

## **Alfred University's Raynor may return for fifth season in 2003**

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ALFRED, NY Jesse Raynor (Weedsport/Weedsport), a senior tailback on the Alfred University football team, may return for a fifth season in 2003. Raynor said he plans to return to the team next fall, provided the NCAA grants him a hardship waiver. AU Athletic Director James Moretti explained that according to NCAA guidelines, a player may be granted an additional year of competition for reasons of "hardship", defined as an incapacity resulting from an injury or illness. Raynor broke the big toe on his left foot early in the fourth game of the season and has been out since. The Saxons played their tenth and final game of the season Nov. 9. Moretti said documentation of Raynor's injury and the number of games he played in this season will be forwarded to the Empire 8 Athletic Conference. If the conference agrees Raynor's situation warrants a hardship, it would make that recommendation to the NCAA, which then would make a final decision on granting Raynor a fifth year of eligibility. Raynor, a business administration major, is scheduled to receive a bachelor's degree in May. Raynor began the 2002 season poised to break virtually all AU career rushing and scoring records. When he suffered his season-ending injury, he had 2,706 career rushing yards, 800 off the school record 3,506 held by Ray Rogers (1986-89). He has 15 100-yard rushing games, one off Rogers' record, and 33 touchdowns, five off Rogers' mark. He has 29 rushing touchdowns, four off the school record established by Max Freeman (1993-96). Before his injury, Raynor did break the school's career scoring record previously held by Rogers. He'll begin the 2003 campaign with 236 points scored. Raynor also owns school records for touchdowns in a game (five, two times), yards rushing in a game (265) and single season per game rushing average (137.2) and shares the mark for 100-yard rushing games in a season (seven). Raynor has an outside chance of breaking the school's career record for pass receptions. He has 101 career receptions, 36 off the school record held by Bill Schuster (1976-79). Raynor is in line to break several career records despite starting roughly the equivalent of two seasons. He was inserted as the starting tailback midway through his sophomore season and finished with almost 1,000 yards on the ground. Last season he rushed for 1,235 yards (third highest in a single season at AU), while scoring 102 points, just two off the school single-season record. Raynor is one of the most versatile players ever to wear a Saxon uniform. During his junior year, he also ran back kicks and was the team's placekicker. In the season-opener this year against St. John Fisher, Raynor racked up 366 all-purpose yards, rushing for 115 yards and three touchdowns, catching 11 passes (tying a school record) for 86 yards and returning four kickoffs for 165 yards. He also kicked two field goals and blocked a punt.