

Raynor posts record-setting numbers in AU victory over St. Lawrence

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ALFRED Senior tailback Jesse Raynor (Weedsport/Weedsport) ran for 180 yards and a pair of scores as the Alfred University football team knocked off visiting St. Lawrence, 24-14, Saturday afternoon at Merrill Field. Raynor's second 100-plus yard rushing game of the season gives him 17 for his career, breaking the school's all-time mark held by Ray Rogers (1987-90). His two rushing touchdowns gives him 33 for his career, tying the record held by Max Freeman (1993-96). He is one TD away from tying the career total touchdown record of 38 held by Rogers. Things didn't start off well for Alfred (1-2, 0-2 Empire 8), which turned the ball over three times in the first half. On the Saxons' second drive, St. Lawrence cornerback Randy Pifer scooped up a fumble and ran 70 yards for a touchdown to put the visitors up 7-0. Alfred turned the ball over on its next possession but the defense forced a St. Lawrence punt and with 3:26 to go in the opening quarter, Raynor scored on a 65-yard run to tie the game at 7-7. The Saxons took the lead on their next possession. The Saints were assessed a 15-yard penalty on a punt that gave Alfred the ball at the St. Lawrence 12-yard line. Four plays later, Raynor dove in from a yard out to put AU up 14-7. Raynor would add a 39-yard field goal midway through the second quarter and Alfred had a 17-7 halftime lead. St. Lawrence cut its deficit to three points when backup quarterback Tom Anderson scored from a yard out. Alfred put the game away with 8:26 left in regulation when junior quarterback Ron Duliba (Forestville/Forestville) hit freshman wide receiver Paul Torrey (Niagara Falls/Niagara-Wheatfield) with a 27-yard TD pass. The Saxon defense did the rest, holding the Saints to two unsuccessful field goal attempts. Freshman strong safety Aaron Myers (Delevan/Pioneer) and junior cornerback Ray Sawner (Sylvan Beach/Oneida) came up with big plays for Alfred. With 9:40 left in the fourth, Sawner intercepted Anderson at the Alfred 49-yard-line and on a fourth-and-2 play from the Alfred 28, Myers stopped Anderson just short of the first down. Duliba finished the game with 159 yards and a TD pass. Junior wide receiver Jake Sprague (Johnsonburg, PA/Johnsonburg) had three catches for 56 yards and junior wide receiver Chris Sargent (Ogdensburg/Ogdensburg) caught two passes for 45 yards. Anderson played the second half in relief of Jon Blumhagen and threw for 180 yards. Wide receiver Gary Gaines had 10 catches for 117 yards. Tailback Brett Hughes led the Saints' rushing attack with 69 yards. Sophomore linebacker Brenton Brady (Rochester/Marshall) led the Saxons defense with 13 tackles, a forced fumble and a sack. Senior linebacker Erich Ely (Jordan/Jordan-Elbridge) had seven tackles and a fumble recovery. Linebacker Mike Reed had a 12 tackles to pace the St. Lawrence defense. Linebacker Matthew Gulley had 11 tackles and a sack, while nose tackle Chris Young added 10 stops. Alfred played well on special teams, with senior wide receiver Nick Coleman (Waverly/Waverly) returning five punts for 129 yards and Sargent returned three kickoffs for 74 yards. Raynor averaged 36.2 yards on four punts. Alfred plays next on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 1:30 p.m. at Waynesburg.