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## **EMPIRE 8 ANNOUNCES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**

*Dani Dudek of Stevens Repeats as Empire 8 Player of the Year*

**ROCHESTER, NY** – Senior guard Dani Dudek of Stevens Institute of Technology was named the Empire 8 Women's Basketball Player of the Year for the second consecutive year, highlighting the all-conference team announcement.

Dudek leads the Empire 8 in assists (6.9 per game) and assist-to-turnover ratio, and is third in scoring (15.4 points per game), third in field goal percentage (.510), and fifth in rebounding (7.9 rebounds per game). Dudek is ranked fourth in NCAA Division III in assists and 23<sup>rd</sup> in assist-to-turnover ratio.

Utica sophomore forward Jessica Berry, the 2008 Empire 8 Rookie of the Year, earned first-team all-conference honors for the second consecutive year. She leads the conference in scoring (17.6 points per game) by more than two points per game, and ranks second in rebounding (9.6 boards per game) and field goal percentage (.557).

Junior guard Katherine Bixby of Ithaca College garnered first-team all-conference recognition for the second straight season. Bixby is averaging 11.6 points, 3.5 assists, and 3.3 rebounds per game and leads the team in 3-pointers and 3-point percentage.

Sharon Dennis of Rochester Institute of Technology was the unanimous selection as Rookie of the Year and also earned first-team all-conference honors. She easily leads the Empire 8 in rebounding (12.8 rebounds per game) and blocked shots (3.9 blocks per game) and ranks eighth and fifth, respectively, in those categories in NCAA Division III.

Sophomore guard Lyndsay Murphy of Alfred University was named to the all-conference first team, averaging team-bests of 14.1 points and 4.2 assists per game. She leads the Empire 8 in three-pointers (2.2 per game) and ranks second in assists and fifth in scoring.

Dan Raymond was named Coach of the Year for leading Ithaca to a share of the regular season title and the top seed in the Empire 8 Women's Basketball Championship.

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

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### 2009 Empire 8 Women's Basketball Honors

**Player of the Year:** Dani Dudek, Stevens Institute of Technology

**Rookie of the Year:** Sharon Dennis, Rochester Institute of Technology

**Coach of the Year:** Dan Raymond, Ithaca College

### Empire 8 Women's Basketball All-Conference

#### First Team

Name	School	Year	Position
Jessica Berry	Utica	Sophomore	Guard
Katherine Bixby	Ithaca	Junior	Guard
Sharon Dennis	RIT	Freshman	Forward/Center
Dani Dudek	Stevens	Senior	Guard
Lyndsay Murphy	Alfred	Sophomore	Guard

#### Second Team

Name	School	Year	Position
Tracy Bradley	Ithaca	Senior	Forward
Mary Kate Comfort	St. John Fisher	Junior	Center
Devon Croll	Utica	Sophomore	Guard
Colleen Maloney	St. John Fisher	Sophomore	Guard
Lauren Ploof	Hartwick	Junior	Guard

#### Sportswoman of the Year

Name	Yr.	School
Alysha Dias	Jr.	Alfred University
Becky Peterman	So.	Elmira College
Cassie Dresser	Jr.	Hartwick College
Megan Rumschik	Sr.	Ithaca College
Rachel Pirozzolo	Jr.	Nazareth College
Danielle Furman	Jr.	Rochester Institute of Technology
Christine Isselhard	Jr.	St. John Fisher College
Brianne Lavin	So.	Stevens Institute of Technology
Justine Karst	Fr.	Utica College

#### Honorable Mention

Lindsay Brown, Ithaca; Brittany Fuller, Stevens; Erin Rupell, Elmira; Brittany Wilson, Nazareth

**-Empire 8-**