

Indoor track and field teams armed with depth and talent

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ALFRED, NY The Alfred University men's and women's indoor track and field teams, under first-year coach Rob Winkky, begin the 2004-05 season with more depth and talent than they've had in recent years. Leading the men's team will be senior Stephen Robin (Foster, RI/Ponaganset), one of the most versatile athletes at AU. Robin, who recently wrapped up a four-year career on the AU men's soccer team, is the defending state indoor champion in the pole vault and comes into 2004 with the experience of competing in the decathlon in last spring's outdoor season. He also won an ECAC outdoor title in the pole vault as a sophomore in 2003. Other top returnees on the men's team include seniors Ryan Bank (St. Johnsbury, VT/St. Johnsbury) (top 10 finishes in the 5,000-meter and 3,000-meter runs at states last year), Nate Corney (Walworth, NY/Gananda) (12th in the 55-meter hurdles at states) and Casey Lesar (Mechanicville, NY/Mechanicville), who turned in solid performances in the long jump and triple jump during last spring's outdoor season; and graduate student Logan Quist-Chaffee (Allegany, NY/Allegany-Limestone) (12th in the 1,000-meter run at last season's state meet). Quist-Chaffee, senior Andrew Crawford (Canandaigua, NY/Canandaigua), junior Richard Coyne (Scarborough, ME/Scarborough) and sophomore Travis Swan (Binghamton, NY/Binghamton) ran on the distance medley team that placed seventh at states, while Robin, Coyne and Corney return from the 4-by-400 relay team that placed 10th at the state championships. Returning to the women's team are sophomore Kate Ciccone (Ithaca, NY/Brooktondale) (11th at the 2004 state indoor meet in the 1,000-meter run) and junior Elaine Heimers (Warwick, NY/Warwick Valley) (17th in the 5,000-meter run at states). Other top returnees to the women's team include sophomores Kristen Egan (Robeson, PA/Conrad Weiser), Anna McClaugherty (Alliance, OH/Alliance) and Melissa Polakos (Marlboro, NJ/Marlboro), junior Nicole Haahr (Owego, NY/Tioga) and seniors Maureen McGlenn (Elmira, NY/Thomas A. Edison) and Megan Wallowak (Kingston, PA/Wyoming Valley West). Ciccone (3,000-meter steeplechase), Heimers (10,000-meter run), Haahr (5,000-meter run) and Polakos (400-meter hurdles) each placed in the top-20 in their respective events at the 2004 state outdoor meet. If their success outdoors is any indication, they should be primed for a successful indoor seasons. Ciccone, Egan and Haahr were part of the 4x800 relay team that placed eighth at the 2004 state outdoor meet. McClaugherty (distance events) and Wallowak (high jump) had solid indoor and outdoor campaigns in 2003-04. The Saxons open their 2004-05 season Saturday, Dec. 4, at Cornell.