

Hobart College knocks off Alfred University football team, 20-12

10/25/03

ALFRED, NY-- Hobart converted a key fourth down on a fake punt late in the fourth quarter and hung on to defeat Alfred University, 20-12, Saturday at Merrill Field. With Hobart leading 20-6, Alfred (4-4, 2-2 Empire 8) scored on a 20-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Ron Duliba (Forestville/Forestville) to junior wide receiver Chris Sargent (Ogdensburg/Ogdensburg) with just over seven minutes left in the game. AU missed the extra point and trailed by eight. On its ensuing possession, Hobart faced a punting situation on fourth-and-1 at its own 29-yard-line with five minutes left in regulation, but punter Dan Suozzi (New Canaan, CT/New Hampton) found room on the right side and scampered for 19 yards to the Hobart 48-yard line. The Statesmen (4-2, 2-1 UCAA) then converted five first downs and ran out the clock to secure the victory. Hobart got on the board first, when tailback Ty Godinho (Lancaster/Lancaster) scored on a one-yard plunge to cap a nine-play, three-minute opening drive. The extra point failed and Hobart led, 6-0. AU cut the lead to three points when senior Jesse Raynor (Weedsport/Weedsport) booted a 37-yard field goal with 10 minutes left in the first. Hobart's Eric Ampuja (Brockton, MA/Brockton) hit a 29-yard field goal with 5:20 left in the second to give the Statesmen a 9-3 halftime lead. Raynor's second field goal, a 42-yarder 4:34 into the third, made it 9-6 Hobart. Ampuja answered with a 33-yard field goal and Hobart led 12-6 after three quarters. Godinho scored from four yards out and caught the two-point conversion pass from quarterback Craig Swanson to give Hobart a 20-6 lead with 8:09 left in the game. Sargent's TD catch a minute later accounted for the game's final scoring. Alfred managed 188 yards in offense, with Raynor contributing a team-high 72 yards rushing. Duliba finished with 115 yards passing and a touchdown. Junior wide receiver Jake Sprague (Johnsonburg, PA/Johnsonburg) had three catches for 58 yards and senior wideout Nick Coleman (Waverly/Waverly) added four catches for 23 yards. After a slow start, Godinho picked things up in the second half and finished with a game-high 119 yards rushing and a pair of scores. Swanson passed for 220 yards, with Suozzi making nine catches for 68 yards and wide receiver Rick Pinero (Hauppauge/Smithtown) catching seven passes for 108 yards. Junior defensive Bill Battaglia (Cheektowaga/Cheektowaga) led the AU defense with eight tackles, including three sacks. Sophomore linebacker Brenton Brady (Rochester/Marshall) and senior defensive end Jeremy Batt (Gowanda/Gowanda) each has 12 tackles and a sack, while junior free safety Kiel Liddell (Bemus Point/Maple Grove) made nine tackles and recovered a fumble. Linebackers Nolan Robinson (Johnson City/Johnson City) and Tony Clemente (Troy/Troy) paced the Hobart defense with six tackles apiece. Robinson and defensive end Lawrence Moultrie (Albany/Christian Brothers) each had a sack. Both teams are in action next on Saturday, Nov. 1, with Alfred playing its season home finale at 1 p.m. against Grove City and Hobart traveling to Ithaca for a 1 p.m. contest.