

AU football team among Division III statistical leaders

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ALFRED, NY — The NCAA released its latest statistical report today and the Alfred University football team is represented among the Division III team and individual leaders.

The Saxons, which after Saturday's 26-13 win over then 11th-ranked St. John Fisher debuted at 21st in the latest D3football.com poll, rank particularly high on defense. AU (4-1, 3-0 Empire 8) is 12th in the nation in rush defense (75.60 yards per game), 29th in total defense (275.0 yards per game); 22nd in scoring defense (13.60 points per game); and 28th in team interceptions (10 total, 2.00 per game).

Senior nose tackle **Mike Raplee (Dundee, NY/Dundee)** is eighth in the nation in sacks per game (6.5 total sacks; 1.30 per game) and senior defensive end **Chris Steeves (Rochester, NY/Gates-Chili)** is 15th (5.5 total sacks; 1.10 per game). Raplee also ranks fifth in the country in tackles for loss per game (12 total tackles for loss; 2.40 per game); sophomore cornerback **Michael Perkins (Rochester, NY/East)** ranks fifth in passes defended per game (11 total; 2.2 per game); and senior free safety **Jon Jackson (East Amherst/Bishop Timon)** is 11th in interceptions per game (four total; 0.8 per game).

The Saxons rank 36th in the nation in rushing offense, with 219.8 yards per game. Junior running back **Chuck Beckwith (Victor, NY/Victor)** despite averaging only 12 carries per game, ranks 59th with 94.8 yards rushing per contest.

AU plays a key Empire 8 road game on Saturday, Oct. 20, at seventh-ranked Salisbury. AU and Salisbury sit atop the Empire 8 standings with 3-0 conference records.