

## **AU women's ski team finishes in sixth place at national championships**

3/10/08

SUNDAY RIVER, ME The Alfred University women's Alpine ski team finished in sixth place in the final team standings at the United States Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA) national championships, held March 5-8 in Sunday River, ME. The Alfred women placed fifth in the giant slalom and eighth in the slalom en route to their sixth-place finish in the combined standings, the best ever for an AU women's team at nationals. The Alfred men took 20th in both the GS and slalom to place 20th in the combined team standings. Nineteen women's teams and 20 men's teams competed at the national Alpine championships. Freshman Elissa DeGolyer (Silver Springs, NY/Letchworth) earned another Second Team All-American certification when she finished the competition 16th in the individual combined standings. She and sophomore Lauren Pfeifer (Livonia, NY/Livonia) had previously been named Second Team All-Americans after placing 15th and 18th, respectively, in Thursday's giant slalom races. The top 10 earn First Team honors, while skiers placing 11th through 20th receive Second Team honors. Pfeifer was in position to earn All-American honors in combined after her 15th-place finish in the GS, but she wound up placing 42nd in Friday's slalom after failing to finish her second run. Pfeifer ended up 23rd in the combined individual standings, while AU junior Rachel Beckwith (Landgrove, VT/Stratton Mountain), was 25th in the final combined standings after placing 32nd and 29th, respectively, in the GS and slalom. Pfeifer and Kevin Sykora (Bend, OR/Mountain View), a junior on the AU men's team, were each named USCSA Academic All-Americans during the post-championship awards ceremony held on Saturday. Both the AU men's and women's teams should fare well when they return to the slopes next year, seeking a third straight trip to nationals. The women's team, which is the two-time defending Mideast Region champion, returns all five of its first-string skiers, including two-time regional champ Pfeifer. Freshmen Megan Caggianelli (Clifton Park, NY/Shenendehowa) and Leah Berry (Lewisburg, PA/Lewisburg) are also set to return for the Lady Saxons along with DeGolyer and Beckwith. The AU men's team loses one senior, 2007 Mideast regional champ Lincoln Steele (Keene, NH/Keene), but returns four starters from this year, including Sykora and juniors Robbie Ryminski (Warwick, NY/Warwick Valley), Chet Farnum (Farmington, ME/M. Blue) and Joel Buchanan (Almond, NY/Scio).