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## **EMPIRE 8 ANNOUNCES MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**

*Sean O'Brien of St. John Fisher Named Player of the Year*

**ROCHESTER, NY** – Senior guard Sean O'Brien of conference champion St. John Fisher College was named Empire 8 Men's Basketball Player of the Year. Jan Coccozziello of Hartwick College earned Rookie of the Year honors. Rob Kornaker of St. John Fisher and Andy Goodemote of Utica College shared Coach of the Year Honors.

O'Brien, a three-time all-conference first team selection, enters the national tournament averaging 12.5 points per game and leading the conference in assists (6.3 per game) and free throw percentage (90.2 percent). He hit the game-winning jumper with 1.7 seconds left in overtime to send the Cardinals into the Empire 8 title game.

Senior guard Justin Cichon, a second-team choice last year, and junior guard/forward Ray Bryant of Utica College were named to the all-conference first team. Cichon enters the national tournament averaging 15.3 points per game and leads the Pioneers in three-point field goals (61) and free throw percentage (86.2 percent).

Bryant ranks second in the conference in scoring (18.2 points per game) and rebounds (7.6 rebounds per game) and is shooting 54.2 percent from the floor and 74.6 percent from the free throw line.

Senior guard Jim Bellis of Ithaca College was named to the first team this season after receiving second-team all-conference recognition last year. He averaged a team-high 18 points per game and also led the Bombers in 3-pointers (51), steals (49), and blocked shots heading into ECAC play.

Senior guard Fran Snyder of RIT was named to the all-conference first team averaging a team-high 13.1 points per game and shooting 80.2 percent from the free throw line. He also leads the ECAC-bound Tigers with 34 steals.

Coccozziello, a five-time Empire 8 Rookie of the week, led the Hawks by averaging 14.8 points and 3.1 assists per game. He also led the team with 31 steals.

Kornaker guided St. John Fisher to its fourth consecutive league title to earn Coach of the Year honors for the fourth straight year. Goodemote led Utica to the Empire 8 title game and its first NCAA appearance in school history.

### **2006 Empire 8 Men's Basketball Honors**

**Player of the Year:** Sean O'Brien, St. John Fisher College

**Rookie of the Year:** Jan Coccozziello, Hartwick College

**Co-Coach of the Year:** Andy Goodemote, Utica College

**Co-Coach of the Year:** Rob Kornaker, St. John Fisher College

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### **Empire 8 Men's Basketball All-Conference**

#### **First Team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jim Bellis	Ithaca	Senior	Guard
Ray Bryant	Utica	Junior	Guard/Forward
Justin Cichon	Utica	Senior	Guard
Sean O'Brien	St. John Fisher	Senior	Guard
Fran Snyder	RIT	Senior	Guard

#### **Second Team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Position</b>
Nick Bennett	St. John Fisher	Senior	Forward
Quentin Bryant	Alfred	Senior	Guard
Joe Canori	Nazareth	Sophomore	Guard
Mike McGee	St. John Fisher	Senior	Guard/Forward
Micah Owens	Elmira	Senior	Center

#### **Sportsman of the Year**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Chris Lemasters	Sr.	Alfred University
Joe Prunier	Jr.	Elmira College
John Montana	Sr.	Hartwick College
Jeff Bostic	Fr.	Ithaca College
Mike DeBlois	Sr.	Nazareth College
Chris Bocciolatt	Jr.	RIT
Pete Gillett	Sr.	St. John Fisher College
Dennis Munch	So.	Utica College

#### **Honorable Mention**

Justin Beigel, St. John Fisher; Jan Coccozziello, Hartwick; Willie Lucas, Utica; Ryan McAdam, Nazareth; Dan McSweeney, St. John Fisher; Dillon Stein, Alfred

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