

AU ski teams qualify for nationals; Saxons sweep individual titles at regionals

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UNION DALE, PA The Alfred University men's and women's Alpine ski team have each qualified to compete in the United States Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA) national championships next month in Colorado. The AU women won the USCSA Mid-Atlantic Regional championships, held over the weekend at Elk Mountain Resort. The AU men finished third overall. The top four teams at regionals earn a berth to this year's USCSA nationals, scheduled for March 5-10 at Winter Park, CO. The AU women won both the giant slalom event held Friday and Saturday's slalom. Freshman Lauren Pfeifer (Livonia, NY/Livonia), won Saturday's slalom event and combined with her win in Friday's giant slalom, won the regional's individual title. Freshman Heidi Skinner (Weston, VT/Stratton Mountain), took second in the slalom and placed second overall, while sophomore Rachel Beckwith (Landgrove, VT/Stratton Mountain) placed fifth in the slalom. The Alfred men placed fourth in Friday's giant slalom and third in the slalom on Saturday. Junior Lincoln Steele (Keene, NH/Keene), won the individual men's title after taking second in Saturday's slalom. Steele had won Friday's giant slalom race. Sophomore Robbie Ryminski (Warwick, NY/Warwick Valley) took 16th in the giant slalom and slalom, while senior Ben Cantor (Concord, NH/Kimball Union Academy) was 25th in Saturday's slalom. The AU women will return to the USCSA National Championships for the first time since 2002. The AU men return to the nationals for the second time in three years.