

Saxons drop two at Empire 8 softball championship tournament

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UTICA, NY The Alfred University softball team dropped both its game on the opening day of the Empire 8 Conference Championship tournament Friday. The Saxons fell to host Utica College, 8-0 in six innings, then dropped a 3-2 10-inning decision to Elmira.

With the two defeats, the fourth-seeded Saxons are out of the four-team double-elimination tournament.

In Friday's second game, against second-seeded Elmira, AU took an early lead with a pair of unearned runs in the second. Alfred sophomore pitcher **Jessica O'Sullivan (Habersham, SC/Groton-Dunstable (MA) Regional)** held Elmira down until the sixth, when the Soaring Eagles tied the game, plating both runs with two outs.

The score remained tied until the top of the 10th innings, when Elmira pushed across what would prove to be the winning run, again with two outs.

Freshman third baseman **Dana Torchia (Pompton Plains, NJ/Pequannock Twp.)** and junior outfielder **Samijo Scheer (Corning, NY/Corning East)** had Alfred's only two hits of the game, both singles, and freshman shortstop **Nicole Maher (Newark, DE/Caravel Academy)** and senior second baseman **Maressa Mistretta (Shirley, NY/Longwood)** each scored a run.

In the first game, Alfred and top-seeded Utica were locked in a tight battle through four innings, with Utica holding a 1-0 lead. The Pioneers broke the game open with a five-run fifth, then added two in the bottom of the sixth inning to end the contest due to the eight-run rule.

Alfred's starting pitcher, freshman **Katelyn Jakobsen (Elmwood Park, IL/Elmwood)**, went 4 2/3 innings and allowed six earned runs on nine hits while striking out one and walking one. Sophomore **Samantha Jo Muller (Port Jervis, NY/Port Jervis)** threw one-third of an inning and allowed a pair of earned runs on four hits and a pair of

walks.

With the two losses, the Saxons are 23-17 and will now wait to see if they will earn a bid to an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championship tournament. The ECAC will announce its tournament fields Sunday.