AU softball team sweeps Utica to earn second seed in Empire 8 championship tournament
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UTICA, NY -- The Alfred University softball team took two games at Utica College Friday afternoon and earned the second seed in next weekend's Empire 8 Conference championship tournament.AU (21-9, 8-4 Empire 8) won the first game of Friday's doubleheader, 7-1, before rallying to win the nightcap, 5-4.In the opener, sophomore Holly Siedewand (Webster, NY/Webster Thomas) scattered five hits and struck out four to get the win on the mound for AU. Freshman first baseman Ashley Passaro (Long Beach, NY/Long Beach) went 3-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and two runs scored to lead AU. Sophomore centerfielder Jessica Figallo (Ridgewood, NJ/Ridgewood) went 2-for-4 with an RBI; and sophomore shortstop Karen Folts (Penn Yan, NY/Penn Yan) went 3-for-4 with a double, two runs and an RBI.AU rallied to win the second gane. Down 4-3 in the bottom of the seventh, Alfred strung together three hits to get the win. Seidewand had a double to start things off and was driven in with the tying run by sophomore second baseman Jordan Siefer (Sylvania, OH/Sylvania Southview), who finished 2-for-2 with an RBI and a run. Passaro, who finished 1-for-3 with two RBIs, drove in Siefer with the winning run.Figallo had a hit, two runs scored and a pair of stolen bases for AU. Siedewand got the win in relief of starter Jesika LeBarron (Campbell, NY/Corning West). LeBarron went four innings and allowed four runs (two earned) on eight hits while striking out four. Seidewand tossed one-hit ball over the final three innings, striking out three.Passaro's four RBIs in the doubleheader gives her 28 for the year, which ties the AU single-season record set in 2000 by Laura Fortune.Alfred will be the second seed in the four-team Empire 8 Conference championship tournament, which will be held Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3, at Ithaca College. The Saxons will take on third-seeded St. John Fisher in the opener of the double elimination tournament on Friday at a time to be announced.