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**EMPIRE 8 ANNOUNCES BASEBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**  
*Conference Champion St. John Fisher Sweeps Individual Honors*

ROCHESTER, NY – St. John Fisher College swept the four individual awards as the Empire 8 announced its 2011 All-Conference Team. Justin D’Amato was the unanimous selection as Pitcher of the Year and Rookie of the Year. Junior first baseman Steve Karnyski was chosen as Player of the Year and Brandon Potter repeated as Coach of the Year.

D’Amato has posted a 9-2 record with three complete games and a 3.25 earned run average in 12 starts. In 69.1 innings, he has allowed just 59 hits, while striking out 83.

Karnyski is hitting .381 with 33 runs scored, 31 runs batted in, and a team-leading seven home runs.

Three other St. John Fisher players were named to the all-conference first team. Senior catcher Leo Fusilli earned all-conference honors for the third consecutive year and made his second appearance on the first team. The 2009 Empire 8 Player of the Year is hitting .373 with 29 runs scored and a team-best 37 runs batted in.

Junior relief pitcher Tim Sylvester of the Cardinals is 3-0 with three saves and a 1.71 earned run average to earn first-team accolades. In 21 innings, he has allowed 15 hits and struck out 28. Sophomore second baseman Ben Bostick, a second-team selection last year, was named to the first team this season. He is batting .344 with 31 RBI and a team-high 37 runs scored.

Three Rochester Institute of Technology players were selected to the all-conference first team. Senior outfielder Justin Smith repeated on the first team after leading the Tigers with a .393 batting average, 29 runs scored, and 53 RBI.

Fellow RIT seniors Mike Marsillo and Ed Hughes were also named to the first team. Marsillo finished 5-4 with a 2.48 earned run average and a school single-season record three shutouts. Shortstop Ed Hughes batted .371 with 23 runs scored and a team-high 27 RBI.

Senior third baseman David Ahonen of Ithaca College received first-team all-conference recognition for the fourth consecutive year. Ahonen is batting .376 with 32 hits, 31 runs scored, five home runs, and 22 RBI. Junior outfielder Teagen Barresi, the 2009 Rookie of the Year with St. John Fisher, earned first-team honors for the Bombers this season. He is hitting .410 with 41 hits, 23 runs scored, 10 doubles, and 28 RBI.

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Senior Russell Grimes of Stevens Institute of Technology was named to the all-conference first team. The outfielder is hitting .344 with 42 hits, 22 runs scored, nine extra-base hits, and 29 RBI.

Sophomore designated hitter Nick Dunbar and freshman utility player Alex Choleva of Utica College garnered first-team honors. Dunbar hit .291 with 11 doubles, 19 runs scored, and 13 RBI. Choleva batted .320 with seven doubles, three triples, 17 runs scored, and 16 RBI.

One member of each team was named that institution's representative on the 2011 Baseball 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.

### 2011 Empire 8 Baseball Awards

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

**Pitcher of the Year:** Justin D'Amato, St. John Fisher College

**Rookie of the Year:** Justin D'Amato, St. John Fisher College

**Coach of the Year:** Brandon Potter, St. John Fisher College

#### First Team All-Conference

|                |     |                 |      |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|------|
| Leo Fusilli    | Sr. | St. John Fisher | C    |
| Steve Karnyski | Jr. | St. John Fisher | 1B   |
| Ben Bostick    | So. | St. John Fisher | 2B   |
| David Ahonen   | Sr. | Ithaca          | 3B   |
| Ed Hughes      | Sr. | RIT             | SS   |
| Teagen Barresi | Jr. | Ithaca          | OF   |
| Russell Grimes | Sr. | Stevens         | OF   |
| Justin Smith   | Sr. | RIT             | OF   |
| Nick Dunbar    | So. | Utica           | DH   |
| Alex Choleva   | Fr. | Utica           | UTIL |
| Justin D'Amato | Fr. | St. John Fisher | SP   |
| Mike Marsillo  | Sr. | RIT             | SP   |
| Tim Sylvester  | Jr. | St. John Fisher | RP   |

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**Second Team All-Conference**

|                 |     |                 |      |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|------|
| Denis Ackerman  | Sr. | Stevens         | C    |
| Trevor Wolf     | Sr. | Ithaca          | 1B   |
| Tom Phillips    | Jr. | Stevens         | 2B   |
| Anthony DiSalvo | Sr. | Utica           | 3B   |
| Chris Podlucky  | So. | Utica           | SS   |
| Kreag Bradley   | Jr. | RIT             | OF   |
| Matt Glassman   | Jr. | Stevens         | OF   |
| Ben Ward        | Jr. | St. John Fisher | OF   |
| Rob Zappia      | Sr. | Ithaca          | OF   |
| Mike Rosenbaum  | Jr. | Ithaca          | DH   |
| Ron Canestro    | Fr. | RIT             | UTIL |
| Dan Anunziatta  | Sr. | Stevens         | SP   |
| Kevin Mathews   | So. | Stevens         | SP   |
| Craig Leopold   | So. | Stevens         | RP   |

**Sportsman of the Year**

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Yr.</b> | <b>School</b>                     |
|------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rob Zappia       | Sr.        | Ithaca College                    |
| Justin Smith     | Sr.        | Rochester Institute of Technology |
| Ross Langevin    | Sr.        | St. John Fisher College           |
| Kyle Hanas       | Sr.        | Stevens Institute of Technology   |
| Zach Hasselbarth | Sr.        | Utica College                     |

**Honorable Mention All-Conference**

|               |                 |    |
|---------------|-----------------|----|
| Jon Meyer     | RIT             | C  |
| Matt Keller   | Ithaca          | 2B |
| Walt Roman    | RIT             | 3B |
| Tim Locastro  | Ithaca          | SS |
| Ross Langevin | St. John Fisher | OF |
| Brad Rush     | St. John Fisher | DH |
| Josh Cox      | St. John Fisher | SP |
| Tim Johnson   | St. John Fisher | SP |
| Dan Lynch     | Ithaca          | SP |
| Tucker Healey | Ithaca          | RP |