

AU ski teams advance to national championships

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TULLY, NY -- The Alfred University men's and women's ski teams each advanced to next month's United States Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA) National Championships after this weekend's USCSA Mideast Regional Championships. The AU women won Saturday's slalom and the men placed third in the slalom event, held at Toggenburg Mountain. Combined with Friday's victory in the giant slalom at Labrador Mountain, the AU women claimed the overall regional title for a second straight year. The AU men took third in the slalom Saturday and won a tiebreaker to take third overall at regionals. Both the AU men's and women's teams qualified to compete in the USCSA National Championships March 3-9 in Sunday River, ME. The top three teams at regionals advance to nationals. Sophomore Lauren Pfeifer (Livonia, NY/Livonia) placed first in the slalom and combined with her win in Friday's giant slalom, repeats as regional individual champion. Freshman Elissa DeGolyer (Silver Springs, NY/Letchworth) took fifth in the slalom and placed fifth overall, and junior Rachel Beckwith (Landgrove, VT/Stratton Mountain) finished eighth in the individual standings after placing 13th in the slalom. Freshman Leah Berry (Lewisburg, PA/Lewisburg) placed 21st. Senior Lincoln Steele (Keene, NH/Keene) led the AU men with a 14th-place finish, which placed him third in the final individual standings. Junior Robbie Ryminski (Warwick, NY/Warwick Valley) was 19th; junior Joel Buchannon (Almond, NY/Scio) was 20th; and freshman Kevin Sykora (Bend, OR/Mountain View) and junior Chet Farnum (Farmington, ME/Mt. Blue) were 30th and 44th, respectively.