

## Stevens edges host Saxons in Empire 8 men's basketball action

1/16/09



ALFRED, NY Visiting Stevens Institute of Technology handed the Alfred University men's basketball team its second straight loss, 75-67, Friday evening at the McLane Center. Alfred (6-8, 2-4 Empire 8) erased an early 10-point deficit and drew within a point at the half, 39-38, on sophomore guard Mike Stopera's (Scotia, NY/Scotia-Glenville) three-pointer at the halftime buzzer. The visiting Ducks and AU exchanged leads throughout the first half of the second period before Stevens pulled away late, courtesy of 77-percent second-half shooting (13 of 17) from the free throw line. For the game, Stevens made 20 of 26 foul shots to seven of 12 (58 percent) for AU. Stevens held a huge edge in rebounds, 40-26, which helped offset Alfred's 12 made three-pointers. Stopera made five long-range shots to finish with a game-high 23 points. Three other Saxons also scored in double figures, with junior Bobby Barry (Duanesburg, NY/Duanesburg) tallying 14 to go with five rebounds and junior forwards Carl Embury (Perry, NY/Perry) and Jared Patt (Nelson, PA/Elkland) each netting 11. Patt also had 10 rebounds while sophomore point guard Gary Kwiecien (Perry, NY/Perry) dished out nine assists. Anthony Passalacqua had 23 points and Simon Smith had 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead Stevens (8-5, 1-3 Empire 8). Matt Higgins chipped in with eight points and nine rebounds, while Michael Baker handed out nine assists. Alfred is in action next on Monday, Jan. 19, at 2 p.m. at Albany College of Pharmacy.