

Alfred University football shuts out Hartwick 24-0

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ONEONTA, NY The Alfred University football team traveled to Oneonta Saturday where they defeated Hartwick College 24-0. The defense stepped up big for Alfred (4-1, 2-1 Empire 8) forcing six Hartwick turnovers and earning the first AU shutout of the season. Junior linebacker Brenton Brady (Rochester/Marshall) led the Saxon charge with seven tackles including two for a loss, one interception and one sack. Sophomore strong safety Aaron Meyers (Delevan/Pioneer) picked up eight tackles and had one interception while senior defensive end Bill Battaglia (Cheektowaga/JFK) chipped in with four tackles, one fumble recovery and a sack to help secure the shutout. Senior wide receiver Jake Sprague (Johnsonburg, PA/Johnsonburg) led the Saxon offense with 126 yards and one score on 5 receptions. Senior quarterback Ron Duliba (Forestville/Forestville) took good care of the football ending the game 10-26 with 171 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions. Alfred took the lead early in the first quarter on a 27-yard field goal by freshman kicker Chris Reynolds (Pittsford/Pittsford Sutherland). After going scoreless for the remainder of the opening quarter, AU started the second with a scoring drive that ended in a 35-yard touchdown pass from Duliba to Sprague. The Saxons added another seven points before halftime when Brady ran in from one yard out to give Alfred a 17-0 lead. After being held scoreless in the third, the Alfred air attack struck again late in the fourth quarter when Duliba connected with senior wide receiver Chris Sargent (Ogdensburg/Ogdensburg) for a 12-yard touchdown. Sargent ended the game with 24 yards receiving and one score. Defense was the bright spot for Hartwick (1-4, 0-3 Empire 8) holding Alfred to a combined rushing total of 116 yards. Andy Hadeka had a strong defensive performance with 11 total tackles and one sack for the Hawks. Josh Schroeder also played a solid game recording eight tackles and one sack. Zach Zeigler was the highlight for a Hawks rushing game that gained 119 total yards with 55 yards on 11 carries. Matt Willis led all Hartwick receivers with 50 yards on three receptions. Saturday's game marked the best start for Alfred University football since the 1990 team began the season 5-1. Alfred is in action next on Saturday, October 16, at 1:30 p.m. at Utica College.