

## **Ratchuk hits 1,000 point mark as Lady Saxons fall to Saints**

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ALFRED Senior guard Amy Ratchuk (South Buffalo/Mt. Mercy) scored her 1,000 career point as a member of the Alfred University women's basketball team; the team, however, lost the closely-matched game to the St. Lawrence Saints 69-66 Saturday afternoon in the McLane Center. Ratchuk came into the contest needing only three points to reach the milestone, and knocked back a three-pointer 2:05 into the game to eclipse the mark. She finished the game with a total of 17 points, including three three-pointers. The Lady Saxons (3-3, 0-0 Empire Eight) fell behind 35-27 after the first half, but outscored St. Lawrence in the second half to make it a close finish. Foul troubles hurt the Lady Saxons, with the Saints gaining 24 points from the free throw line. Alfred was led by junior forward Brandi Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton), who had a game-high 22 points and eight rebounds. Freshman guard Michelle Kelly (Levittown/General Douglas MacArthur) chipped in with 15 points, including four three-pointers, while senior forward Lisa Valitutto (Amherst, NH/Souhegan) added 10 points for the team. The Saints had a balanced offensive attack, with four players scoring in double figures. Forward Megan Dietrichsen led the way with 14 points and eight rebounds, while guard Meredith Eisenhut, forward Nicole Leary and forward Aliza Bogdanich each added 12 points. The Lady Saxons will next be in action one month from now, as they host Empire Eight foe St. John Fisher at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8 in the McLane Center.--30--