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**EMPIRE 8 ANNOUNCES WOMEN'S TENNIS ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM  
Dana Bacalla of Stevens Named Player of the Year**

**ROCHESTER, NY** – Senior Dana Bacalla of Stevens Institute of Technology was named the 2007 Empire 8 Women's Tennis Player of the Year. She was named to the all-conference first team in singles and in doubles. Bacalla earned her third straight conference honor after being chosen as Skyline Conference Player of the Year the past two seasons.

Bacalla, who tore her ACL after last season, posted an 18-1 record in first singles (16-0 in dual matches) and a 10-0 mark in Empire 8 play. She teamed with Allyson Kingman to win nine of 10 Empire 8 matches in first doubles and record a 16-2 overall record.

Senior Katie Calfee of Alfred University, the 2006 Player of the Year, was named to the all-conference first team for the fourth time. She won nine of 10 matches in first singles.

Two players from conference champion Ithaca College received first-team recognition. Senior Rachel Gunderson has recorded a 13-3 record in second singles and earned the Most Valuable Player honor at the conference championship tournament.

Melanie Cohen of the Bombers was named to the first team and selected 2007 Empire 8 Women's Tennis Rookie of the Year. She has posted a 12-4 record in first singles.

Junior Rachel Leonard of Nazareth College received first-team honors for the third time. She finished 8-3 in second singles with two wins over first-team all-conference players.

Junior Whitney Bender joined her teammate Bacalla on the first team after registering 14 wins in second singles, including seven against conference opponents.

Bill Austin repeated as Empire 8 Coach of the Year for leading Ithaca to its third consecutive conference title and sixth championship in nine years, and a second straight bid to the NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Championship.

One member of each team was named that institution's representative on the 2007 Women's Tennis Sportswoman 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 sportswomen.

**Empire 8 2007 Women's Tennis All-Conference Awards**

**Player of the Year:** Dana Bacalla, Stevens Institute of Technology

**Rookie of the Year:** Melanie Cohen, Ithaca College

**Coach of the Year:** Bill Austin, Ithaca College

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**First Team All-Conference****Singles**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Dana Bacalla	Sr.	Stevens
Whitney Bender	Jr.	Stevens
Katie Calfee	Sr.	Alfred
Melanie Cohen	Fr.	Ithaca
Rachel Gunderson	Sr.	Ithaca
Rachel Leonard	Jr.	Nazareth

**Doubles**

<b>Names</b>	<b>School</b>
Melanie Cohen/Melissa Nunez	Ithaca
Rachel Leonard/Stephanie Parvan	Nazareth
Dana Bacalla/Allyson Kingman	Stevens

**Second Team All-Conference****Singles**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Katie Barlow	So.	St. John Fisher
Betsy Breaznell	So.	Hartwick
Laura Hale	So.	St. John Fisher
Alyssa Jaffe	Jr.	Ithaca
Allyson Kingman	Fr.	Stevens
Jennifer Lin	Fr.	Hartwick

**Doubles**

<b>Names</b>	<b>School</b>
Katie Calfee/Elana Lewis	Alfred
Alyssa Jaffe/Devra Reiman	Ithaca
Whitney Bender/Rebecca Ryba	Stevens

**Sportswoman of the Year**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>School</b>
Desiree Woods	Sr.	Alfred
Danielle Oaxaca	Jr.	Elmira
Anne Neely	Jr.	Hartwick
Rachel Gunderson	Sr.	Ithaca
Jackie Martinez	So.	Nazareth
Brianne Francisco	Jr.	RIT
Katie Barlow	So.	St. John Fisher
Allyson Kingman	Fr.	Stevens
Kathryn Rossi	Sr.	Utica

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**Honorable Mention All-Conference****Singles**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
Leigh Bryson	RIT
Jodi Butterfoss	Alfred
Rebecca Kingman	Elmira
Jackie Martinez	Nazareth

**Doubles**

<b>Names</b>	<b>School</b>
Jackie Martinez/Jess Faber	Nazareth
Alexis Stanley/Leigh Bryson	RIT
Sara Paduano/Joanna Cash	RIT

