

Saxons lead after two days at RIT's Don Richards Invitational

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ROCHESTER, NY - Alfred University men's swimming and diving team remained in first place after Saturday's competition at the Don Richards Invitational, hosted by Rochester Institute of Technology. After the second day of the three-day meet, which concludes Sunday, the AU men stand in first place with 692 points, 69 points ahead of second-place Hartwick and 146 ahead of third-place Ithaca. RIT and Nazareth are in fourth and fifth place, respectively. The AU women are in fifth place. Seniors Matt Baker (Weedsport, NY/Weedsport) and Brian Agro (Gray, ME/Cheverus) each set new Empire 8 Conference records and earned NCAA qualifying times during Saturday afternoon's action. Baker won the 100-yard backstroke in 50.68 seconds, a new Empire 8 and AU school record. His time met NCAA "A" (automatic) cut qualifying standards, guaranteeing Baker a third straight trip to the NCAA Division III championships, scheduled for March in St. Paul, MN. Agro won the 100-yard breaststroke in an Empire 8-record 57.00 seconds, good enough to earn him an NCAA "B" (provisional) cut. Baker also won the 400-yard individual medley (4:17.83) and 200-yard backstroke (1:55.31), while his brother, senior Mark Baker (Weedsport, NY/Weedsport) won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:45.34 and the 100-yard freestyle in 46.54 seconds. AU had three swimmers finish in the top 10 in the 200-yard free and 100-yard free. Sophomores Tyler Olsen (Saratoga Springs, NY/Saratoga) and Dan Steere (Hornell, NY/Alfred-Almond) took second (1:45.73) and 10th (1:54.36), respectively, in the 200-yard free, while Olsen was third (47.64) and freshman Andrew Moragne (Cleveland, OH/University) seventh (49.95) in the 100 free. Agro took second in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:10.65), and sophomore Ted Remington (Pike, NY/Letchworth) took fifth in the 100 back (57.90) and 400 IM (4:43.94). Sophomore Zach Mix (Mt. Morris, NY/Mt. Morris) led three AU swimmers placing in the top eight in the 100-yard butterfly. Mix placed third with a time of 53.81 seconds, while senior Scott Sarkissian (Oswego, NY/Oswego) was fifth (54.85) and Moragne eighth (56.02). Mix (2:02.09) and Sarkissian (2:03.46) were fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 200-yard fly. Freshman Warren Dolban (Rye, NH/Berwick Academy) was second in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:01.15) and fourth in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:19.11), while senior Dan Staples (Wilbraham, MA/Wilbraham-Monson) was ninth in both the 100 breast (1:04.30) and 200 breast (2:30.71). Sophomore Matt Lobban (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford-Mendon) placed fifth in the 200-yard backstroke (2:05.08) and senior Dan Skorski (Hazleton, PA/Hazleton) was eighth in the 400-yard IM (4:56.65). The AU men won both relays contested on Saturday. Mark Baker, Moragne, Steere and Olsen teamed to take the 200-yard free relay (1:27.29), while Matt Baker, Agro, Mix and Olsen won the 800-yard freestyle relay in 7:12.96. Dolden, Remington, Sarkissian and Lobban took fifth in the 800-free relay (7:35.62). The Alfred women stand in fifth place among five teams competing, with 219 points. First-place Ithaca has 722 points, followed by Hartwick with 626. Nazareth is in third place, followed by RIT. Sophomore Sarah Blair (Auburn, NY/Auburn) paced the AU women's effort Saturday, taking third in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:13.53) and fifth in the 100-yard freestyle (56.20). Sophomore Cailin Asmo (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City) and senior Amy Buisman (Rochester, NY/Penfield) each earned top-10 finishes for the Lady Saxons, with Buisman taking eighth in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:44.01) and Asmo placing 10th in the 200-yard butterfly (2:43.15). Freshman Donna Hoops (Geneseo, NY/Geneseo) was 13th in the 100-yard backstroke (1:07.46); Asmo was 15th in the 100-yard butterfly (1:12.04); freshman Julie Slattery (Binghamton, NY/Seton Catholic) was 14th in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:23.88); and senior Jessie Caccamo (Ballston Lake, NY/Shenendehowa) was 14th (5:08.46) and Buisman 15th (5:29.82), respectively, in the 400-yard individual

medley. Blair, Caccamo, Asmo and junior Meghan Jones (Beaver Falls, NY/Beaver River) were seventh in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Sophomore Calista Merritt (Conesus, NY/Livonia), Asmo, Blair and Caccamo were ninth in the 800-yard freestyle relay (8:42.56), while Jones, Buisman, senior Anne Sheehy (Staatsburg, NY/FDR) and Hoops were 10th (9:28.35). The Don Richards Invitational concludes Sunday, with races beginning at 10 a.m.