

Latest AFCA poll ranks AU football team 16th in nation

10/09/07

The Alfred University football team is ranked 16th in the nation in this week's American Football Coaches Association poll of Division III teams. AU (5-0, 3-0 Empire 8), which had been ranked 22nd in last week's AFCA poll, moved up on the heels of Saturday's 46-36 win over visiting Hartwick. The 5-0 start is the best at AU since the 1981 team finished the regular season 10-0 en route to the school's first and only trip to the NCAA championship tournament. Alfred is also ranked 15th in this week's D3football.com national poll of Division III teams, up five spots from last week's rankings. In the win over Hartwick, AU senior quarterback Paul Keeley (Caledonia, NY/Caledonia-Mumford) completed 23 of 29 passes for 276 yards and a school single-game record six touchdowns. Keeley had shared the previous record of four TD passes in a game with four former Saxons. Sophomore tailback Vinson Hendrix (Rochester, NY/East) rushed for 137 yards on 23 carries against Hartwick and has run for at least 100 yards in each of Alfred's five games this season. Senior wideout Saucobie Riley (Rochester, NY/Marshall) caught three of Keeley's TD passes Saturday and now has seven for the year, three off the school single-season. Despite giving up more than 600 yards of offense to Hartwick, the AU defense stood tall at several key moments. The Saxons held Hartwick scoreless on three separate first-and-goal series and limited the Hawks to 81 yards rushing. Junior cornerback Ron Smith (Lyons, NY/Lyons) had five pass breakups and senior tackle Don Miller (LeRoy, NY/LeRoy) had a game-high 11 tackles, including a sack. The Saxons will try to improve to 6-0 when they host Empire 8 foe Utica this Saturday, Oct. 13, at 1 p.m.