

## Saxons eliminated from Empire 8 championship tournament

5/01/09



ITHACA, NY - The Alfred University softball team was eliminated from the Empire 8 Conference championships after a pair of losses Friday at Ithaca College. AU (25-9) dropped a 3-2 decision in 11 innings to St. John Fisher in the first round of the double-elimination tournament, then lost to host and top-seeded Ithaca later in the afternoon. In the first game, St. John Fisher's Kelly Jones singled home Megan Zoerb from second base with two outs in the bottom of the 11th to give the second-seeded Cardinals the victory. It was a tough loss for the third-seeded Saxons, who held a 2-0 lead after five innings before Fisher tied the contest with unearned runs in the sixth and seventh innings. Junior second baseman Karen Folts (Penn Yan, NY/Penn Yan) had given AU a 2-0 lead in the fourth with her 11th homerun of the year, a two-run shot to right with two outs. Fisher scored an unearned run in the bottom of the sixth to make it 2-1 and in the seventh used a pair of errors the second coming with two outs to plate the tying run. AU squandered a chance to provide some insurance for starting pitcher, freshman Nicole Hedrick (Albany, NY/Catholic Central), when sophomore designated player Madison Snyder (Medford, NY/Patchogue-Medford) led off the sixth inning with a double and advanced to third on a wild pitch with no outs. Fisher hurler Amanda Shevcuk escaped the jam by retiring the next three AU batters. Hedrick went the distance for Alfred, allowing three runs (one earned) on nine hits with one strikeout. Shevcuk earned the complete-game win for Fisher, allowing two unearned runs on seven hits and striking out six. Fisher's Jones and Jamie Harmon each finished with a pair of hits and an RBI and Zoerb scored two runs. Freshman first baseman Molly Shepherd (Camillus, NY/West Genesee) and Snyder each had two hits for the Saxons and junior third baseman Jesika LeBarron (Campbell, NY/Corning West) scored a run. Hedrick dropped another close decision in the second game against Ithaca, which was coming off a 1-0 loss in 16 innings to fourth-seeded RIT. Ithaca scored the game's only run in the sixth inning when Annemarie Forenza singled with two outs and was doubled home by Cait Ryan. Hedrick allowed four hits for the game and struck out two. Ithaca's Alyssa Brook allowed only two AU hits -- singles by Snyder and Shepherd -- and struck out three to get the complete-game win. Ryan went 2-for-3 for the Bombers (24-15), who play the loser of Saturday morning winner's bracket game between RIT and Fisher. For up-to-date scores and live tournament game stats, please visit the Empire 8 tournament website at

<http://bombers.ithaca.edu...>