

## **Saxons drop to Utica College**

2/28/03

ALFRED The Alfred University men's basketball team fell to visiting Utica College Friday evening in the McLane Center as the Pioneers defeated the Saxons, 80-58, in Empire 8 action. Alfred (5-19, 2-11 Empire 8) entered the locker room at intermission behind 17-38 and could not gain control throughout the remainder of the game, shooting a total of 36 percent for the night. The leading scorer for the Saxons was sophomore guard Gavin Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) who netted a team-high 17 points, along with a pair of steals and assists. Freshman forward Ryan Hallett (Caledonia/Caledonia-Mumford) scored 13 points while sophomore guard Doug Baker (Waterloo/South Seneca) scored 10 points despite falling to the Pioneers. Senior center Jeff Hopkins (Caledonia/York) pulled down a team-high six rebounds while also blocking four shots and contributing three assists for AU. Freshman forward Willie Lucas (Brooklyn/Nazareth) tallied a game-high 19 points and pulled down six boards pacing Utica (10-14, 5-8 Empire 8). Sophomore guard Ricky Adames (New York/Marta Valley) and freshman guard Justin Cichon (New Hartford/New Hartford) added 14 and 10 points respectively, with Cichon also adding five rebounds and four assists. Sophomore freshman Rocco Cordato (Poughkeepsie/F.D. Roosavelt) controlled the boards pulling down a game-high 11. The Saxons will conclude their season on Saturday, March 1 against Hartwick College at 4 p.m. in the McLane Center.