

AU ski teams wrap up competition at USCSA national championships

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SUNDAY RIVER, ME -- The Alfred University women's ski team assured itself a top-10 finish in the United State Collegiate Ski Association with an eighth-place finish in Friday's slalom competition. USCSA officials have yet to announce final team standings, but combined with the Alfred's fifth-place finish in Thursday's giant slalom, the AU women's team should earn a place in the top 10, out of 19 teams competing. That would mark a significant improvement over last year, when the Alfred women placed 17th. The USCSA national championships in Alpine skiing were held Thursday and Friday at Sunday River, ME. AU freshman Elissa DeGolyer (Silver Springs, NY/Letchworth) placed a team-best 27th in Friday's slalom, while junior Rachel Beckwith (Landgrove, VT/Stratton Mountain) was 29th. Sophomore Lauren Pfeifer (Livonia, NY/Livonia) placed 42nd, a day after earning Second Team All-American honors with a 15th-place finish in the slalom. She was 15th after the first run in Friday's slalom. DeGolyer also earned Second Team All-American with her 18th-place in Thursday's GS. Freshmen Leah Berry (Lewisburg, PA/Lewisburg) and Megan Caggianelli (Clifton Park, NY/Shenendehowa) placed 59th and 64th, respectively. The Alfred men finished 20th (out of 20 teams competing) in the combined standings after their 20th-place finish in Friday's slalom. The Saxons also placed 20th in Thursday's giant slalom. Junior Robbie Ryminski (Warwick, NY/Warwick Valley) led the AU men with a 62nd-place finish in the slalom Friday. Juniors Kevin Sykora (Bend, OR/Mountain View) and junior Chet Farnum (Farmington, ME/Mt. Blue) were 65th and 81st, respectively.