Utica edges AU women s basketball team 2/10/12

ALFRED, NY - Visiting Utica College erased a two-point halftime deficit, going nine-for-10 from the foul line after intermission, en route to a 48-40 victory Friday evening over the host Alfred University women's basketball team. Neither team shot well - both made 31 percent of their shots from the floor, with AU making 30 percent of its three-point shots to 8 percent for the visiting Pioneers - but Utica shot 10 free throws (making nine) to only two for the Saxons. Alfred was hurt by turnovers, finishing the game with 17 miscues, and the Saxons were outrebounded 44-37.AU (7-16, 0-12 Empire 8) held a 20-18 advantage at the half, as sophomore forward Grace Williamson (Olean, NY/Olean) tallied seven points and pulled down four rebounds and junior guard Jamie Perry (Hannibal, NY/Hannibal) connected on a pair of three-point shots. Williamson, who finished with 14 rebounds, failed to score in the second half, snapping her string of six straight double-doubles and leaving her with 16, which ranks her second in the nation in Division III. Utica's Katie McGee scored a game-high 15 points - with 11 coming in the second half, when she sank all six of her free-throw attempts - pulled down six rebounds and dished out four assists. Meghan Fiore added 14 points and nine rebounds and Justine Karst had a team-best 11 boards. Sophomore guard Cate Mensler (Ballston Spa, NY/Saratoga Catholic) and freshman guard Emilea Harrison (Dansville, NY/Dansville) (four rebounds) each scored seven points for Alfred, while senior guard Kacey Kwiecien (Perry, NY/Perry) had six rebounds and four assists. Alfred is in action next on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m. at home against Ithaca. Utica (9-14, 4-8 Empire 8) plays Saturday at 2 p.m. at Elmira.