

Saxons edge Springfield, 23-22, in OT

9/24/05

ALFRED, NY The Alfred University football team defeated visiting Springfield College 23-22 in overtime Saturday afternoon at Merrill Field. With the score tied at 16 after regulation, Alfred got the ball first in overtime, starting at the Springfield 25-yard line. Four plays later, senior linebacker Brenton Brady (Rochester, NY/Marshall) scored from two yards out. The extra point by sophomore Chris Reynolds (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford-Sutherland) was good and the Saxons led, 23-16. Reynolds PAT proved to be the difference in the game, as Pride kicker Ryan Boyd's extra point after a Derron Walker touchdown run was no good. Earlier, Boyd's PAT after Springfield tied the contest as time expired in the fourth was blocked, sending the game to overtime. With the victory, AU improves to 2-1 on the season (1-0 Empire 8). Springfield falls to 0-3 (0-1 Empire 8). Both teams struggled to score in the first half. Fullback Jason Williams scored on a four-yard run midway through the opening quarter to stake the Pride to a 7-0 lead. The Saxons scored a safety after a high snap on the Springfield punt attempt to make it 7-2, a score that would stand through the second quarter. A 41-yard Boyd field goal 2:45 into the third quarter gave Springfield a 10-2 lead, but the Saxons tied the contest with 3:53 left in the frame on Brady's 1-yard TD run and a pass by sophomore quarterback Paul Keeley (Caledonia/Caledonia-Mumford) to senior tight end Chris Reger (Warsaw, NY/Warsaw) for the two-point conversion. The touchdown capped an 11-play 82-yard drive by the Saxons. Alfred took a 16-10 lead on a pair of Reynolds field goal in the fourth quarter (from 22 and 42 yards). After Reynolds' second field goal, Springfield got the ball with 3:10 and marched down the field on a 15-play, 80-yard drive that ended with a 2-yard scoring run by Walker as time expired. Springfield was flagged for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, which forced Boyd to try the extra point from 35 yards away rather than the customary 20 yards. Saxon sophomore linebacker Blake Fuller (Newark, NY/Newark) blocked to kick to send the game to overtime. Sophomore tailback Elmer Newsome (Cadosia, NY/Hancock) led a balanced AU offensive attack (185 yards rushing/172 yards passing) with 125 yards on 21 carries. Brady finished with 37 yards on 11 carries and two TDs, while Keeley threw for 172 yards and was intercepted three times. Freshman wideout Trevor Bork (Fishers, NY/Victor) had three catches for 46 yards. Springfield tallied 297 yards of offense, all on the ground. Williams and fullback Andre Clayton ran for 129 and 105 yards, respectively. Quarterback Joe Deptula threw only twice, with each pass falling incomplete. Junior linebacker Nick Gatto (Bemus Point, NY/Maple Grove), the Saxons' leading tackler coming into the contest, had a game-high 19 stops (eight solo). Brady finished with 15 tackles (eight solo, including one for loss) and a forced fumble. Junior strong safety Aaron Meyers (Delevan, NY/Pioneer) had 11 tackles and junior defensive end Andy Rantz (Montandon, PA/Milton) had 10 stops, including two for loss. Freshman cornerback Brian Nitsche (Portville, NY/Portville), making his first career start, had eight tackles. In addition to his blocked kick, Fuller notched Alfred's only quarterback sack. Cornerback Lucas Maciarelo led the Springfield defense with eight tackles (six solo) and an interception. Linebackers Seth Trunko and Andrew Madigan each had 11 tackles, while safety Mitch Dupuis and cornerback Kevin Fessette each had interceptions. Alfred is in action next on Saturday, Oct. 1, at 1:30 p.m. at Norwich.