

Five AU softball players earn Empire 8 all-conference recognition

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ALFRED, NY - Five members of the Alfred University softball team have been named Empire 8 Conference all-stars. The Empire 8 announced its all-conference teams today and Alfred had four players named to the First Team, tied with St. John Fisher for the most from any conference school. All-conference awards were based on a vote by coaches using statistics from Empire 8 games only. Senior outfielder Angela Netta (Rahway, NJ/Mother Seton Regional), junior second baseman Maressa Mistretta (Shirley, NY/Longwood), junior utility player Hana Gross (Union, NJ/Union) and sophomore outfielder Breeal Delgado (Rancho Cucamonga, CA/Los Osos) were named to the First Team. Sophomore designated player Stephanie Arguello (Placentia, CA/Vista del Lago) was given honorable mention. Netta earned all-Empire 8 recognition for a third time and Mistretta for a second time. Gross, Delgado and Arguello became conference all-stars for the first times in their careers. Netta, who earned First Team honors in 2010 and Second Team recognition last year, batted .500 in conference action (20-for-40) with eight extra-base hits (four homeruns, four doubles), 10 runs scored and 11 RBIs. In all games, Netta tied for the team lead in hitting (.463, 56-for-121) and led the team in hits (56) and slugging (.702) and tied for the team lead in homers (five) while adding 10 doubles, a triple and four steals. Mistretta, who earned honorable mention from the conference last year, received First Team honors in 2012 after batting .375 (12-for-32) in E8 action, scoring six runs. She turned in a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage in 12 conference contests. Overall, she batted .419 (31-for-74) with two doubles and one homerun, scored 21 runs and drove in 14. She tied for the team lead in assists (57) and posted a .951 fielding percentage. Gross batted .324 in conference games (11-for-34, one double), seeing time at catcher and third base. She scored one run, drove in five and posted a .949 fielding percentage. Overall, Gross batted .289 (28-for-97) with eight runs and 22 RBIs. She had three doubles and four homeruns and turned in a .965 fielding percentage. Delgado batted .410 (16-for-39) in conference action. She scored seven runs and drove in 11, with four doubles and one homerun. In E8 games playing centerfield for the Saxons, she had a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage. In all games, she hit .417 (48-for-115) with a team-leading 20 extra-base hits (school-record 16 doubles to go with one triple and three homers) and a team-best 44 RBIs. She scored 32 runs and in the field posted a .939 fielding percentage. Arguello saw action in 11 Empire 8 games, playing primarily as a designated player but seeing some time as an infielder. She batted .400 (12-for-30) in E8 contests with two doubles and a triple, while scoring four times and driving in seven runs. She had a 1.000 fielding percentage at second base and shortstop. Overall, she tied for the team lead in hitting (.463) with 50 hits (second on the team) in 108 at-bats. She led the team in triples (three), scored 32 runs and drove in 16 with three steals. Each season, the Empire 8 honors students-athletes from each conference school, who play on conference-sponsored teams, with Sportsperson of the Year awards. Honorees, chosen by their coaches, exhibited outstanding sportsmanship in keeping with the conference's mission of "competing with honor and integrity." Sophomore outfielder Danielle Mastropierro (Randolph, NJ/Randolph) is Alfred's honoree from the softball team. Alfred finished its season with a 27-14 record. The Saxons' 27 wins are tied with the 2009 team for the second-most in a season in team history, behind only the 37 the team won in 2010, when AU played in the NCAA tournament.