

AU men's basketball team suffers conference loss to visiting Nazareth

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ALFRED The return from semester break was not kind to the Alfred University men's basketball team as the Saxons lost Friday night to visiting Nazareth College, 74-61. It was the first conference loss of the season for Alfred (7-2, 1-1 Empire Eight). AU trailed by only two points at the half, 30-28, but wore down in the second half against a bigger and more physical Nazareth squad. Alfred, which was without starting senior center Kareem McKinnon (Brooklyn/Kingsborough) was outrebounded, 48-28. The Saxons were also hurt by poor shooting, making only 36 percent of their shots from the field and 50 percent from the free throw line. Alfred had four players in double figures: junior guard Devon Downing (Canton, OH/Glen Oak), with 16 points to go with 11 rebounds; sophomore guard Neil Burley (Rushville/Marcus Whitman) with 13; junior forward E.J. Docteur (Seneca Falls/Mynderse) with 12, and senior forward Brock Stortini (Amenia/Arlington) with 11. The Golden Flyers (5-3, 1-1 Empire Eight) were paced by senior center Jesse Lisiecka (Binghamton/Binghamton) with 24 points and 20 rebounds. Alfred will try to rebound Saturday, Jan. 6, against Empire Eight foe RIT. Tip-off is at 4 p.m. It won't be easy, as the Saxons will play without McKinnon, senior point guard Willie Smith (Fulton/Fulton), who is suffering from a back injury and has yet to play this year, and junior guard Tanner Webb (Newark/Newark), out with an arm injury.