

AU football team to host Norwich in ECAC Northeast Championship

11/15/04

ALFRED, NY The Alfred University football team will host Norwich University in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Northeast Championship Saturday, Nov. 20, at noon at Merrill Field. The Saxons and Norwich come into Saturday's game with identical 7-3 records (both 3-3 in Empire 8 Conference play). The teams met at Alfred on Oct. 2, with Alfred defeating the Cadets 35-14. In that contest, AU dominated play, piling up 423 yards in offense to Norwich's 240. In that game, AU tailback Chaz Bruce (Rochester, NY/Marshall) ran for a career-high 183 yards and two touchdowns on 34 carries. He will go into Saturday's game with 1,118 yards rushing (sixth-most for a single season in school history) and six touchdowns. His seven games with at least 100 yards rushing ties the school single-season record. Senior quarterback Ron Duliba (Forestville/Forestville) enjoyed his best day as a Saxon, completing 21 of 28 passes for 216 yards and three touchdowns. For the year, he has thrown for 1,559 yards and 15 touchdowns. Junior wide receiver TyQuan Horton (Syracuse, NY/Corcoran) had seven catches for 97 yards and a score in the earlier game against Norwich. For the year, senior wide receivers Jake Sprague (Johnsonburg, PA/Johnsonburg) and Chris Sargent (Ogdensburg, NY/Ogdensburg) lead the Saxons with 41 and 39 catches, respectively. Sargent also leads the team with five touchdown receptions. The Saxon defense, one of the stingiest in the Empire 8 Conference and Upstate New York, played well against Norwich, holding the Cadets to 74 yards rushing. Sophomore linebacker Nick Gatto (Bemus Point, NY/Maple Grove) had a team-high nine tackles. Junior linebacker Brenton Brady (Rochester, NY/Marshall) had seven tackles, including 1.5 sacks, while senior end Bill Battaglia (Cheektowaga, NY/JFK) had four tackles, including three of loss and a sack. For the year, the Saxons are holding opposing teams for 255 yards in offense. Brady leads the team with 90 tackles (including 12.5 for loss and seven sacks) and interceptions with three. Battaglia has team highs in tackles for loss (15) and sacks (11). Strong Safety Aaron Meyers (Delevan, NY/Pioneer) has 68 tackles and has broken up a team-leading nine passes. Freshman linebacker Blake Fuller (Newark, NY/Newark) has 42 tackles (fourth on the team) and leads the Saxons in forced fumbles (3) and fumble recoveries (3). Freshman placekicker Chris Reynolds (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford Sutherland) has made 13 of 18 field goals and 25 of 26 extra points. His 64 points are a new school single-season scoring record for a kicker. Freshman Josh Rammacher (Angola, NY/Lake Shore) averages 36.5 yards per punt. AU is coming off a 30-20 loss at home to St. John Fisher in the Saxons' regular season finale. Alfred will be playing in its first ECAC Championship game since 1989, when the Saxons beat Bridgewater State, 30-27, for the North Championship. Norwich lost its regular season finale last Saturday to visiting Springfield, 49-13. The Cadets lost to Hobart, 34-18, in last season's ECAC Northwest Championship.