

Saxons edge Elmira in 10 innings to complete doubleheader sweep

4/19/12



HORNELL, NY - Junior third baseman Hana Gross's (Union, NJ/Union) one-out single in the 10th inning scored freshman Samantha Jo Muller (Port Jervis, NY/Port Jervis) from third base with the winning run in the Alfred University softball team's 5-4 win over visiting Elmira Thursday evening at Hornell High School. The victory completed a sweep of Elmira by the Saxons, who won the opener 13-5 in five innings. With the two Empire 8 Conference wins, Alfred improves to 24-8 overall and 5-1 in the conference. Alfred took a 1-0 lead in the second before Elmira grabbed a two-run advantage with a three-run fourth. The Soaring Eagles (7-9, 0-6 Empire 8) had five singles in the frame and benefited from an AU error that allowed an unearned run to score. Alfred tied things up with a pair of runs in the bottom of the inning, as sophomore second baseman Stephanie Arguello (Placentia, CA/Vista del Lago) hit a two-out two-run single. Elmira regained the lead in the fifth when shortstop Katie Dore homered to lead off the inning, making it 4-3. Senior leftfielder Angela Netta (Rahway, NJ/Mother Seton Regional) knotted things up at 4-4 with a one-out solo homer in the bottom of the frame. The score remained tied until the 10th, when extra-inning rules called for each team to place a runner on second to start the frame. Elmira's Krystal Bupp started at second in the 10th and was sacrificed to third, where she would be stranded after a lineout to center and a groundout to third. Muller started out the AU 10th at second and advanced to third on Netta's groundout before scoring on Gross's single to shallow left. Netta finished 2-for-4 with a double and homerun, a run scored and an RBI. Sophomore shortstop Melissa Montano (West Covina, CA/Walnut) was 2-for-3 with a double, a run and an RBI; and sophomore rightfielder Rachel Guszick (Sparrowbush, NY/Port Jervis) (single) and sophomore pinch-runner Danielle Mastropierro (Randolph, NJ/Randolph) each scored one run. Freshman pitcher Jessica O'Sullivan (Groton, MA/Groton Dunstable Regional) got the win with 6 2/3 innings of four-hit relief, allowing one run and striking out three to improve to 8-3 on the season. Sophomore starter Tori Kramp (Yardley, PA/Pennsbury) went 3 1/3 innings, allowing three runs (two earned) on four hits while striking out four. Katie Hobson took the pitching loss for Elmira, allowing a run on two hits in 3 1/3 innings. Starter Sarah Johnson worked the first six innings and allowed four earned runs on seven hits, striking out four and walking four. Bupp and catcher Erin Pruess each had a hit and scored a run for Elmira, while Johnson, third baseman Megan Anderson and centerfielder Mikayla Bean each drove in a run. In the opener, the Saxons broke open a tight 6-5 game by scoring seven runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take an eight-run lead and end the abbreviated contest. Kramp singled home sophomore centerfielder Breeal Delgado (Rancho Cucamonga, CA/Los Osos) from third with the winning run. Kramp had led off the inning with a single and scored the Saxons' first run of the frame. Kramp also tossed a hitless fifth to earn the save in relief of senior Nicole Hedrick (Albany, NY/Catholic Central). Hedrick improved to 4-0 on the year, allowing five earned runs on four hits, striking out three and walking four in four innings of work. The Saxons led 4-1 after three innings before Elmira plated four runs in the fourth to take a 5-4 lead. Alfred regained the lead with two in the bottom of the frame before its fifth-inning explosion. Arguello went 2-for-4 with a double, scored twice and drove in three runs to pace a Saxon offensive attack that banged out 17 hits. Delgado was 2-for-3 with a double, two runs and two RBIs; freshman rightfielder Alyson Hampton (Oxnard, CA/Oxnard) was 3-for-3 with three runs scored; Netta was 2-for-3 with two RBIs; Gross was 2-for-2 with a double, a run scored and two RBIs; and Montano hit a two-run double and scored. Dore hit a homerun and drove in two runs and Pruess hit a double,

scored a run and drove in two to lead Elmira. Hobson started and took the pitching loss for the Soaring Eagles, allowing eight runs (seven earned) on 11 hits while striking out three and walking two. Johnson relieved and allowed five earned runs on six hits, striking out one and walking one in 2/3 innings. AU is in action next this weekend, when the Saxons play a pair of league doubleheaders: Saturday at Ithaca and Sunday at Utica. Both doubleheaders begin at 1 p.m. AU, which currently sits second in the E8 standings behind Ithaca, wraps up its conference slate with a home doubleheader against Stevens on Sunday, April 29, beginning at 1 p.m.