

Several Saxons qualify for finals in first day's action at UNYSCSA championships

2/20/13

ITHACA, NY Several members of the Alfred University men's and women's swimming and diving teams advanced through preliminary heats during the first day of the Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association (UNYSCSA) championships and will compete in this evening's final rounds.

The four-day UNYSCSA meet is being held today (Wednesday, Feb. 20) through Saturday, Feb. 23, at Ithaca College. Preliminary heats were held today in the men's and women's 500-yard freestyle, 200-yard individual medley, 50-yard freestyle, and 200-yard medley relay. Finals in the women's 3-meter diving finals are also scheduled for this evening.

The top 24 finishers in each event advance to three rounds of evening final rounds and secure points for their teams. The top eight in preliminaries compete in the championship "A" finals; places ninth through 16th compete in the "B" consolation finals; and places 17th to 24th compete in the "C" consolation finals.

In the men's 500-yard free, three Saxons advanced to this evening's finals. Senior Nate Chapman (Hornell, NY/Hornell) shaved more than 10 seconds off his seed time to finish 16th in 4:47.14. Sophomore Joseph Rogers (Dublin, NH) was 20th in 4:51.42; and freshman Dustin Whyte (Wrentham, MA/King Philip Regional) was 24th in 4:52.95.

Other AU men advancing to tonight's finals are: sophomore Zac Toth (Lockport, NY/Starpont), 14th in the 200 IM (1:56.84); and sophomore David Luke (Ocala, FL/West Port) and junior Pete Sowinski (Akron, NY/Akron), 10th (21.34 seconds) and 15th (21.59), respectively, in the 50-yard freestyle.

Sophomore Chrissy Behr (Manahawkin, NJ/Southern Regional) and freshmen Kelsey McRill (Solon, OH/Solon) were the only AU women's swimmers to qualify for tonight's finals in individual events. Behr took just more than a second off her seed time in qualifying 10th in the 50 free (24.67 seconds). McRill was 14th in 24.92 seconds.

Both Alfred teams advanced in the 200 medley relay. The Saxons' "A" team of sophomore David Coombes (Dansville, NY/Dansville), freshman Jake Olson (Dansville, NY/Dansville), senior Brett Irwin (Springwater, NY/Wayland-Cohocton) and Luke qualified 10th in 1:37.80, while the "B" team of freshman Cian Richardson (Woodacre, CA/Sir Francis Drake), junior Terry Soto (Mt. Morris, NY/Mt. Morris), junior Jake Giglio (Hornell, NY/Hornell) and Chapman were 18th in 1:41.00.

The AU women's "A" and "B" teams also advanced to the finals of the 200 medley relay. Behr, McRill and freshmen

Carly Watson (Hyde Park, NY/FDR) and Emma Gromelski (Clarks Summit, PA/Abington Heights) were 10th in 1:53.43, while senior Shelby Remington (Pike, NY/Letchworth), freshman Katherine Fitz (New Holland, PA/Garden Spot) and seniors Eryn Matich (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City) and Tracy Miller (Auburn, NY/Auburn) were 22nd in 1:59.21.

AU junior Cassie Brown (Canisteo, NY/Canisteo-Greenwood) will compete in tonight's women's 3-meter diving finals. She has the sixth-highest seed score (371.20 points) of the 21 divers competing.

Live results for all events during the four-day meet, and a daily schedule of events [are available on-line](#).