

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Finlandia Announces Men's Soccer 2012 Recruiting Class**

*HANCOCK, MI* – The Finlandia University men's soccer program will welcome eight freshmen to next year's team.

The new players who have committed to play for the Lions in the 2008-09 academic year are Timothy Carron (Saint Clair Shores, Mich.), Steven Hicks (Romulus, Mich.), Aaron Roberts (Watton, Mich.), Matt Erickson (Kingsford, Mich.), Gage McHoul (Dorchester, Mass.), Edward Smith (Kalkaska, Mich.), Carl Rosco (Romulus, Mich.), and Eli Ellison (Fort Walton Beach, Fla.).

Timothy Carron, a 2008 graduate of Saint Clair Shores Lakeview High School, is a 5'6" midfielder/defenseman. Carron was named to the All-Academic Team all four seasons of his high school soccer career. During his junior and senior years, he was an All-State Honorable Mention, a member of the All-Regional Team, and a member of the All-County (Macomb County) Team. In his sophomore and senior seasons, Carron was named to the All-District Team and the All-Conference (Macomb Area Conference) Team.

"Tim's resilience, dedication, and understanding of the game will help him lead the way for incoming freshman in 2008," said head men's soccer coach Matt Griffith. "He has an innate ability to read the field, and has the ball control to advance in one-on-one situations."

Steven Hicks, a 2008 graduate of Romulus High School, is a 6'1" forward who will major in criminal justice. In his senior season, Hicks was named MVP of his team and was a member of the All-Conference Team.

"Steven has a solid soccer background and led his team as captain his junior and senior years," Coach Griffith said. "He knows how to lead on the field and knows the game well enough to play any position effectively."

Aaron Roberts, a 5'11" midfielder, played with the Copper Country Christian soccer team last season. Coach Griffith had this to say about Roberts, "Aaron is a very fast athlete who has played locally for many years. He has a desire to win and a great team attitude. Aaron will be a great addition to the program, and is already used to playing in the mud and snow!"

Matt Erickson, a 2008 graduate of Kingsford High School, is a 5'11" goalkeeper who will major in sports management. Erickson comes to Finlandia with playing experience at both the club and high school levels.

"Matt is a solid keeper with the desire to be the best," Griffith said. "His work ethic is second to none. He has been playing on the varsity team at Kingsford, and in the summer on club teams against college athletes. Matt has an uncanny ability to read where a player is going to shoot the ball in order to make the save."

Gage McHoul, a 2008 graduate of Blue Hills Regional Tech School (Canton, Mass.), is a 5'9" midfielder. McHoul was captain of his varsity soccer team and the MVP his senior year.

"Gage is a hard working soccer player," Coach Griffith noted. "He is not afraid to go one-on-one with other players and has the strength and ability to hold his own against the tougher players in the D-III ranks. I believe Gage will make an immediate impact on the soccer to major in criminal justice at Finlandia.

Edward Smith, a 2008 graduate of Kalkaska High School, will major in criminal justice at Finlandia. A 6'0" midfielder, Smith earned honorable mention on the All-Region Team his sophomore season, and was named to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference (Lake Michigan Conference) his junior and senior seasons.

"Ed is a formidable player from northern lower Michigan," Griffith said. "As a utility player he can play all positions. I am excited to see how he transitions from high school soccer to NCAA D-III soccer."

Carl Rosco is a 2008 graduate of Romulus (Michigan) High School who will also be a utility player for the Lions. "Carl is a determined player that will bring a defensive presence to the program" Coach Griffith noted. "He can read a forward well, which will allow him to attack well defensively."

Eli Ellison comes to Finlandia from Fort Walton Beach (Florida) High School. He'll be a utility player for the Lions. "Eli is used to the heat of Florida soccer," said Coach Griffith. "He can play well against players that are much bigger, and with his speed he dominates play on the field."

For additional information about the Finlandia University men's soccer program, please contact Coach Griffith at 906-487-7326 or [matt.griffith@finlandia.edu](mailto:matt.griffith@finlandia.edu).