

Alfred University offense explodes as Saxons whip Hartwick , 49-28

10/19/13

ALFRED, NY The Alfred University football team scored touchdowns on seven of its 12 drives and forced four turnovers en route to a 49-28 victory over visiting Hartwick College Saturday afternoon at Yunevich Stadium.

Alfred had 462 yards of offense (179 on the ground) and freshman quarterback **Tyler Johnson (East Syracuse, NY/East Syracuse-Minoa)** threw for 283 yards and three touchdowns as the Saxons improved to 4-2 overall and 2-1 in Empire 8 Conference play. With the loss, Hartwick falls to 4-2 (1-2 Empire 8).

AU jumped on Hartwick early, scoring a touchdown three plays after the Hawks fumbled at their own 35-yard line three plays into their opening possession. Senior tailback **Austin Dwyer (Hornell, NY/Hornell)** did all the work on the drive: after an incomplete pass he ran for 17-yards on second down, then ran the ball in from 18 yards out to give the Saxons the early 7-0 lead just a minute into the contest.

After Hartwick punted on its ensuing possession, AU took a two-touchdown lead, driving 47 yards in four plays, with Dwyer punching the ball in from a yard out with 10:24 left in the opening frame. The score was set up by a 43-yard flea-flicker pass from Johnson to sophomore tight end **Isiah Young (Groton, NY/Groton)** to the Hartwick 4-yard line.

The teams combined for five touchdowns in seven drives three by Hartwick over the remainder of the first half and the Saxons led 28-21 at intermission. After Hartwick scored with 6:16 left in the first to cut its deficit in half, at 14-7, each team turned the ball over: Alfred on downs and the Hawks on an interception by AU sophomore cornerback **Calvin Bain (Rochester, NY/East)** near the AU goal line.

After Bain&s interception, the Saxons marched 97 yards in 12 plays, with senior fullback **Chuck Beckwith (Victor, NY/Victor)** scoring on a seven-yard run to cap the six-minute drive and give AU a 21-7 lead. Hartwick scored on its next possession to make it 21-14, but Alfred answered, driving 75 yards in five plays, with Beckwith catching an eight-yard TD pass from Johnson midway through the second.

Hartwick scored with 4:14 left in the second to make it 28-21, but that is as close as the Hawks would make it, as AU outscored the visitors 21-7 after intermission. Johnson&s 13-yard run 2:42 into the third put Alfred up 35-21, and Hartwick scored with 4:28 left in the frame to make it 35-28. That&s all the Hawks would get, as Alfred tallied two fourth-quarter TDs -- on Johnson passes to senior wide receivers **Jonathan Ruffin (Copiague, NY/Copiague)** (21 yards) and **Josh Phillips (Syracuse, NY/West Genesee)** (14 yards) -- to close out the scoring.

Johnson completed 18 of 24 passes and no interceptions, as the Saxons finished with no turnovers. Ruffin caught seven passes for 112 yards; Phillips had three catches for 76-yards; and Young caught three for 60 yards. Dwyer ran 17 times for 85 yards and two TDs and Johnson ran 10 times for 44 yards.

Hartwick&s **John Garcia** threw for 286 yards and four touchdowns but was intercepted once and lost a fumble while being sacked. Wide receiver **Tanner Williams** had seven catches for 115 yards and a TD and wideout **Chris Hoose** caught three passes for 119 yards and a pair of scores. AU held Hartwick to just 48 yards on the ground, as running back **Kevin Wahl** ran 15 times for a team-best 44 yards.

Sophomore middle linebacker **Corry Wallace (Mastic Beach, NY/Longwood)** had 10 tackles (two for loss, one-half sack) to lead the Saxon defense. Sophomore strong safety **Michael Berardi (Wellsville, NY/Wellsville)** had five tackles and a fumble recovery; sophomore linebacker **Peter Diak (Henrietta, NY/Rush-Henrietta)** had four tackles (one for loss, one sack) and forced a fumble; senior end **Justin Collen (Averill Park, NY/Averill Park)** had a sack; and sophomore defensive back **Dave Bennett (Medford, NY/Longwood)** had an interception.

Linebacker **Richie DiVirgilio** had a game-high 14 tackles (one for loss) and end **R.J. Roth** had 10 tackles (3 ½ for loss, sack) to lead the Hartwick defense.

Alfred is in action next on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 1 p.m. at Empire 8 Conference foe Frostburg (MD) State.