Saxons rally to defeat Cazenovia

12/29/07

PITTSFORD, NY The Alfred University men's basketball team earned its first victory of the season Saturday evening as the Saxons rallied from a 17-point halftime deficit to knock off Cazenovia, 78-72, at the Courtyard-Penfield Holiday Classic, hosted by St. John Fisher College. Alfred (1-8, 0-2 Empire 8) trailed at the half, 45-28, as Cazenovia (3-5) shot 47 percent from the floor and 78 percent from the foul line. Alfred, meanwhile, made only 38 percent of its shots in the first frame, while making half its free throws. The Saxons rebounded after intermission, shooting 60 percent from the floor to finish 48 percent for the contest, while holding Cazenovia to 30 percent shooting. AU also made 17 of 27 free throws in the second half. Freshman point guard Gary Kwiecien (Perry, NY/Perry) led five Alfred players in double figures with a game-high 19 points on five-of-seven shooting (two-for-two from three-point range) from the floor while making seven of 12 free throws. Sophomore guard Jared Patt (Nelson, PA/Elkland) netted 16 points to go with five assists; freshman forward Ellis Walsh (Penfield, NY/Penfield) tallied 13 points and eight rebounds; senior guard Garlen Patt (Nelson, PA/Elkland) had 12 points, seven boards and three steals; and junior guard Carl Embury (Perry, NY/Perry) added 11 points, five rebounds and a pair of assists. Freshman forward Sean D'Auria (Highland Mills, NY/Cornwall Central) had a team-high nine rebounds for the Saxons. Stephen Harris paced Cazenovia with 16 points. Erik Sauer had 15 points; Lamin Zulu had 14 points and five rebounds; Eric Letendress netted 13 points; and Pete Marshall pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds. Alfred is in action next on Sunday, Dec. 30, at 1 p.m. as the Saxons take on WPI in the tournament's second round.