

AU softball team splits with Fisher

4/16/03

WELLSVILLE Freshman Brittany Curran's (Almond/Alfred-Almond) pitching gem led the Alfred University softball team to a 2-0 victory in the opener of a doubleheader against St. John Fisher Wednesday afternoon at Quackenbush Field in Wellsville. The visitors bounced back to take the second game, 5-4. Curran retired the first 18 Fisher batters she faced, but a substitution snafu in the bottom of the inning denied her a chance at completing a perfect game. After Curran walked leading off the bottom of the sixth, she was taken out for a pinch runner. Her re-entry into the game was not reported to the home plate umpire so she was not permitted to pitch the seventh. Senior Brandi Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) pitched a hitless seventh to pick up the save and give Alfred (4-16, 1-5 Empire 8) a combined no-hitter. Freshman Fisher hurler Amanda Herberger (Tonawanda/Kenmore East) matched Curran early, throwing three perfect innings and holding Alfred scoreless through four. In the bottom of the fifth, AU got all the scoring it would need when senior leftfielder Alicia DeAndrea (Clarks Summit, PA/Abington Heights) smacked an RBI triple. She was then singled home by freshman first baseman Emilie Vicchio (Shaker Heights, OH/Shaker Heights). Curran finished the game with two strikeouts and Backus fanned one. Herberger allowed four hits and struck out eight. In the nightcap, Alfred scored two runs in the top of the fourth to take a 2-1 lead. Fisher (16-6-1, 7-1 Empire 8) answered with three runs in the bottom half of the frame and added a run an inning later to take a 5-2 lead. Alfred scored twice in the top of the sixth to make it 5-4 before Herberger set the Lady Saxons down in order in the seventh to preserve the win for junior Jamie Easterly (Pompey/Christian Brothers). Senior shortstop Amanda Kent (Horseheads/Horseheads) paced the winners with two hits, a run scored and another driven in, while senior leftfielder Jennah Muse (Delanson/Duanesburg) went 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Easterly allowed four runs (two earned) in six innings, striking out four and walking two. Vicchio led Alfred batters with two hits in three trips to the plate, with two RBIs and a run scored. Freshman Adrienne Egglinger (Amityville/Amityville) added a pair of hits. Backus took the loss after relieving Curran in the second, pitching five innings and allowing four runs (three earned) on eight hits while striking out one. Alfred will play a doubleheader at Ithaca on Saturday, April 19, at 1 p.m.