578 passing yards and third in pass efficiency with a rating of 172.9. Boltus is twice ranked in the top-three in single-game passing yards, including an NCAA-high 531 yards.

Scalice, in addition to being named the Defensive Player of the Year, earned first-team all-conference recognition for the second consecutive year. He enters NCAA tournament play with 82 tackles, including 37 solo hits and 10 tackles for loss.

Freshman quarterback Tom Secky of Alfred University was the unanimous choice as Rookie of the Year. With an ECAC game remaining, he has already set a Saxons' freshman record for passing yards (2532) and touchdowns (24) and thrown for 300 or more yards four times.

Mike Welch was the unanimous selection as Empire 8 Coach of the Year as he led Ithaca to a 9-1 overall record and the first outright title in the conference since 2005.

Eight players from the champion Bombers were named to the all-conference first team, including three offensive linemen. Seniors Chris Gray and Sean Mirkov were repeat selections and were joined by Jake Queener. Senior tight end Brian Weverbergh was also a repeat first-team honoree, while junior running back Thomas Bergerstock was honored for the first time. Weverbergh averages 4.7 catches and 64.7 yards receiving per game, and Bergerstock has averaged 215.9 yards rushing per game and scored 20 touchdowns.

Joining Scalice as first-team defensive honorees for Ithaca was senior defensive back Jason Chier, who intercepted three passes in the Bombers' season-ending win over previously undefeated Cortland, and junior defensive lineman Joe Goetz.

Senior wide receiver Jack Phelan of Hartwick was named to the all-conference first team for the second year in a row and enters ECAC play leading Division III in receiving yards per game (168.0) and ranked third in scoring (25 touchdowns for a per game average of 16.67 points).

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Joining Phelan at wide receiver on the first team was junior Jared Manzer of Alfred, a first-team selection and Rookie of the Year in 2006. He enters the postseason with 65 catches for 920 yards and nine touchdowns.

Senior defensive back Justin Oelgeschlager of the Hawks was also honored on the first-team all-conference unit after recording 70 tackles and four interceptions.

Senior Tim Marion of St. John Fisher College was named to the all-conference first team as an all-purpose player, averaging 148.5 all-purpose yards per game. Senior offensive lineman Andrew Cottet was named to the first-team after receiving second-team honors last season.

Senior running back Darnell Jackson, who broke the Norwich career rushing record in place since 1975, was selected on the first team after garnering second-team accolades each of the past two seasons. Junior teammate Reza Afsarmanesh was named to the all-conference first team on the defensive line after recording 11.5 tackles for loss.

Senior linebacker Tom Caporale of Springfield College was a repeat selection on the first team, while senior offensive lineman Andrew Jackson of the Pride earned first-team honors for the first time. Caporale paced the team with 84 tackles.

Seniors Dan Pollock (defensive lineman) and Josh Gottlieb (linebacker) of St. John Fisher earned first-team honors for the second straight year. Senior defensive back Ken Bostick of the Cardinals earned first-team recognition for the first time.

Senior defensive back Brian Nitsche of Alfred received first-team honors for the second time in his career, while senior defensive lineman Rob Ritter was a first-time selection.

One member of each team was named that institution's representative on the 2008 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.

### **Empire 8 2008 Football All-Conference Awards**

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

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Matt Scalice, Ithaca College

**Rookie of the Year:** Tom Secky, Alfred University

**Coach of the Year:** Mike Welch, Ithaca College

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**First Team Offense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Jason Boltus	QB	Sr.	Hartwick
Thomas Bergerstock	RB	Jr.	Ithaca
Darnell Jackson	RB	Sr.	Norwich
Jared Manzer	WR	Jr.	Alfred
Jack Phelan	WR	Sr.	Hartwick
Tim Marion	All-Purpose	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Brian Weverbergh	TE	Sr.	Ithaca
Andrew Cottet	OL	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Chris Gray	OL	Sr.	Ithaca
Andrew Jackson	OL	Sr.	Springfield
Sean Mirkov	OL	Sr.	Ithaca
Jake Queener	OL	Jr.	Ithaca

