

## **AU Alpine ski teams set for regionals**

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UNION DALE, PA The Alfred University men's and women's Alpine ski teams are each headed to Union Dale, PA, this weekend, where they will compete at the United States Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA) Mid-Atlantic Regional championships. The regional championships are being held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 23 and 24, at El Mountain ski resort. On the line is a chance to compete at the USCSA National Championships in Winter Park, CO. The top four teams at regionals qualify for the nationals championships. The AU men's team returns to the regional championships for the first time since 2005, when the Saxons went on to the USCSA nationals. The AU women haven't competed at regionals as a team since 2003; then-freshman Rachel Beckwith (Landgrove, VT/Stratton Mountain), competed as an individual representing the Lady Saxons at last year's Mid-Atlantic Regionals, but failed to move on to the nationals. Beckwith is back with the women's team this season, joined by a pair of phenomenal freshmen Heidi Skinner (Western, VT/Stratton Mountain) and Lauren Pfeifer (Livonia, NY/Livonia). A pair of seniors Allison Crosby (Schuylerville, NY/Schuylerville) and Laura La Pierre (Maplecrest, NY/Windham-Ashland-Jewett) provide veteran leadership. The Lady Saxons won the USCSA Mideast Conference tram championship this year, with three skiers earning all-conference honors. Skinner was the conference's individual champion, while Skinner and Beckwith were third and sixth, respectively. The AU men's team is led by junior Lincoln Steele (Keene, NH/Keene), who led Alfred to a third-place finish in the conference standings. Steele earned all-conference honors, placing third in the Mideast individual standings. Sophomore Robbie Ryminski (Warwick, NY/Warwick Valley) also earned all-conference honors by placing fourth in the Mideast standings. Rounding out the men's team is senior Ben Cantor (Concord, NH/Kimball Union Academy) who along with Steele competed on Alfred's last regional and national qualifier in 2005; and sophomore Chet Farnum (Farmington, ME/Mt. Blue). The AU men last made the USCSA nationals in 2005, while the women are seeking a berth in the national championships for the first time since 2002. The last time the men's and women's teams each made the regionals was 2003; the last time each competed in nationals was 2002.