

Alfred University softball team cracks national rankings

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ALFRED, NY - For the first time in school history, the Alfred University softball team is nationally ranked. The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) released its latest Division III Top 25 poll today and the Saxons are ranked 25th. AU (32-4) also moved up a spot to second in the NCAA Division III Northeast Regional rankings. The team was ranked second in the Northeast in the April 21 poll, but fell to third last week. The Saxons finished 13-1 in Empire 8 play to earn a share of the conference regular season title. Ithaca, ranked third in the Northeast, also finished 13-1 in conference play. Alfred is preparing to host this weekend's Empire 8 Conference championship tournament, May 7-8 at Alfred State College. AU is the top seed in the four-team double-elimination Empire 8 tournament, the winner of which earns the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA championship tournament. Ithaca is seeded second; St. John Fisher is third; and RIT is fourth. In the tournament's first-round games Friday, Ithaca takes on St. John Fisher at 10 a.m. and Alfred meets RIT at noon. Sunday has been reserved as a rain date. For a full tournament schedule, please visit <http://saxons.alfred.edu/...>