

Equestrian team set to open season at AU Invitational

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ALFRED, NY -- The Alfred University equestrian team opens its 2004-05 season Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 30 and 31, when the Saxons host the AU Invitational show. AU has several talented riders returning from last year's team, and hopes to improve on a campaign that saw four riders qualify for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone 2, Region 2 championships. Head coach Becky Backer hopes for a return to the IHSA Zone and National championships this season. Two of the four riders who qualified for last year's regionals - juniors Lianna Girshman (Conway, MA/Frontier) and Katie Frickland (Issaquah, WA/Skyline) -- return this season. Each earned a pair of blue ribbons at invitational shows last year. Junior Anna Lund (Andover, NY/Wellsville) returns as the team's top rider in the open division. Other returnees include sophomores Heather Stewart (Austin, TX/Westlake), Ashley Conway (Middlebury, VT/Middlebury Union), Elizabeth Feinberg (Oakland, CA/Beacon), and Ashley Wawrzynski (Hamlin, NY/Brockport); juniors Jessica Howe (Rochester, NY/Greece Athena), Danielle Lownes (Richboro, PA/Council Rock), Janine Slanina (Titusville, PA/Pennington) and Meghan Mocio (Suffern, NY/Immaculate Heart); and seniors Allison Bliss (Williamsville, NY/Williamsville East) and David Lemke (Niagara Falls, NY/Niagara Catholic). Several new riders join the team this year, providing depth and talent. Newcomers include freshmen Lisa Landis (New City, NY/Clarkstown North), Mae Pennisi (Alfred Station, NY/Alfred-Almond) and Holly White (Wayland, NY/Wayland-Cohocton); sophomore Lindsay Travis (Hinsdale, NY/Hinsdale); junior Bethany Cohen (Saratoga Springs/Saratoga); and senior Melissa Lorah (Moravia, NY/Moravia).