**First Team Defense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Reza Afsarmanesh	DL	Jr.	Norwich
Joe Goetz	DL	Jr.	Ithaca
Dan Pollock	DL	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Rob Ritter	DL	Sr.	Alfred
Tom Caporale	LB	Sr.	Springfield
Josh Gottlieb	LB	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Matt Scalice	LB	Sr.	Ithaca
Ken Bostick	DB	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Jason Chier	DB	Sr.	Ithaca
Brian Nitsche	DB	Sr.	Alfred
Justin Oelgeschlager	DB	Sr.	Hartwick

**First Team Special Teams (Two players tied for final spot at return specialist)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Ryan Boyea	PK	Sr.	Hartwick
Ben Atwood	P	Sr.	Utica
Jason Chier	KR/PR	Sr.	Ithaca
Tim Marion	KR/PR	Sr.	St. John Fisher

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**Second Team Offense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Dan Juvan	QB	Sr.	Ithaca
Brad Carlton	RB	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Morgan O'Brien	RB	Sr.	Alfred
Trevor Bork	WR	Sr.	Alfred
Tim Marion	WR	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Jared Manzer	All-Purpose	Jr.	Alfred
D.J. Loughlin-Pope	TE	So.	Alfred
Dave Carletta	OL	Jr.	Alfred
Ben Musall	OL	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Zach Morgan	OL	So.	Alfred
Eric Russo	OL	Sr.	Ithaca
Pete Soehner	OL	So.	St. John Fisher

**Second Team Defense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Matt Becton	DL	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Richard Cumby	DL	Sr.	Norwich
Adam Drescher	DL	Jr.	Ithaca
Ben Tomaino	DL	Jr.	Hartwick
Nick Clark	LB	Fr.	Alfred
Andy Episcopo	LB	Jr.	St. John Fisher
Eric Kahl	LB	Jr.	Utica
Turell Ahmed	DB	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Donovan Brown	DB	Jr.	Norwich
Ron Smith	DB	Sr.	Alfred
Pete Vano	DB	Jr.	Utica

**Second Team Special Teams**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Chris Pierri	PK	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Ricky Tatar	P	Sr.	St. John Fisher

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**Sportsman of the Year**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Morgan O'Brien	Sr.	Alfred University
J.J. Ambrogio	Sr.	Hartwick College
Dan Juvan	Sr.	Ithaca College
Jim Kiritsy	Sr.	Norwich University
Andrew Jackson	Sr.	Springfield College
Ken Bostick	Sr.	St. John Fisher College
Pete Vano	Jr.	Utica College

**Honorable Mention Offense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Tom Secky	QB	Fr.	Alfred
Kyle Crandall	WR	Sr.	Ithaca
Jim Smith	WR	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Dan Reger	TE	Jr.	St. John Fisher
P.J. DiGati	OL	Sr.	Hartwick
Andrew Murphy	OL	Sr.	Hartwick
Tosh DeMulder	All-Purpose	Jr.	Hartwick

**Honorable Mention Defense**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Cody Flannigan	DL	Jr.	Springfield
Vinson Jones	DL	Sr.	Utica
Sean Trapper	DL	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Mark Mangovski	LB	Jr.	Alfred
John Scanlon	LB	Sr.	Ithaca
David Ahonen	DB	So.	Ithaca
Jarred Burrell	DB	Jr.	Springfield
Jason Cirulli	DB	Sr.	St. John Fisher
Jeremy Darron	DB	Sr.	Alfred

**Honorable Mention Special Teams**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Casey McNulty	PK	Jr.	Utica
Andy Rogowski	PK	Fr.	Ithaca
Pete Marley	P	Jr.	Alfred
Jarred Burrell	PR/KR	Jr.	Springfield