AU softball team splits with 21st-ranked Fisher in key Empire 8 matchup 4/07/12



HORNELL, NY - The Alfred University softball team split a doubleheader with Empire 8 Conference rival and 21stranked St. John Fisher Saturday afternoon at Hornell High School. After dropping the opener, 9-1, the Saxons weathered a seventh-inning game-tying rally to walk away with a 4-3 victory in the nightcap.Freshman centerfielder Breeal Delgado's (Rancho Cucamonga, CA/Los Osos) bases-loaded single with no outs in the bottom of the seventh won the second game for the Saxons (14-8, 3-1 Empire 8), who squandered a 3-0 lead entering the final frame. Senior Nicole Hedrick (Albany, NY/Catholic Central) held the Fisher bats in check for six innings in the second game, allowing no runs on one hit, before the Cardinals tied the game in the top of the seventh with a one-out two-run homerun followed by a solo shot. Freshman Samantha Jo Muller (Port Jervis, NY/Port Jervis) relieved Hedrick and ended the inning by inducing a pair of pop-outs. In the bottom of the seventh, junior second baseman Maressa Mistretta (Shirley, NY/Longwood) led off with a single and advanced to second on a single by sophomore Stephanie Arguello (Placentia, CA/Vista del Lago). Sophomore third baseman Jessica Warner (Runnemede, NJ/Triton) followed with a single to lead the bases and set the stage for Delgado's walk-off hit. Mistretta finished 3-for-4 with three runs scored and Delgado was 3-for-4 with a pair of RBIs. Warner was a perfect 4-for-4 at the plate and freshman first baseman Alison Wickwire (Towanda, PA/Towanda) hit a solo homer in the sixth that gave AU a 3-0 lead. Hedrick allowed three runs on four hits and struck out four and Muller improved to 4-0 on the year with the win in relief. Sarah Fordyce hit a two-run homer for Fisher (19-5, 3-1 Empire 8), while Kaylee Tallman hit a solo shot, her second of the doubleheader. Sarah Stefanon took the pitching loss for the Cardinals, allowing four runs (three earned) on 16 hits and striking out eight. In the opener, Fisher scored five runs in the top of the third to get a big lead on the Saxons and led 7-0 when AU scored its only run of the game in the bottom of the sixth. Fisher would add a pair in the top of the seventh to close out the game's scoring. Danielle Leone earned the complete-game win for Fisher, allowing an unearned run on seven hits and striking out three. Tallman was 3-for-4 with a homerun and two RBIs. Krista Robarge hit a homerun, scored twice and drove in a pair and Meghan Burns had two hits, including a double, scored once and drove in two runs.Freshman Jessica O'Sullivan (Groton, MA/Groton Dunstable Regional) took the loss for the Saxons, allowing five runs (four earned) on seven hits in 2 2/3 innings. Muller pitched the final 4 1/3 innings and allowed four earned runs on eight hits. Mistretta was 2-for-3 and senior leftfielder Angela Netta (Rahway, NJ/Mother Seton Regional) scored the Saxons' lone run. Alfred is in action next with a 3 p.m. doubleheader at home against Medaille on Monday, April 9.