Alfred University sets time, dates for 2003 football schedule

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ALFRED Home contests against rivals Hartwick, Hobart and St. Lawrence highlight Alfred University's 2003 football schedule.AU, seeking to improve on a 4-6 record last fall, will also host Union and Grove City. Road games are at St. John Fisher, Ithaca, Waynesburg, Utica and Thiel.The 2003 season is the last before Alfred begins a full Empire 8 conference schedule. In 2004, Springfield (MA) and Norwich (VT) will join the Empire 8 for football only. They join Alfred, Hartwick, Ithaca, St. John Fisher and Utica to give the Empire 8 seven teams, the minimum need to give the conference an automatic qualifier to the NCAA Division III playoffs.The 2003 season kicks off with two road games, at St. John Fisher (Sept. 6, 7 p.m.) and at Ithaca (Sept. 13, 1 p.m.).The Saxons' home opener against St. Lawrence (Sept. 20 at 1 p.m.), is followed by a Sept. 27, 1:30 p.m. game at Waynesburg.Alfred plays home games against Union (Oct. 4, 1 p.m.) and Hartwick (Oct. 11, 1 p.m., Homecoming) before traveling to Utica f or a 1:30 p.m. game Oct. 18. After home contests against Hobart (Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.) and Grove City (Nov. 1, 1 p.m.), Alfred will wrap up the season with a Nov. 8, 1 p.m., game at Thiel.In 2004, Thiel, Waynesburg, Union and Hobart will be replaced on the Saxons' schedule by Springfield, Norwich, Washington & Lee and Case Western. Those four teams will remain on the schedule through the 2005 season.