

Ski teams enjoy solid 2010 campaign; Pfeifer ends stellar career

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ALFRED, NY -- The Alfred University men's and women's ski teams' quest for berths in the United States Collegiate Skiing Association (USCSA) came up just short, as neither squad could advance past regionals. The AU men's and women's team placed fourth and seventh, respectively, at the Mideast Regionals; only the top three teams at regionals qualify to compete at the national championships. The Alfred women, winner of the Finger Lakes conference title each of the four years, were looking to make a fourth straight trip to nationals. The seventh-place finish at regionals brought to a close a fantastic career for senior Lauren Pfeifer (Livonia, NY/Livonia). Perhaps the most decorated skier male of female ever at AU, Pfeifer will leave Alfred as a three-time All-American. She earned the honors every way possible: in the slalom as a freshman in 2007; in the giant slalom as a sophomore in 2008; and in combined last year as a junior. Her senior season ended with a fourth-place finish in the giant slalom; she did compete in the slalom due to an injury. Pfeifer earned all-conference honors each of her four years, claiming the top spot in the conference individual standings in 2008, 2009 and 2010. She was Mideast Regional champ in 2007 and 2008. Ulana Bihun (Jericho, VT/Mt. Mansfield) joins Pfeifer as the only seniors on the women's team. She took 15th in the slalom at the regionals, while junior Megan Caggianelli (Clifton Park, NY/Shenendehowa) a conference all-star this year, was 12th in the GS. Freshman Claire Dvorak (Tully, NY/Tully) was 29th in the slalom and classmate Catherine Sahi (Willington, CT/East Catholic) took 44th in both slalom and GS. Both seniors on the Alfred men's team performed well at regionals, their final collegiate competition. Joel Buchanan (Almond, NY/Scio), a conference all-star as a junior in 2009, was 17th in the GS and 21st in the slalom at regionals, while Harrison Hendricks (Sodus, NY/Sodus) was 18th in the GS and 15th in the slalom. Sophomore Stephen Barton (Dansville, NY/Dansville) was 13th in the giant slalom and 22nd in the slalom and sophomore Luke Masi (North Jersey, NJ/Jefferson Twp.) took 32nd and 47th, respectively, in the GS and slalom. Sophomore Ryan Nanni (Batavia, NY/Batavia) did not finish either race at regionals, but had a solid season for the Saxons.