

Saxon defense dominates in 23-8 victory over Washington & Lee

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ALFRED, NY The Alfred University football team, behind a stellar performance from its defense, knocked off visiting Washington & Lee 23-8 Saturday afternoon in the Saxons' 2004 season opener. AU (1-0, 0-0 Empire 8) held the visitors to 155 yards of offense (minus-12 yards on the ground), with more than half of that total coming in the Generals' final drive, when the outcome of the game had been decided. After falling behind 2-0 on an early safety, the Saxons took a 9-2 halftime lead behind three field goals by freshman placekicker Chris Reynolds (Pittsford/Pittsford Sutherland). Sophomore tailback Chaz Bruce (Rochester/Marshall) added fourth-quarter touchdown runs of 31 and 40 yards to give Alfred a 23-2 lead. Washington & Lee (0-1) closed out the scoring on a 12-yard touchdown pass from Greg Tweardy to Clark Kensinger with 1:42 left in the game. The story of the game was Alfred's defense, which forced 12 punts (10 in the first three quarters) and three turnovers. The Saxons had seven sacks and allowed Washington & Lee to convert on only three of 20 third-down opportunities. Sophomore linebacker Nick Gatto (Bemus Point/Maple Grove) had eight tackles, including three sacks. Junior linebacker Brenton Brady (Rochester/Marshall) had nine tackles and a forced fumble, while freshman linebacker Diavalo Fletcher (Tupper Lake/Tupper Lake) had six tackles (one for loss) and an interception. Sophomore defensive tackle Fred Vero (Congers/Clarkstown North) had five tackles, including a pair of sacks, and forced a fumble. Bruce shook off a slow first half to finish with 86 yards rushing and the two long TD runs. Senior quarterback Ron Duliba (Forestville/Forestville) threw for 185 yards, with senior wide receivers Chris Sargent (Ogdensburg/Ogdensburg) and Jake Sprague (Johnsonburg, PA/Johnsonburg) each making four catches, for 60 and 40 yards respectively. Tweardy finished with 155 yards passing. Wide receiver Taylor Callaham had a game-high six receptions for 75 yards, while Kensinger chipped in with five catches for 28 yards. Defensive end Liam Murray paced the Washington & Lee defense with eight tackles, including three for loss and a sack. Cornerback Kyle Luby had eight tackles while linebacker Robert Foster and cornerback Mark Snoddy each came up with pass interceptions. Alfred is in action next on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. at St. Lawrence.