

AU softball team sweeps Hartwick

4/27/02

HORNELL, NY The Alfred University softball team swept a doubleheader from visiting Hartwick at Hornell High School Saturday afternoon. AU (5-25, 2-10 Empire 8) won the first game, 7-3, before nipping the Hawks (8-26, 2-10 Empire 8) 4-3 in the nightcap. For the two games, AU senior shortstop Tara Harwood (Hornell/Hornell), playing in her last home games, had four hits, scored twice, drove in a run and stole three bases. AU sophomore centerfielder Jacque Krycia (Hamburg/Mt. Mercy) had singles three times, two RBIs and scored a run and in the opener, while freshman leftfielder Rachel Porter (Almond/Alfred-Almond) had three hits, including a double, and drove in two runs. Junior pitcher Brandi Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) went the distance on the mound for Alfred, striking out three and allowing three unearned runs on five hits. Hartwick was paced by Stefanie Walker, who hit a three-run homer in the third inning after two Hawk batters reached on errors with one out. Walker's round-tripper made the score 4-3, but the Lady Saxons scored a run in the fourth and two more in the fifth to pull away. Walker relieved pitcher Rachael Morrissey in the third inning and allowed three runs on seven hits in four innings. In the second game, AU took a 2-0 lead in the third when Harwood doubled, stole third and scored on a groundout. Freshman catcher Beth MacMichael (Scio/Scio) then singled and later scored on a base hit by sophomore rightfielder Wendy Breed (Macedon/Palmyra-Macedon). Hartwick scored a run in the third on a solo homerun by Maria Fernandez and tied it in the fourth when Tressa Campbell reached on an error and scored on Walker's sacrifice fly. Alfred broke the tie with two runs in the fifth. Freshman third baseman Kristina Goldberg (South Salem/John Jay) singled and MacMichael doubled before Backus plated them both with a two-out double. Hartwick scored a run in the sixth to pull within one, but went down one-two-three in the seventh. Backus again went the distance on the hill for the Lady Saxons, allowing five hits and striking out two. Golberg and MacMichael each finished with two hits to pace the AU offense. Morrissey started for Hartwick, striking out one in three innings of work. Walker pitched the last four innings allowing seven hits and striking out one. Both teams will play in the first round of the Empire 8 conference tournament Tuesday. Opponents for each team have yet to be determined.