

Lady Saxons comeback comes up just short in loss to Nazareth

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ALFRED The Alfred University women's basketball team's comeback from a double-digit second-half deficit came up just short in a 53-46 loss to visiting Nazareth College Saturday afternoon at the McLane Canter. Nazareth (9-9, 6-3 Empire 8) held a 25-20 halftime advantage and led by 10 points with 6:49 left in the game before AU (10-10, 2-7 Empire 8) began a late comeback. The Lady Saxons cut the visitors' lead to two points with just over a minute to play, but could get no closer as the Soaring Eagles made foul shots down the stretch to seal the win. Senior center Brandi Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) and freshman center Kylene Knoll (Elmira/Elmira Free Academy) paced AU with 11 points each, with Knoll adding a team-high eight rebounds. Senior forward Liz Smith (Fulton/G. Ray Bodley) added six points, seven rebounds and three assists. Sophomore center Sara Shipley (Macedon/Palmyra-Macedon) led three Nazareth players in double figures with a game-high 14 points and nine rebounds. Sophomore forward Kadi Burgess (Newark/Newark) and senior guard Amy Kierst (Gorham/Marcus Whitman) scored 12 and 10 points, respectively, with Kierst also tallying five assists and six steals. Alfred is in action next on Friday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at Elmira College.