

AU women's swimming and diving team finishes sixth at state championships

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ROCHESTER -- The Alfred University women's swimming and diving team finished in the sixth place at the New York State Women's Collegiate Athletic Association (NYSWCAA) championship meet, which concluded Saturday evening. The Lady Saxons scored 675 points in the three-day meet, held at Webster High School Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Ithaca finished first. Senior Sara Thompson (Batavia/Batavia) was Alfred's top swimmer, placing second in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:28.05. Her performance earned her an NCAA "B" cut. Thompson will now wait to see if that time and the "B" cut she earned in winning the 100 breaststroke Friday, are good enough to qualify for the NCAA Division III championships in March. Other top swimmers for Alfred were: junior Lacy Clifford (Oil City, PA/Oil City), fourth in the 200 backstroke (2:15.21); freshman Erin Collins (Owego/Owego), fourth in 3-meter diving; junior Lauren McCormack (Norwich/Norwich), eighth in the 100 freestyle (56.69) and senior Becca Coppola (Takoma Park, MD/Montgomery Blair), eighth in the 1650 freestyle (18:52.34). The AU team of Thompson, freshman Zara Racz (Morristown, NJ/Morristown), sophomore Rachel Saroka (Groton/Groton) and McCormack finished fourth in the 400 freestyle relay (3:43.60). The AU men's swimming and diving team will defend its Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association (UNYSCSA) and Empire 8 Conference titles at the UNYSCSA championship meet this Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 26-28, at Nottingham High School in Syracuse.