

AU football team impressive in 43-14 victory over host U of R

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ROCHESTER, NY The Alfred University football team showed no negative side effects of last week's bye, as the Saxons rolled up 380 yards of offense in a 43-14 victory over the University of Rochester on Saturday afternoon. Alfred (6-2, 3-1 E8) scored on its first possession of the game, driving 51 yards in a little over two minutes as freshman quarterback Tom Secky (Bemus Point, NY/Maple Grove) hit junior wide receiver Jared Manzer (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City) on a 28 yard touchdown pass, putting the Saxons on top, 7-0 with 12:40 remaining in the first quarter. After forcing a three and out on Rochester's second possession, the Saxons capitalized on a poor snap that sailed over Yellow Jackets punter Patrick Till's head and was recovered in the endzone by senior defensive lineman Joseph Yesesky (Phoenixville, PA/St. Pius X), increasing AU's lead 9-0. On the ensuing drive, the Saxons marched 50 yards in nine plays, capping the drive with a 15 yard touchdown pass from Secky to Manzer, the pair's second TD connection of the opening frame. Leading 16-0 entering the second quarter freshman placekicker Eric Rockwood (Allegany, NY/Allegany Limestone) added three more points for the Saxons, hitting a 32-yard field goal with 13 minutes left in the quarter. On Rochester's next possession, the Alfred defense again forced a punt, and for the second time in the first half a poor snap led to an Alfred touchdown. The Saxons took over on the U of R five yardline and on the first play from scrimmage junior tailback Vinson Hendrix (Rochester, NY/East) plunged into the endzone and AU led 26-0. Leading by 26 with just 34 seconds left before halftime, Secky connected with sophomore wideout Ryan Thon (Victor, NY/Victor) for his third touchdown pass of the half. The 27 yard TD grab was the first of Thon's collegiate career and gave the Saxons a 33 point advantage going into the break. Scoring cooled down in the second half as the Saxons scored just 10 points. Rockwood's 31 yard field goal was the only scoring for either team in the third quarter. The final scoring drive for Alfred came in the fourth quarter as AU capped a 12 play, 38 yard drive with Hendrix's second TD of the contest putting the Saxons on top 43-0 with just over ten minutes remaining in the game. Rochester managed to avoid the shutout, as the Yellow Jackets took the ensuing kickoff 57 yards to the AU 13 yardline. From there it was three straight rushes with Clarence Onyiriuka jumping the pile at the goalline for Rochester's first touchdown of the game. Onyiriuka scored again later in the quarter on a 33 yard strike from quarterback Braezen Subick. The Saxons offense orchestrated a balanced attack, gaining 160 yards on the ground and 220 yards through the air. Secky finished the game completing 17 of 27 passes for 217 yards and three touchdowns. Manzer lead all receivers with a game-high eight receptions for 93 yards and two touchdowns. The Saxons ground game consisted of Hendrix and senior tailback Morgan O'Brien (Bradford, PA/Bradford) who combined for 108 of the Saxons' 160 yards on the ground. On the defensive side of the ball, AU once again showed its dominance as the Saxons held the Yellow Jackets to 133 yards passing and -12 yards rushing. Freshman linebacker Wes Smith (Turbotville, PA/Muncy) paced the defense with six tackles (five solo) and one for loss. Junior linebacker Marc Mangovski (Kirkville, NY/East Syracuse-Minoa) and junior defensive lineman Adam Brockway (New Hartford, NY/New Hartford) finished with five and four tackles respectively with Brockway recording the only sack of the day for the Saxons. Alfred will be in action next Saturday Nov. 8, at 1 p.m. as the Saxons host conference rival Ithaca College.