



# BACK-TO-BACK CO-CHAMPS!

*Cardinals defeat the Saxons, 39-18, to win their second consecutive E8 Championship and third in last four years*



Brad Waters

Defensive coordinator Blaise Faggiano celebrates after the Cardinals defeated the Alfred Saxons to win a share of the Empire 8 title.

SPORTS EDITOR  
**MIKE SPIER**

Nov. 12, 2005: The Alfred University Saxons come to Growney Stadium and defeat St. John Fisher College, 13-7, to end their hopes of going to the NCAA Division III Championships

Nov. 10, 2007: Not going to happen.

For the second-straight year and the third time in the last four years, the Cardinals (9-1, 5-1) claimed a share of the Empire 8 Conference title with a 39-18 victory over the Saxons.

The Cardinals will share the Empire 8 title with Hartwick College (8-2, 5-1) who barely edged Utica College, 72-70, in quadruple overtime. The Hawks received the automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Championship while the Cardinals received one of 11 at-large bids to the 32-team tournament. Hartwick claims the automatic bid because they defeated Fisher, 31-28, in their head-to-head match-up on Sept. 29.

"If I didn't screw up, we'd be 10-0," joked Cardinals' coach Paul Vosburgh, as he talked about his controversial call to not go for the game-tying field goal at Hartwick. "So I guess if I put it that way, the football team is 9-0 and I'm 0-1."

The Saxons game didn't go as many thought it would. Heading into the game, the Cardinals averaged 39 points per game and Alfred averaged 38.4, leaving some with the impression that the game would be a battle of juggernaut of-

**St. John Fisher 39  
Alfred University 18**

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Log on to discuss Fisher's second E8 co-championship in a row and third in four years.

fenses.

It sure didn't start that way.

Alfred's first possession was halted by an interception thrown by Alfred senior quarterback Paul Keeley, a former Fisher player, into the hands of senior Scott Miranto. When Alfred got the ball back, senior defensive back Steve Stepnick stripped the ball from the Saxons' feature tailback, Vinson Hendrix, at the Alfred 25-yard line. Fisher scored three plays later on a 14-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Rob Kramer to junior wide receiver Tim Marion making the score 7-0 with 11:06 left in the first quarter.

"Those first two turnovers in the first quarter certainly didn't help us out at the beginning," Alfred head coach Dave Murray said. "Despite those, I think we did a pretty good job keeping ourselves in the game."

After a stalled drive by both teams, they each kicked field goals on their next possessions. Alfred's Chris Reynolds kicked a 23-yard field goal with 4:43 left in the first, and junior Chris Pierri booted one from 33 yards with 1:19 left in the first to

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## Fisher falters in playoffs

STAFF WRITER  
**PAUL WILLIAMS**

A season marked by a sharp turnaround from last year has come to an end for the St. John Fisher College men's soccer team (12-8-1). While this year ended with an ECAC semifinal loss, the team's future looks bright.

The Cardinals opened the Empire 8 tournament with a semifinal game against the second-seeded Utica Pioneers.

The game was played to a scoreless tie in the first half. Any hopes of a Utica victory, however, were dashed with a Freshman Michael Rooney early secondhalf goal from a Brennan Canty assist.

While Rooney was credited with the game winner, the story of the game belonged to Luke Lennox, who recorded his second hat-trick of the year. Lennox would go on a goal scoring spree, and put away the next three goals of the game to put the game at its 4-0 final score.

"It's such a thrill just to play the game, and to score a hat trick on top of it all in the playoffs was incredible," Lennox said.

From there, the Cardinals went on to face Stevens Tech for the E8 championship and an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament. The Cardinals had previously lost to Stevens by the score of 3-2 in an intensely fought regular season game.

In that game, Fisher had rallied from a 2-0 deficit. Coach Rob Searl knew that for this game to have a different result, the Cardinals would need to get off to a better start.

"I thought for us to compete against Stevens, we had to get a break in the first half," Searl said. "We almost did with Lennox in the box ready to shoot but the referee stopped play, gave out some cards to other players, took the ball away from our possession and ini-

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## Cardinals claim No. 2 seed

SPORTS EDITOR  
**MIKE SPIER**

They're back.

On Nov. 11, the NCAA selection committee made Fisher the second-seeded team in the Mount Union Bracket for the NCAA Division III Championship.

The bracket is an interesting one for the Cardinals, as the last two teams they lost to, the Hartwick Hawks and the Mount Union Purple Raiders, are potential opponents.

Fisher would face them in the second round and quarterfinals, respectively.

But the Cardinals are only worried about one round for now: the first one.

In the first round, Fisher will face off against the fifth-seeded Hobart College Statesmen (8-2) at Growney Stadium on Nov. 17 at noon.

"I'm satisfied with the second seed," Cardinals' coach Paul Vosburgh said. "It should



Mike Spier

The Cardinals could face Greg Micheli and Mount Union on Dec. 1.

be an interesting game playing a good team like Hobart."

The Cardinals last played Hobart in 2003. They defeated the Statesmen 20-12 at Boswell

Stadium.

If Fisher advances to the second round they would face off against third-seeded Curry (11-0) or co-Empire 8 confer-

ence champion Hartwick (8-2). Hartwick was the only team that defeated the Cardinals during the season, 31-28.

"You don't want to look forward but you see that setting up in the bracket and it's just interesting to see that we could get them on our field for Round two," senior tight end Chris Harmon said. "Hopefully [the results] will be a little different."

In a hypothetical scenario, Fisher could find themselves playing Mount Union (10-0) in Alliance, Ohio, on Dec. 1. The game would be a rematch of the 2006 Final Four game in which the Cardinals lost 26-14.

To get to the Final Four again, the Cardinals will have to "Scale the Mount." Either way, the Cardinals will have a shot at the Purple Raiders on Sept. 6.

The Cardinals are hoping for an earlier reunion.

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