

## AU dedicates Connors Pavilion to families of Saxon athletes

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Greg Connors '92 speaks at the dedication ceremony. At left is Jeni Wetzel Connors '94.

**ALFRED** Alfred University dedicated the Connors Family Pavilion Saturday to the families of the Saxon athletes who withstood wind, rain, and snow to watch games played on Merrill Field.

The Connors Family Pavilion, located at the south end of Merrill Field, was built with a gift from Greg Connors, a member of Alfred University's Class of 1992, and Jeni Wetzel Connors, a member of the Class of 1994.

Greg Connors played football and lacrosse, and Jeni Connors played soccer, all on Merrill Field.

It was the memory of their parents, huddled in the stands in inclement weather to watch their games, which prompted the couple to make a gift to the Score One for AU campaign that resulted in the pavilion.

Construction on the 30-by-52-foot (1,560 square feet) pavilion began over the summer and was completed in time for the Saxons' 26-13 defeat of nationally-ranked St. John Fisher on Saturday. The victory vaulted the Saxons into the nation's Top 25 poll for the first time this year.

Greg and Jeni Connors donated funds for the pavilion's construction, they said, because they wanted to be able to "continue and enhance" the Alfred experience for parents and families, as well as for alumni when they return to campus.

The pavilion has bi-fold glass doors that provide a full view of Merrill Field from the south endzone. Communications conduit was run to the facility to provide internet access and video capabilities.

The Connors Pavilion is part of the larger Score One for AU initiative. The \$14 million Score One project will significantly enhance the University NCAA varsity athletic offerings through facilities improvements, and create opportunities for the AU and Alfred communities at large focusing on health and physical fitness.

In addition to the pavilion, significant improvements already completed under the Score One project include resurfacing of Merrill Field in 2010 and the construction of new home side grandstands and a new press box at the field. The project also includes construction of a new on-campus softball field, set for completion in December; and a 33,000-square-foot annex to the McLane Center, which will house an indoor track and playing courts. The annex is set for completion in September 2014.