

AU softball team sweeps RIT

4/24/10



ROCHESTER, NY - The Alfred University softball team swept a key Empire 8 Conference doubleheader at RIT Saturday afternoon. The Saxons (24-4, 7-1 Empire 8) won the opener, 2-1, scoring a run in the top of the seventh to break a 1-1 tie. AU completed the sweep by rallying from a three-run deficit to force extras innings and winning with a run in the bottom of the eighth. Sophomore pitcher Nicole Hedrick (Albany, NY/Catholic Central) earned the wins in both contests, allowing one run on three hits in the opener, then tossing two innings of scoreless two-hit relief in the second game to improve to 12-3 on the year. In the opener, AU junior first baseman Ashley Passaro (Long Beach, NY/Long Beach) led off the top of the seventh with a single. Junior Chelsey Cary (Corfu, NY/Pembroke) pinch ran for Passaro and was sacrificed to second. After a strikeout, freshman catcher Emily Fenton (Thorofare, NJ/West Deptford) singled Cary home with what proved to be the winning run. Fenton finished 2-for-3 with two RBIs and sophomore leftfielder Angela Netta (Rahway, NJ/Mother Seton Regional) had a double and scored a run. In the second game, RIT (15-15, 4-6 Empire 8) took a 3-0 lead with three runs (two unearned) in the top of the third off AU starter Cary, who allowed four hits and struck out five in three innings of work. Sophomore Molly Shepherd (Camillus, NY/West Genesee) relieved Cary and threw a scoreless fourth before Alfred tallied an unearned run in the bottom of the frame to make it 3-1. After Shepherd held the Tigers in check in the fifth and sixth, AU tied the game at 3-3 with a pair of runs in the bottom of the sixth. Shepherd led off the inning with a walk and later scored on an error, and Fenton drove in sophomore designated hitter Shanna Ewoldt (Tuscon, AZ/Waubansie Valley) with a one-out single to tie the game. Shepherd walked RIT's Emily Courtney leading off the seventh and was relieved by Hedrick, who allowed Courtney to advance to second on a sacrifice. With two outs, Michelle Tabisz singled to left, but Netta threw Courtney out at home to end the inning. RIT pitcher Carlissa Cole held AU scoreless in the bottom of the seventh and Hedrick followed suit in the top of the eighth. In the bottom of the eighth, Netta led off with a single and advanced to second on a sacrifice, later scoring the winning run on an RIT error with two outs. Ewoldt scored two runs and Shepherd and Netta each scored one, while Fenton had a hit and an RBI. Shepherd allowed one hit in three innings, striking out two, and Hedrick struck out one. With the two wins Saturday, AU keeps pace with first place Ithaca (11-1 Empire 8) in the conference standings. The two teams split a doubleheader at Ithaca on April 10. Ithaca has one conference doubleheader left to play Sunday, April 25, at Elmira while Alfred has three conference twinbills, all at home, remaining on its schedule Sunday, April 25 (1 p.m.) against St. John Fisher; Wednesday, April 28 against Elmira, and Saturday, May 1, against Stevens.