



Date: October 28, 2009

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

**EMPIRE 8 ANNOUNCES WOMEN'S TENNIS ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM
Cristina Nunez of Ithaca College Sweeps Individual Awards**

ROCHESTER, NY – Cristina Nunez of conference champion Ithaca College was the unanimous choice as 2009 Empire 8 Women's Tennis Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year. Bill Austin was selected as Empire 8 Coach of the Year for the fifth consecutive year after leading Ithaca to its fifth straight conference title and fourth straight bid to the NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Championship.

Nunez went 7-0 at first singles in conference play and was named Most Valuable Player of the Empire 8 Women's Tennis Championship after sweeping first singles and first doubles matches. She reached the semifinals of the state tournament and the quarterfinals of the ITA tournament earlier in the season. Nunez was also named to the all-conference first team in doubles, teaming with her sister Melissa Nunez.

Junior Agata Kubik of Ithaca earned first-team honors in singles for the second consecutive year, going undefeated in Empire 8 play and reaching the finals of the state tournament at second singles. The Bombers' third doubles team of Sarah Hollis and Devra Reiman garnered first-team honors after going undefeated in Empire 8 play and overall, and capturing the third doubles state title.

Junior Amanda Berg of Rochester Institute of Technology, the 2008 Empire 8 Women's Tennis Player of the Year, repeated as a first-team selection after posting a 7-1 regular season conference mark at first singles and at first doubles with Amanda Berg. The duo earned first-team recognition as well.

Junior Allyson Kingman of conference runner-up Stevens Institute of Technology was a repeat first-team selection after posting an 8-3 regular season mark in dual matches.

Junior Elena Vahl of St. John Fisher College and senior Elizabeth Way of Nazareth College were named to the all-conference first team for the first time. Vahl finished the season 8-0 in conference play and 16-2 overall at second singles. Way posted a 7-0 Empire 8 mark at third singles.

One member of each team was named that institution's representative on the 2009 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.

- more -

Empire 8 2009 Women's Tennis All-Conference Awards

Player of the Year: Cristina Nunez, Ithaca College

Rookie of the Year: Cristina Nunez, Ithaca College

Coach of the Year: Bill Austin, Ithaca College

First Team All-Conference

Singles

Name	Yr.	School
Amanda Berg	Jr.	Rochester Institute of Technology
Allyson Kingman	Jr.	Stevens Institute of Technology
Agata Kubik	Jr.	Ithaca College
Cristina Nunez	Fr.	Ithaca College
Elena Vahl	Jr.	St. John Fisher College
Elizabeth Way	Sr.	Nazareth College

Doubles

Names	School
Sarah Hollis/Devra Reiman	Ithaca College
Cristina Nunez/Melissa Nunez	Ithaca College
Amanda Berg/Alexis Stanley	Rochester Institute of Technology

Second Team All-Conference

Singles

Name	Yr.	School
Brooke Catanzano	Fr.	Stevens Institute of Technology
Melanie Cohen	Jr.	Ithaca College
Griffin Currie	So.	Alfred University
Nicole Portner	So.	Stevens Institute of Technology
Kim Post	Jr.	Hartwick College
Holly Seidewand	Sr.	Alfred University

Doubles

Names	School
Laura Hale/Elena Vahl	St. John Fisher College
Brooke Catanzano/Morgan Scalzi	Stevens Institute of Technology
Allyson Kingman/Nicole Portner	Stevens Institute of Technology

- more -

Sportswoman of the Year

Name	Yr.	School
Autumn McLain	Jr.	Alfred University
Alia Pyros	Sr.	Elmira College
Betsy Breaznell	Sr.	Hartwick College
Sarah Hollis	Sr.	Ithaca College
Jackeline Martinez	Sr.	Nazareth College
Michele Caporali	Jr.	Rochester Institute of Technology
Katie Barlow	Sr.	St. John Fisher College
Allyson Kingman	Jr.	Stevens Institute of Technology
Jen Persio	Fr.	Utica College

Honorable Mention All-Conference**Singles**

Name	School
Katie Barlow	St. John Fisher
Julie Burkett	RIT
Michele Caporali	RIT
Laura Hale	St. John Fisher
Jen Lin	Hartwick
Autumn McLain	Alfred

Doubles

Names	School
Jen Lin/Kim Post	Hartwick
Jackie Martinez/Elizabeth Way	Nazareth

- Empire 8 -