

Alfred University football team announces 2008 schedule

6/11/08

ALFRED, NY The Alfred University football team has announced its 2008 schedule. The Saxons, who went 8-3 last year and finished third in the Empire 8 Conference with a 4-2 record, open their 2008 campaign Sept. 6 at 1 p.m. at home against Ursinus College. The Saxons hold a 3-1 lead in the all-time series, but the teams haven't met since 1996, when AU lost on the road, 24-21. Ursinus is located in Lancaster, PA and competes in the Centennial Conference. The Bears posted a 7-3 record in 2007 (3-2 Centennial). The following weekend, on Sept. 13 at 1 p.m., Alfred will entertain Farleigh Dickenson University-Florham in the first-ever matchup between the two teams. FDU-Florham, located in Madison, NJ, competes in the Middle Atlantic Conference and last year went 2-8 (0-7 MAC). On Sept. 20 at 1 p.m., AU renews its longstanding rivalry with St. Lawrence. The Saxons beat the Saints, 49-19, last season in the 66th meeting between the two teams. Alfred opens its Empire 8 Conference slate the following weekend, Sept. 27, with a noon meeting at Springfield (MA) College. The teams have met four times since the Pride joined the Empire 8 in 2004, with the home team winning each time. Alfred beat Springfield 37-17 at Merrill Field last year. AU entertains Empire 8 foe Norwich in the Saxons' annual Homecoming Game on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 1:30 p.m. The Saxons, who won last year at Norwich, 45-21, hold a 5-0 all-time series lead against the Cadets, who will be leaving the Empire 8 after the 2008 season. The Saxons travel to Oneonta on Oct. 11 for a 1 p.m. contest at Empire 8 rival Hartwick. Alfred holds a 17-6-1 edge in the all-time series with the Hawks and has won the five meetings between the two teams, including last year's 46-36 shootout at Merrill Field. AU will play at conference foe Utica at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 18. Alfred has never lost to the Pioneers, winning seven straight contests since the teams first met in 2001. AU handled Utica in last year's meeting at Merrill Field, 35-7. Alfred is idle the weekend of Oct. 25 before a Nov. 1 game at 1 p.m. at Rochester. The Yellowjackets hold a 22-17-0 edge in the all-time series, but AU has had success against Rochester of late, winning consecutive ECAC Northwest Bowl Championship matchups in 2006 and 2007. In last year's ECAC game, played at Merrill Field, AU prevailed, 49-14. Alfred wraps up its 2008 regular season with a pair of home games, against Empire 8 rivals Ithaca (Nov. 8) and St. John Fisher (Nov. 15). Kickoff for both contests is 1 p.m. Ithaca has a 33-13-2 edge in the all-time series and won last year's game, at Ithaca, 42-25. The last time the two teams met at Alfred, in 2006, the Saxons prevailed, 28-17, snapping an eight-game losing streak to the Bombers. AU finishes the regular season against Fisher, the defending Empire 8 Conference champions. The teams have split the all-time series, 5-5, but Fisher has won the last two (including last year's 39-18 victory at Fisher) and five of the last six.