

Ithaca sweeps visiting AU in key Empire 8 softball doubleheader

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ITHACA, NY - The Alfred University softball team dropped a pair of key Empire 8 Conference games to host Ithaca College in a Wednesday afternoon doubleheader. In the opener, Ithaca broke a scoreless tie with a run in the bottom of the fourth, then added an insurance run in the sixth. In the nightcap, the Bombers batted around in the first inning to take a 6-0 lead and AU managed a single run on six hits. With the losses, AU falls to 24-10 overall and 5-3 in the Empire 8. Ithaca, leaders in the Empire 8 standings, improves to 22-11 overall and a perfect 10-0 in league play. Junior second baseman Maressa Mistretta (Shirley, NY/Longwood), sophomore centerfielder Breeal Delgado (Rancho Cucamonga, CA/Los Osos) and junior catcher Hana Gross (Union, NJ/Union) each had a single for Alfred in the opener. Sam Bender earned the pitching win for the Bombers, going five innings and allowing two hits while striking out five. Jillian Olmstead preserved the shutout with a two-inning save, allowing one hit and striking out five. Julianne Vincent went 1-for-3 with a double and scored both Ithaca's runs. Adrienne Walters had a hit and drove in both Bomber runs. Freshman Jessica O'Sullivan (Groton, MA/Groton Dunstable Regional) took the complete-game loss for the Saxons, allowing two runs (one earned) on five hits while striking out four over six innings. Ithaca jumped on AU senior starter Nicole Hedrick (Albany, NY/Catholic Central) for five first-inning runs in the second game. Hedrick lasted a third of an inning, allowing five hits before giving way to freshman Samantha Jo Muller (Port Jervis, NY/Port Jervis), who allowed one more run to score in the inning. She would allow three runs in 5 2/3 innings of work, striking out one. Ithaca's big first inning was highlighted by Vincent's two-run single and Monica Capalongo's two-out, two-run double. Alfred scored its lone run in the top of the second on Muller's RBI single, which drove in senior leftfielder Angela Netta (Rahway, NJ/Mother Seton Regional), who had led off the inning with a double. Netta and Mistretta each finished with two hits in three at-bats for the Saxons. Francesca Busa went 2-for-4 with a homerun and two runs scored and Vincent finished with three hits, a run scored and pair of RBIs. Olmstead got the complete-game win for the Bombers, allowing an earned run on six hits while striking out four over seven innings. Alfred returns to action Saturday, April 28, for a 1 p.m. Empire 8 doubleheader at Utica. The Saxons wrap up their regular season and league play with a 1 p.m. home doubleheader against Stevens on Sunday, April 29.