

Alfred University softball team splits doubleheader with Elmira

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HORNELL, NY The Alfred University softball team split two games with Empire Eight conference rival Elmira College Tuesday evening at Hornell High School. The Lady Saxons (8-19, 2-8 Empire Eight) lost the first game, 4-3, before rallying to take the nightcap, 5-4 in eight innings. In the second game freshman rightfielder Jacque Krycia (Hamburg/Mt. Mercy) hit a sacrifice fly with one out in the bottom of the eighth to drive in sophomore Christina Piracci (Amherst/Amherst), who had entered the game as a pinch runner, with the winning run. Elmira had scored a run in its half of the eighth to take a one-run lead before AU rallied for the victory. With one out, AU sophomore catcher Sarah Mizer (Foster, RI/Ponaganset) scored from third on an error, which put Piracci on third. Piracci scored the gamewinner when Krycia lofted a fly to left field. Mizer led the Lady Saxons at the plate, going 2-for-4 and scoring two runs, while sophomore second baseman Nikki Bell (Hinsdale/Hinsdale) and junior shortstop Tara Harwood (Hornell/Hornell) each had hits and scored a run. Shortstop Missy Richvalsky led Elmira at the plate with a double and a run scored. Sophomore Brandi Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) pitched a complete game to get the win for AU. Elmira's Ashley Szalach went the distance on the mound and took the loss. In the first game, Elmira jumped out to a 4-1 lead after five innings and held off a sixth-inning rally by Alfred to secure the 4-3 win. AU scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth to make it 4-3, but stranded the tying run on third. Elmira pitcher Kim Content struck out the side in the bottom of the seventh to secure the complete-game victory. Alfred was led at the plate by sophomore leftfielder Alicia DeAndrea (Clarks Summit, PA/Abington Heights) with a double and a run scored and Harwood and sophomore first baseman Laura Fortune (Tallahassee, FL/Leon), each with singles and a run scored. Sophomore pitcher Jenny Rae Skinner (Friendship/Friendship) took the loss on the mound for the Lady Saxons. Alfred wraps up its season with a doubleheader Saturday, April 28, at 1 p.m. at Hartwick.