Nazareth tops AU, 76-66

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PITTSFORD,NY-The Alfred University men's basketball team dropped a 76-66 decision to host Nazareth College, Friday night in an Empire 8 Conference matchup.Nazareth would use hot shooting (45 percent from the floor) to take a 39-35 advantage into intermission. In the second half, AU would get no closer than within eight points (three occasions). The Saxons were forced to send Nazareth to the line, but the Golden Flyers would take advantage sinking all six free-throw attempts, en route to claiming a 76-66, Empire 8 Conference victory. For the game, Nazareth shot 43 percent from the floor, to the Saxons 42, and the AU held a 41-34 advantage in rebounds. Senior guard Josh Parker (Tonawanda, NY/Sweet Home) netted a game -high 21 points and senior forward Derek Lewis (Horseheads, NY/Horseheads (Corning CC)) had 20 points and eight boards to lead the Saxons (8-4, 1-2 Empire 8), who finished an impressive 18 of 19 from the free-throw line. Junior forward Brett Dennis (Webster, NY/Webster Schroeder) finished with 12 points, four rebounds and an assist. Phil Scaffidi scored 21 points and Jason Corletta notched 20 points to pace the Golden Flyers (9-5, 2-1 Empire 8). Jamell Johnson netted 11 points, and Brad Ford pulled down a game-best 13 boards.Alfred returns to action Saturday, Jan. 14, at 4 p.m., against host St. John Fisher College.