

Five members of AU men's swimming team qualify for national championships

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ALFRED -- Five members of the Alfred University men's swimming and diving team have qualified to compete in the NCAA Division III championship meet, March 18-20 in St. Peters, MO. Senior Matt Weems (Arlington, VA/Washington & Lee) will compete in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle events, while junior Kevin Martin (Conesus/Livonia) will compete in the 100 butterfly. Three relay teams -- 200, 400 and 800 freestyle -- also qualified to compete at the nationals. Weems, Martin, senior Matt McNamara (Livonia/Livonia) and sophomore Alex Crowell (Wayland, MA/Wayland) will swim the 200 and 400 freestyle relays, while freshman Brandon Striker (Caledonia/York), McNamara, Martin and Weems will swim the 800 freestyle relay. Alfred earned "B" provisional cut times in each of the events during last weekend's Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association (UNYSCSA) championship meet, in which Alfred placed second as a team. Swimmers earning "B" cuts were notified Thursday if their times were good enough to qualify for the NCAAs. Alfred will also be able to enter swimmers into two relays -- the 200 and 400 medley relays -- for which they did not post qualifying cut times. AU head coach Brian Striker will decide which swimmers will participate in the two events. Martin and Weems were part of the 200 medley relay team that won a state title at the UNYSCSA meet, while McNamara swam on the 400 medley relay team that placed fourth. Alfred's 200 and 400 freestyle relays teams won state championships, while the 800 freestyle relay team placed second. Weems was state champion in the 200 freestyle, while placing second in the 100 freestyle and third in the 50 freestyle. Martin was state champ in the 100 butterfly. The NCAA Division III championships are hosted by Principia (IL) College.