

## **Hobart hands AU football team first loss of season**

10/27/07

GENEVA, NY Alfred University dropped its first game of the season Saturday afternoon, falling 41-22 at Hobart. The Statesmen (6-2, 4-1 Liberty League) piled up 456 yards of offense, with quarterback Andrew Strom throwing for 229 yards and four TDs, two to wide receiver Ryan LiDrazzah (10 catches, 90 yards). The Hobart defense held Alfred to 376 yards of offense (120 below the Saxons' per game average) and forced four AU turnovers. Alfred (7-1, 4-0 Empire 8) scored first, when sophomore tailback Vinson Hendrix (Rochester, NY/East) galloped 46 yards for a touchdown on the Saxons' second play from scrimmage just 1:01 into the game. The extra point failed and AU led, 6-0. Hobart got a 35-yard field goal by Dominic Ancona two minutes into the second quarter and took a 10-6 lead at the 9:29 mark on a 29-yard pass from Strom to LiDrazzah. Alfred reclaimed the lead, 13-10, with 3:46 left in the half, with senior quarterback Paul Keeley (Caledonia, NY/Caledonia-Mumford) tossing a 14-yard scoring strike to junior wideout Trevor Bork (Fishers, NY/Victor). The lead was short-lived, however, as Hobart proceeded to march 65 yards in 11 plays, taking a 17-13 lead on a six-yard TD pass from Strom to LiDrazzah with 22 seconds left in the half. AU senior kicker Chris Reynolds (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford-Sutherland) booted a 25-yard field goal with 4:56 left in the third to make it 17-16, but Hobart proceeded to score 24 unanswered points to put the game out of reach. Running back Don Gilardi scored on a three-yard run; and wide receivers Tyler Vincent and James Wright sandwiched TD catches around Ancona's second field goal of the game. Vincent's score came after Hobart recovered an onside kick following Gilardi's touchdown run. A 26-yard TD pass from Keeley to sophomore wide receiver Jared Manzer (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City) with 1:15 left closed out the game's scoring. Keeley completed 18 of 34 passes for 222 yards, an interception, and a pair of scores. Manzer had seven catches for 73 yards and senior wide receiver Ben Stanton (Fort Edward, NY/Hudson Falls) caught four passes for 56 yards. Hendrix finished with 143 yards rushing on 19 carries. It is the seventh time in eight games this year he has eclipsed the 100-yard mark. Strom ended his day with 229 yards passing, completing 22 of 36 passes and throwing one INT. Wright caught seven passes for 71 yards and completed two passes for 47 yards. Gilardi ran 12 times for 58 yards. Sophomore linebacker Chad Pieri (LeRoy, NY/Caledonia-Mumford) and junior cornerback Matt Van Woeart (Schenectady, NY/Schalmont) led the AU defense with 11 tackles apiece. Junior linebackers John Soule (Richfield Springs, NY/Richfield Springs) and Blake Fuller (Newark, NY/Newark) each had nine stops and senior strong safety Dan Medlock (Garden City Park, NY/Mineola) had six tackles and an interception. Linebacker Justin Hager had a game-high 12 tackles to pace the Hobart defense. Defensive end Kwame Lovell had four tackles and a sack, and cornerback James Alexander had three tackles and an interception. Alfred plays next Saturday, Nov. 3, at 1 p.m. at Ithaca. The Saxons will take on St. John Fisher the following Saturday, Nov. 10, at 1 p.m. The winner of that game wins the Empire 8 title and an automatic bid to the NCAA playoffs.