

## **AU Western equestrian team wins region, sends seven to National Semi-Finals**

3/12/12

ALFRED, NY - The Alfred University Western equestrian team hosted and won the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone II, Region I championships on Saturday, March 10. Seven AU riders placed in the top two in their respective events and qualified for the IHSA National Semi-Finals March 24-25 in Ocala, FL. Senior Kaley O'Keefe (Rochester, NY/Penfield) led AU with a first place finish in open reining. Also earning first-place ribbons for the Saxons were: freshman Alexandria Buckheit (Mansfield, PA/Mansfield) in advanced horsemanship; senior Kaitlyn Bentley (Jamestown, NY) in novice horsemanship; and sophomore Kaylyn Slater (Phelps, NY/Midlakes) in intermediate horsemanship. AU riders who took second to qualify for semi-finals were: freshman Audrie Kelley (Friendship, NY/Cuba-Rushford) in advanced horsemanship; junior Brianna Cappiello (Webster, NY/East Rochester) in novice horsemanship; and sophomore Caralee Cecala (Springville, NY/Springville) in beginner horsemanship. Other AU riders who competed at regionals but did not qualify for semi-finals were: sophomore Derek Partridge (Groveland, NY/Geneseo), junior Camrie Costello (Shinglehouse, PA) and sophomore Lydia Prabucki (Buffalo, NY/Tapestry Charter), third, fourth and sixth third in intermediate horsemanship; and junior Antonio Robles (Rexville, NY/Port Jervis) and senior Christina Nelson (West Henrietta, NY/Rush-Henrietta), fourth and fifth, respectively, in beginner horsemanship. The top four riders in each event at the IHSA National Semi-Finals will move on to compete at the IHSA National Championships May 3-6 in Raleigh, NC. O'Keefe, as the High Point AQHA (American Quarter Horse Association) rider in the Open division of IHSA Zone II, Region I this season, has automatically qualified to compete at the national championships.