

Saxons fall to visiting Fisher, 30-20

11/13/04

ALFRED, NY The Alfred University football team lost its 2004 regular season finale, 30-20, to visiting St. John Fisher Saturday afternoon at Merrill Field. With the victory, St. John Fisher (9-1, 5-1 Empire 8) wins the Empire 8 Conference title and an automatic berth in the NCAA championship tournament. The Saxons (7-3, 3-3 Empire 8) will now wait to see if they'll play in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championships. Bids to the ECACs will be announced Monday afternoon. St. John Fisher opened the scoring when quarterback Craig Fitzpatrick (Fulton, NY/G. Ray Bodley) hit fullback Curt Fitzpatrick (Fulton, NY/G. Ray Bodley) with a four-yard scoring toss to cap a 13-play, 73-yard drive with just over five minutes left in the opening quarter. Alfred tied the contest at 7-7 when junior linebacker Brenton Brady (Rochester, NY/Marshall) returned an interception 35 yards for a score 12 seconds into the second quarter. The Saxons took a 10-7 lead with eight minutes left in the half when freshman kicker Chris Reynolds (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford Sutherland) connected on a 22-yard field goal. Fisher scored twice more before intermission, both on TD passes from Fitzpatrick to wide receiver Noah Fehrenbach (Rushville, NY/Marcus Whitman). The first came with just under five minutes left in the half. The point after attempt was blocked and Fisher led 13-10. The second, which pushed the score to 20-10, came with 30 seconds remaining and capped a five-play 66-yard drive that began after Fisher took over on downs at its own 34-yard line with 1:39 left in the half. After Brady scored on a three-yard run with 9:05 left in the third to make it 20-17, Fitzpatrick connected with Fehrenbach on a 15-yard TD pass to make it 27-17. Reynolds booted a 32-yard field goal with 12:45 left in regulation before Fisher's Will Bean (Port Gibson, NY/Newark) closed out the scoring with a 35-yard field goal with just under seven minutes left. Both offenses performed well. Alfred sophomore tailback Chaz Bruce (Rochester, NY/Marshall) ran 26 times for 154 yards. AU senior quarterback Ron Duliba (Forestville, NY/Forestville) completed 24 of 44 passes for 186 yards. Senior wide receiver Chris Sargent (Ogdensburg, NY/Ogdensburg) had nine catches for 70 yards, while Bruce added six catches for 47 yards. Fisher's Fitzpatrick threw for 197 yards and four TDs. Fehrenbach finished the game with 11 catches for 157 yards and three scores. Tailback Mark Robinson (Bath, NY/Haverling) shook off a slow start to finish with 145 yards rushing on 37 carries. Senior end Bill Battaglia (Cheektowaga, NY/JFK) led the AU defense with seven tackles, including a pair of sacks. Brady finished with six to go with his interception. Sophomore linebacker Nick Gatto (Bemus Point, NY/Maple Grove) and sophomore strong safety Aaron Meyers (Delevan, NY/Pioneer) has 12 and 11 tackles, respectively, while senior cornerback Ray Sawner (Sylvan Beach, NY/Oneida) had five solo tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Cornerback Reynaldo Tajon (Newark, NY/Newark) led the Fisher defense with 10 tackles. Safety Jay Schickling (Williamsville, NY/Williamsville South) had 11 tackles, including one for a loss, while cornerback Steven Stepnick (Cowlesville, NY/Iroquois) made nine tackles and broke up four passes. Tackle Shawn Crandall Corfu, NY/Pembroke) had seven tackles, including three for loss and a sack, and recovered a fumble. Alfred's Reynolds finishes the regular season with 64 points, a new school single-season scoring record for a placekicker. Bruce finishes the regular season with 1,118 yards, the sixth most in AU history.