

Two Saxon players earn Empire 8 weekly football honors

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Dwyer

Jones

ALFRED, NY A pair of Alfred University football players have earned weekly honors from the Empire 8 Conference, following the Saxons' win over Ithaca Saturday that gave AU the conference title and a berth in the NCAA championship tournament. Austin Dwyer (Hornell, NY/Hornell), a freshman tailback, was named Offensive Player of the Week, while junior defensive end Marcellus Jones (Lancaster, NY/Lancaster) was named Defensive Player of the Week. Dwyer ran for a career-high 273 yards on 29 carries, with one touchdown. The 273 yards were the second-highest for a single game in AU history and pushed Dwyer over the 1,000-yard mark for the season. He now has 1,061 yards, with his 117.9 rushing yards per game and 6.8 yards per carry leading the Empire 8. It marks the second time this year Dwyer has been named Empire 8 Offensive Player of the Week; he also earned the honor after a Sept. 25 win at Springfield, when he ran for 168 yards on 22 carries. Jones had six tackles (three solo) and helped hold Ithaca to 34 yards rushing. He forced a fumble on a sack and recovered the ball and also recovered another fumble. Both recoveries came in the first quarter and led to 10 Saxon points. Jones leads the conference in fumble recoveries (three) and is fourth in sacks (seven). With the win over Ithaca, AU (7-2, 4-0 Empire 8) clinched its first-ever outright Empire 8 championship and with it the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Division championship tournament. AU shared the Empire 8 crown with St. John Fisher last season but earned the bid to the NCAAs by virtue of a regular-season win over Fisher. Alfred wraps up its regular season Saturday, Nov. 13, at 1 p.m. against Empire 8 foe Utica. Seedings and first-round matchups for the NCAA tournament will be announced Sunday evening.