

AU men's lacrosse team holds on to beat fourth-ranked Ohio Wesleyan

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BALTIMORE, MD The Alfred University men's lacrosse team built a seven-goal lead before holding off a late rally to stun fourth-ranked Ohio-Wesleyan 14-13 Wednesday afternoon at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County stadium. Alfred (2-0, 0-0 Empire 8) held a 14-7 lead entering the final quarter but Ohio Wesleyan (2-1, 0-0 North Coast Conference) mounted a furious comeback in the fourth. AU survived a late two-man disadvantage to earn its first victory over a ranked team in three years. Sophomore attack Dave Vail (Mt. Lakes, NJ/Mt. Lakes) led AU with two goals and a game-high four assists. Sophomore attack Dylan Macro (Camillus/West Genesee) and senior midfielder Rob Strickland (Amherst/Sweet Home) each had two goals and two assists, while sophomore attack Trevor Archer (Penn Yan/Penn Yan) found the back of the net three times. Rounding out the scoring for AU was sophomore midfielder A.J. Fiorelli (Endicott/Union-Endicott) and junior midfielder Steve Douglas (Horseheads/Horseheads) with two goals apiece, senior midfielder Bryan Bacon (Homer/Homer) with a goal and senior midfielder Bill Crehan (Buffalo/Bishop Timon) with an assist. AU led 11-4 at the half and after each team scored three in the third, enjoyed a seven-goal cushion entering the final frame. Ohio Wesleyan battled with six unanswered goals and appeared on the verge of tying the contest when AU went two men down with just over three minutes remaining. But senior Kevin Kazmierczak (West Seneca/Orchard Park) came up big in goal for Alfred, making several outstanding stops. He finished the contest with 20 saves. Andy Rowe paced Ohio Wesleyan's offense with four goals and an assist, while Matt Coughlin added three goals and three assists. Goalie Mike Comeau made 16 saves. Alfred's victory marks the first time the Saxons have defeated a top-25 opponent since 1999, when AU knocked off 16th-ranked Ithaca 13-9. It is the Saxons' biggest upset since a 12-11 win over top-ranked Nazareth in 1997. When next week's rankings come out, AU should enter the top 25 for the first time since being ranked 25th in the 2000 preseason poll. AU plays next on Tuesday, March 19, at 4 p.m. when the Saxons host Keuka College.