

AU announces 2006 football schedule

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ALFRED, NY Alfred University has announced its 2006 football schedule, which opens with a Sept. 9 home contest against Thiel College. Thiel is one of four teams on Alfred's slate that played in the postseason last year and one of three that played in the NCAA Division III championship tournament. The others are NCAA participants Hobart (home, Oct. 28) and Empire 8 Conference rival Ithaca (home, Nov. 4) and ECAC participant and conference opponent St. John Fisher (regular season finale, home, Nov. 11). Kickoff for all four games is at 1 p.m. Alfred's other home contest is the Saxons' Homecoming game, Sept. 30 at 1 p.m. against Empire 8 opponent Norwich. AU plays conference road games at Springfield (Sept. 23, 1 p.m.), Hartwick (Oct. 7, 2 p.m.) and Utica (Oct. 14, 1:30 p.m.). The Saxons take on non-conference foes St. Lawrence (Sept. 16, 1 p.m.) and Husson (Oct. 21, noon) on the road. The Saxons return nine defensive starters, eight offensive starters and their placekicker and punter from a squad that went 9-2 last year (5-1 Empire 8) and captured the ECAC North Atlantic Bowl championship. Thiel and Hobart return to the Saxons' schedule after a two-year layoff. Alfred is 9-6 all-time against Thiel and beat the Tomcats 14-9 the last time the two teams played, in 2003 in Greenville, PA. AU is 35-37-4 all-time against Hobart. The last time the two teams played, in 2003 at home, the Statesmen prevailed, 20-12. Alfred last beat Hobart in 1995 (35-14) and has lost the last eight meetings between the two teams. Alfred is playing Husson, located in Bangor, ME, for the first time ever. Husson went 4-5 last season, it's third year as a Division III football team.