

## **Lady Saxons fall to nationally ranked Cortland**

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CORTLAND The Alfred University women's basketball team traveled to Cortland State Thursday evening and lost, 87-50, to the host Lady Dragons, who are ranked ninth in the latest NCAA Division III national poll. Cortland jumped out to a 43-11 lead and cruised to its 11th victory of the year against no losses. AU falls to 0-8 on the year and remains at 0-3 in Empire Eight play. The Lady Saxons played a much better second half, tallying 39 points to Cortland's 44. Alfred, which played without three of its top players, including two starters, was led by junior forward Lisa Valitutto (Amherst, NH/Souhegan) with a team-high 15 points and six rebounds. Sophomore forward Brandi Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) had 13 points and sophomore guard Liz Smith (Fulton/G. Ray Bodley) tallied seven points and team-high seven rebounds. Freshman guard Melissa Mayo (Rumford, ME/Mountain Valley) came off the bench to score a career-high 12 points, making four of seven three-point shots. Cortland had four players in double figures and was led by Erin Egan with a game-high 16 points. The Lady Saxons are in action next on Monday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. at home against Pitt-Bradford.