

AU ski teams complete stellar conference slate, look forward to regionals

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SYRACUSE Two Alfred University Alpine ski teams completed a stellar 2002 regular season with their performances at the Syracuse meet Saturday and Sunday. AU skiers swept the men's and women's individual season conference crowns. The men's team completed another perfect regular season, sweeping both events over the weekend to win the team title and claim the United States Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA) Empire Conference crown. It is the fourth straight year AU has won every event at every conference meet; the Saxons are 40-0 in conference action during that span. Senior Conor Walsh (Mt. Morris/Mt. Morris) won the giant slalom at Syracuse on his way to a third-place overall finish in the individual standings. Walsh was crowned the conference's individual season champion for the third year in a row. Freshman Jared Mostue (Hopkinton, NH/Proctor Academy) took second overall at Syracuse with a fifth in the giant slalom and a fourth in the slalom. Other top-five finishers for AU were senior Cody Washburn (Deer River/Carthage), second in the slalom; senior Tylan Calcagni (Yarmouth, ME/Gould Academy), third in the giant slalom; and freshman Matt Seavey (Canandaigua/Canandaigua), fourth in the giant slalom. All six AU skiers finished in the top 15 in the season individual conference standings: Walsh, first; Seavey, third; Mostue, fourth; Washburn, fifth; Calcagni, seventh; and junior Connor Kell (Ellicottville/Ellicottville), 13th. The women's team took second place at Syracuse meet and finished the regular season as the Empire Conference runner-up. Senior Becky VanOverbake (Mt. Morris/Mt. Morris) took third in the giant slalom and second in the slalom for a second-place individual finish. VanOverbake was crowned the season's individual conference champion. Other top skiers for AU were junior Chrissy Botens (Cuba/Cuba-Rushford), third in the slalom and sixth in the giant slalom, and sophomore Kelly Farrell (Meriden, NH/Kimball Union Academy), seventh in the slalom. Three AU skiers finished in the top 10 in the season individual conference standings: VanOverbake, first; Botens, seventh; and Farrell, eighth. Both teams will now compete in next weekend's Mideast Regionals, slated for Feb. 22 and 23 at SUNY Morrisville and Syracuse. The top four teams at regionals will advance to the USCSA Nationals in New Hampshire next month.