AU softball team closes Empire 8 slate with sweep of Elmira 5/01/11



ELMIRA, NY -- The Alfred University softball team completed Empire 8 Conference play with a sweep of host Elmira College Sunday afternoon. The Saxons (16-9) won 5-4 in nine innings in the opener, scoring the tying runs in the top of the seventh, then took the nightcap, 5-1, to finish Empire 8 play with a 7-7 conference mark. In the first game, Elmira led 4-2 going into the seventh. Freshman Stephanie Arguello (Placentia, CA/El Dorado)singled with one out to drive in freshman Alexis Caruso (Coram, NY/Longwood) and make the score 4-3 Elmira. Freshman Melissa Montano (West Covina, CA/Walnut) scored the tying run on a sacrifice fly by junior Nicole Hedrick (Albany, NY/Catholic Central). In the ninth, freshman Danielle Mastropierro (Randolph, NJ/Randolph) scored from second on a one-out single by freshman outfielder Rachel Guszick (Sparrowbush, NY/Port Jervis) and senior pitcher Chelsey Cary (Corfu, NY/Pembroke) set the Soaring Eagles down in order in the bottom half of the frame to earn the complete-game win. Cary allowed four earned runs on seven hits while striking out seven and walking six. Junior third baseman Molly Shepherd (Camillus, NY/West Genesee) had two hits and an RBI; sophomore second baseman Maressa Mistretta (Shirley, NY/Longwood)(double) and senior outfielder Brittany Loucks (Addison, NY/Addison) each scored a run; and junior leftfielder Angela Netta (Rahway, NJ/Mother Seton Regional) hit a double. In the second game, AU scored once in the third and twice in the fifth to lead 3-0, then added a pair of insurance runs in the top of the seventh. Arguello went 4-for-4 and scored a run, Hedrick had two hits and scored twice, and senior designated player Shanna Ewoldt (Tuscon, AZ/Waubansie Valley) hit a two-run double. Shepherd and freshman centerfield Breeal Delgado (Rancho Cucamonga, CA/Los Osos) each had a hit, drove in a run and scored once. Hedrick allowed one run on eight hits while striking out three. Alfred wraps up its regular season with a non-conference doubleheader at RPI at 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 3.