AU softball team trounces RPI to reach ECAC Upstate title game 5/11/08



SCHENECTADY, NY -- The Alfred University softball team beat RPI 10-0 in five innings this morning to advance to the title game of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Upstate Championship tournament title game.AU, the double elimination tournament's third seed, avenged a first-round 3-1 loss to second-seeded RPI on Saturday and will now play top-seeded tournament host Union at noon today. If Alfred wins, the two teams will play again for the title at 2 p.m. Sophomores Holly Seidewand (Webster, NY/Webster Thomas) and Jesika LeBarron (Campbell, NY/Corning West) combined on a two-hit shutout of RPI. Seidewand pitched three innings and allowed one hit while striking out two, and LeBarron pitched the final two, striking out one and allowing one hit. The Saxons (24-12) banged out 14 hits (all singles), tallying four runs in each of the first two innings and single runs in the third and fourth. In the first, AU scored all four runs (on five hits and a pair of RPI errors) with two outs.LeBarron, who started the game at third, went 2-for-2 with two runs and three RBIs, and Seidewand finished with a pair of hits and two runs scored.Freshman first baseman Ashley Passaro (Long Beach, NY/Long Beach) went 3-for-4 with a run and two RBIs; freshman designated hitter Brittany Loucks (Addison, NY/Addison) went 2-for-2 with two runs driven in; sophomore Karen Folts (Penn Yan, NY/Penn Yan) had two hits and scored twice; sophomore centerfielder Jessica Figallo (Ridgewood, NJ/Ridgewood) scored two runs; and sophomore outfielders Shannon Mather (Endicott, NY/Union-Endicott) and Lauren Peterson (Abingdon, MD/Harford Tech) each had a hit and an RBI. The win over RPI was the team's 24th of the year, setting a new school single-season record. Last year's team won 23 and also advanced to the title game of the ECAC Upstate Championships, losing to Union.