



# ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

## Brennan Fortune

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR  
**CHRIS POTTER**

Brennan Fortune is both the epitome and the antithesis of a typical Athlete of the Year.

No, the senior left tackle didn't record a single offensive statistic in 2007 (unlike *Madden*, the Empire 8 doesn't keep track of pancake blocks), but good luck finding anyone that says St. John Fisher College's vaunted offense would have been anywhere near as efficient without No. 58 driving defenders downfield with the force of a space shuttle launch.

The very nature of Fortune's position doesn't lend itself to easy recognition. Although he paves the way in the trenches, others get to cap off Fisher drives with touchdown celebrations in the end zone.

Fortune wouldn't have it any other way.

"I love being kind of the shadow," the Avon, N.Y., native said. "It's imperative for offensive lineman to work together as a whole, and our line is a close-knit unit. When you start talking to the media and getting a lot of recognition it creates individuals, which is kind of counterproductive to what we're trying to get done."

While Fortune may prefer to allow his play on the field speak for itself, the numbers Fisher's offense put up this season do more than enough to tell the tale of his impact.

With the help of Fortune's dominating run and pass blocking, the Cardinals rolled up 2,330 rushing yards, while the quarterbacks had enough time in the pocket to accumulate 2,704 yards through the air. The net result was an impressive 35.2 points per game and a second-consecutive E8 title.

"Fortune was a dominating player," coach Paul Vosburgh said. "You can see statistically our runs to the left were just outstanding. Our number one run was outside zone to the left, and he's the key man."

Classmate Ryan Hanson was a major beneficiary of Fortune's blocking prowess, racking up 1,114 yards. Hanson experienced first hand some of the gaping holes that Fortune and his fellow lineman created.

"Whenever a play was called in Fortune's direction, I always knew there was a possibility for a big play," Hanson said. "People may think that his job ends at the line, but many times I'd see him downfield blocking to create more opportunities, pushing defensive lineman so far back that it creates chaos."

When he wasn't punishing defenders in the running game, Fortune was busy protecting quarterback Rob Kramer's blindside, a key task of the left tackle position.

Kramer, who was quick to praise his fellow captain's tireless work ethic in the weight room, also pointed out the impact Fortune and the offensive line had on the Cardinals overall success.

"I think the accolades for offensive linemen are often overlooked," Kramer said. "Reporters and fans see running backs

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### VOTING BREAKDOWN

#### NAME, POINTS (FIRST PLACE)

1. Brennan Fortune 107 (5)
2. Luke Lennox 79 (2)
3. Ryan Hanson 61 (2)
4. Justin Beigel 61
5. Scott Harris Jr. 44 (1)
6. Steve Stepnick 37
7. Rob Kramer 30
8. Justin Lutes 14
9. Bobby McCartney 7

Voting was done on a 14-9-8-7-6 basis.

## Allison Boehm

STAFF WRITER  
**DAN BARTEMUS**

Empire 8 Conference First Team. D3hoops.com Second Team All-East Region. *ESPN The Magazine* District I Academic All-American. New York State Women's Collegiate Basketball Association All-Star.

Another award will be added to the long list of honors that Allison Boehm, the senior star of the St. John Fisher College women's basketball team, received during the final season of her remarkable basketball career.

She wasn't named *Sports Illustrated's* Sportswomen of the Year, well not yet anyway, but rather the *Cardinal Courier* Female Athlete of the Year.

"I really didn't think any of these awards were going to happen," Boehm said. "I just tried to work my hardest to get the team to where it needed to be, so I guess I'm just happy this is all happening now."

While she may be surprised by her growing list of accomplishments, head coach Phil Kahler believed from day one that Boehm could become the brightest of stars.

"This doesn't surprise me at all," he said.

"I saw she had the ability in high school. I can name on one hand the number of players that were as dominant as she was this year and it's too bad we didn't win more games because she'd probably be an All-American."

Boehm had the look of an All-American throughout her senior season during which she averaged a conference-leading 18.7 points, nine rebounds, 3.5 assists and 1.8 steals per game. She led Fisher in scoring in 20 of 27 games and in rebounding 19 times.

Unfortunately for Boehm, she was one of few bright spots for the women's basketball team in 2007-08. The team finished 13-14, enduring its first losing season in 33 years, lost Kahler for a part of the year while he overcame infectious bronchial pneumonia, and had freak injuries end the season early for a number of players.

"She had to overcome a lot this year," Kahler said. "It was very difficult for her, but she never gave up and did everything she could possibly do to keep us going."

Despite all the surrounding adversity, the thought of raising the white flag never entered Boehm's mind.

"We weren't winning and I was trying everything to make us win," Boehm said. "But I knew at some point someone would make a contribution or they would realize I wanted it so bad that they would start working for it, so I just took it one game at a time."

The game-to-game focus worked well for Boehm as she delivered one monster performance after another. She scored 20 or more points 13 times, 30-plus twice and notched eight double-doubles, highlighted by a heroic 27-point, 15-rebound effort in a 71-62 win over Elmira Col-

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### VOTING BREAKDOWN

#### NAME, POINTS (FIRST PLACE)

1. Allison Boehm 135 (9)
2. Laurie Quackenbush 93 (1)
3. Dani Davis 63
4. Laura Hale 55
5. Katie Glavin 41
6. Kelly Zeppetella 28
7. Ashley Fenyn 26

Voting was done on a 14-9-8-7-6 basis.

