

Five Saxons earn NFCA Northeast Region accolades

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Five members of the Alfred University softball team have been named National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) regional all-stars.

The NFCA announced its all-region teams Monday and senior utility player [Alison Wickwire](#) (Towanda, PA/Towanda) and sophomore third baseman [Liz Thompson](#) (Horseheads, NY/Horseheads) were named Northeast Region First Team all-stars.

Junior shortstop [Nicole Maher](#) (Newark, DE/Caravel Academy) and sophomore first baseman [Sophia Chiavatti](#) (Tustin, CA/Foothill) were named to the Second Team; junior second baseman [Dana Torchia](#) (Pompton Plains, NJ/Pequannock Twp.) earned a spot on the Third Team.

The Saxons (38-4) won last weekend's NCAA Division III regional tournament, played at Alfred, and will now play a best-of-three Super Regional at Heidelberg University (Tiffin, OH), with a trip to the College World Series (May 21-26 in Salem, VA) going to the winner.

Wickwire, who repeats as an NFCA First Team all-region pick, is hitting .406 and leads the team in RBI (53), slugging (.953) and homeruns (school-record 16). A three-time First Team Empire 8 all-star, she earned Most Outstanding Player honors for the regional after earning two pitching wins and driving in the lone run in a 1-0 win over Rowan.

Thompson, the Empire 8 Player of the Year, is hitting .481 and leads the team in runs (school-record 55), hits (64) and steals (20). Her 43 RBI, 12 homeruns and .925 slugging percentage all rank second on the team.

Maher is hitting .345, has scored 19 runs and driven in 38, while Chiavatti leads the team in batting with a .489 average, has driven in 23 runs and has a perfect 1000 fielding percentage. Among Chiavatti's 44 hits are 24 doubles, a school single-season record. Maher and Chiavatti were both First Team Empire 8 all-stars and joined Wickwire on the NCAA All-Region Team.

Torchia, a Second Team Empire 8 all-star this year, is batting .331 with 37 runs scored and 32 driven in. She has been nearly flawless in the field, posting a .993 fielding percentage, with just one error in 134 chances.

AU opens Super Regional play at Heidelberg at 4 p.m. Friday and plays again at 1 p.m. Saturday. If a third game is needed, it will be played at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.