

Lady Saxons drop visiting Utica

2/08/02

ALFRED The Alfred University women's basketball team split its season series with Utica, avenging a prior loss to the Lady Pioneers with a 67-50 win on Friday night at the McLane Center. The Lady Saxons (9-10, 4-6 Empire 8) utilized tough defense and strong late-game foul shooting to overcome several second half runs by Utica. Alfred forced the Lady Pioneers into committing 21 turnovers for the game. Senior forward Lisa Valitutto (Amherst, NH/Souhegan) and junior center Brandi Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) each posted a double-double to lead AU. Valitutto had 14 points and 12 rebounds, while Backus managed 13 points and 10 rebounds. Senior guard Amy Ratchuk (So. Buffalo/Mount Mercy) netted 14 points and freshman guard Michelle Kelly (Levittown/General Douglas MacArthur) scored 11 points to round out AU's top performers. Utica (8-11, 3-7 Empire 8) was led by Libby LePinnet, who had 11 points, nine rebounds and five assists. Devon Bonnemere was Utica's only other double-digit scorer with 11 points. The Lady Saxons host Hartwick tomorrow, February 9, at 2 p.m.