

Second-half comeback leads Hartwick past Alfred University men's basketball team

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ALFRED Hot shooting propelled the Hartwick College men's basketball team to an 87-73 comeback win at Alfred University Saturday afternoon in the season finale for both teams. Alfred (5-20, 2-12 Empire 8) led 46-41 at halftime, thanks to some solid shooting of its own. The Saxons made 56-percent of their first-half shots (six of 10 on three-pointers) and would have held a larger lead had the visiting Hawks not made seven of 12 three-point shots. Hartwick continued to shoot well after intermission, making 64 percent of their field goals, including four of seven from behind the arc. Meanwhile, AU went cold, shooting only 33 percent from the floor in the second half, including one of eight on three-pointers. Hartwick (10-15, 4-10 Empire 8) also helped itself with a 39-26 rebounding advantage. Alfred's three seniors, playing in their last collegiate games, paced a balanced scoring attack. Senior center Jeff Hopkins (Caledonia/York) led the Saxons with 20 points, nine rebounds and a pair of blocks, while forward Bryan Crandall (Andover/Canisteo) and guard Brian Roegiers (Marion/Marion) scored 13 and 12 points, respectively. Also scoring in double figures for AU were sophomore guard Gavin Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton), with 11 points and three steals and sophomore point guard Doug Baker (Waterloo/South Seneca), with 10 points and game-high six assists. Senior forward Joel Blackwell (Barrington, MA/Monument Mountain) led three Hartwick players in double figures with a game-high 29 points and 10 rebounds. Senior center Nate Cramer (Ithaca/Cortland) and freshman guard Matt Guzielek (Johnstown/Johnstown) added 23 and 19 points, respectively, while each pulled down seven rebounds.