

Alfred University falls to Grove City in season finale

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GROVE CITY, PA The Alfred University football team lost its season finale Saturday, 39-17, at Grove City. The Saxons (4-6) jumped out to a 14-7 first quarter lead before Grove City (6-4) scored 18 unanswered points in the second and third quarters to pull away. The Wolverines' offense was kickstarted by a 75-yard touchdown run by senior fullback R.J. Bowers with just 10 minutes left in the second quarter. Bowers, the NCAA's leader in career rushing yards and scoring, would later add a 10-yard TD run and finish with 226 yards on 36 carries. AU opened the scoring 4:08 into the contest when sophomore tailback Jesse Raynor (Weedsport/Weedsport) hit junior split end Nick Freeman (Bolivar/Cuba-Rushford) with a 61-yard scoring pass. After Grove City tied the game, the Saxons went up, 14-7, on a one-yard run by junior quarterback Todd Zandrowicz (East Aurora/East Aurora). After Grove City went up 25-14, AU pulled to within a touchdown after AU senior kicker Ryan Rambacher (Bemus Point/Maple Grove) booted a 24-yard field goal with 12:25 left in the fourth to make it 25-17. Grove City followed with two touchdowns to put the game away. Raynor ran for 130 yards - it was his fifth straight 100-plus-yard rushing game -- and hauled in seven passes for 43 yards. Raynor has started the last four games in place of injured senior tailback George Eason (Oswego/Oswego). In the last five games, he piled up 799 yards, and finished the year with 997 yards on the ground. Zandrowicz finished the game with 113 yards passing, while Freeman caught four passes for 89 yards and a score. Alfred senior strong safety Brian Keefer (Jamestown/Maple Grove) and junior defensive tackle Todd Strong (Deposit/Deposit) led the AU defense with 10 tackles each. Keefer finished his career with 314 tackles, good for fourth place on the school's all-time list.