

## Young AU cross country teams building for future

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ALFRED The 2001 cross country teams at Alfred University will be built on youth, as several new young faces dot both the men's and women's roster. While there are some veterans on the men's team, the majority of its top runners are freshmen or sophomores. The women's team has one junior; the rest of the squad consists of freshmen and sophomores. First-year coach Andrew Weishaar admits that there is some inexperience on both teams, but is confident the runners will improve week by week as the season progresses. On the men's side, Weishaar points to a solid group of freshmen runners he envisions becoming the nucleus of a strong team in the coming years. Four in particular - Ryan Bank (St. Johnsbury, VT/St. Johnsbury), Dan Burnett (Spencerport/Spencerport), Andy Crawford (Canandaigua/Canandaigua) and Paul Nettle (Corning/Corning East) - have shown promise in preseason training and in the Saxons' season's first meet at Hobart, where AU finished fifth of eight teams competing. "We're a really young team. Our top five runners (at Hobart) were dominated by freshmen," he said. Bank was Alfred's top runner, turning in a 13th place finish at Hobart. Nettle (15th), Burnett (32nd) and Crawford (38th) had the second-, fifth- and seventh-best finishes on the team at Hobart. The Saxons aren't without experience. One of the team's top runners from a year ago, sophomore Logan Quist-Chaffee (Allegany/Allegany-Limestone) was Alfred's third-best performer at Hobart, turning in an 18th place overall finish. Other returnees from last season include seniors Adam Carberry (Rocky Hill, CT/Xavier), Bill Hill (Michigan City, IN/Hill School) and Ben Lee (Fanwood, NJ/Scotch Plains-Fanwood); junior Bill Hammond (Macedon/Gananda); and sophomore Mike Cook (Auburn/Auburn). "Mike Cook had a strong summer," Weishaar said, noting that Cook's time at this year's Hobart meet was three minutes faster than his time in the same meet last season. Newcomers include freshmen Matt Comerchero (Bloomsburg, PA/Wyoming Seminary) and two seniors - Matt Redente (Sidney/Fairport) and Charles Klee (Pine City/Notre Dame) - who have been members of the AU track teams. The Saxons' top runner from a year ago, senior Andy Corman (Rochester/Greece Athena) is redshirting and will rejoin the team next fall. Corman will rejoin the team during the track season with a strong focus on qualifying for the national championships in May. Weishaar is optimistic about the Saxons getting better as they gain experience throughout the season. He said the team has a legitimate chance of being ranked in the top 10 in the state and region. "It's a very smart squad," he said. "I've seen progress the last four weeks. They'll get stronger as the season progresses." The women's team is far more inexperienced than the men's, but Weishaar also feels the Lady Saxons have the potential to make solid strides as the season continues. "The team is completely new (from last year) with the exception of one runner," he said. "It's a very young team." The lone holdover from last season is sophomore Kerry White (Congers/Clarkstown). Joining White are junior Kristen Welch (Amherst, NH/Souhegan), sophomores Lisa Malazzo (Mt. Sinai/Mt. Sinai), a transfer from Ohio Wesleyan, and freshmen Nicole Haahr (Owego/Tioga) and Maureen McGlenn (Elmira/Thomas A. Edison). Welch turned in the team's best performance at Hobart, finishing 23rd, while Malazzo placed 34th. "It's a rebuilding year," Weishaar said of the women's team. "We have a solid foundation for the future, but we'll be doing a lot of recruiting this year. We need bigger numbers."