

AU vs. Frostburg Game Notes
10/31/12



Alfred University vs. Frostburg (MD) State

Saturday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m.

Last meeting: 2011, Frostburg win, 54-53, at Frostburg, MD

Last week: AU: Loss, 31-7, at Utica; Frostburg, Loss, 21-0, vs. St. John Fisher

Saxons Offense: 22.7 points per game **Saxon Defense:** 17.6 points per game

Bobcat Offense: 17.0 points per game **Bobcat Defense:** 30.0 points per game

Players to watch: Alfred University — Zach Sopak, JR, QB; Joe Enslin, JR, QB; Malcolm Downey, FR, TB; Adam Schutz, SR, TE; Maleke Fuentes, FR, WR; Mike Raplee, SR, NG; Chris Steeves, SR, DE; Reggie Pressley, SR, SS; Jon Jackson, SR, FS.

Frostburg State — Ken Emmons, SO, QB; Chuky Iweh, JR, RB; Anthony Young, SR, WR; Antonio Wood, SO, WR; Brendon Blanchette, SR, S; Aaron Gruber, SR, DE; Keith Smith, SO, FS; Rowan Pinket, FR, LB.

Key matchup: Alfred's pass defense (allows 206 yards per game) against a Frostburg passing attack that averages 158 yards...AU pass rush, led by nose guard Mike Raplee and Chris Steeves that has 19 sacks (17 by Raplee and Steeves combined) against a Frostburg O-line that has allowed 17...Frostburg rushing attack (172 yards per game) against AU run defense that holds opponents to 96 yards per game on the ground...AU ground game -- top three rushers out with injury; two freshmen tailbacks are atop the depth chart against Frostburg rush defense that allows 173 yards per game on the ground...Alfred passing attack (146-yard average) vs. Frostburg defense that allows 254 yards passing per contest...Frostburg pass rush that has only three sacks on the year, vs. AU O-line that has allowed only 14 sacks in seven games.

Game notes: Saturday's game is the fourth between AU and Frostburg State, with Frostburg leading the all-time series, 2-1-0. The last time these two teams met, in 2011, host Frostburg prevailed, 54-53, in double overtime. The last

time the two teams met on Merrill Field, in 2010, Alfred won, 49-24.

About the Saxons: Alfred is 4-3 overall and 3-2 in the Empire 8 following a 31-7 conference loss at Utica last weekend.

The Saxons are scoring 22.7 points per contest and averaging 324.4 yards of offense per game (146.3 passing; 178.1 rushing).

AU will be missing its top three runners on Saturday, all lost to season-ending injuries this year. Tailbacks Chuck Beckwith (554 yards rushing, team-leading 10 TDs) and Austin Dwyer (275 yards, two TDs) were hurt against Utica and tailback Tyler DeRosa (199 yards) was injured in a Sept. 22 win at Buff State. Freshman Malcolm Downey gets the start at tailback after tallying 34 yards on eight carries after Beckwith and Dwyer went down last weekend.

Junior quarterback Zach Sopak has completed 87 of 162 passes for 815 yards and five touchdowns. Junior Joe Enslin played most of the game under center against Utica after Sopak went out with an injury during the Saxons' second drive against Utica. He completed 11 of 18 passes for 128 yards and a touchdown. Freshman wide receiver Maleke Fuentes (team-best 318 receiving yards; one TD) and senior tight end Adam Schutz (196 yards, team-high three TDs) share the team lead in catches with 25, while junior wideout Josh Phillips has caught 21 passes for 249 yards and a score.

The Saxons are allowing 17.6 points per game, with the defense allowing 302.7 yards (96 rushing; 206.7 passing) per contest.

Senior strong safety Reggie Pressley has a team-leading 56 tackles and senior tackle Mike Raplee has 54 tackles, including 15 1/2 for loss and 9 1/2 sacks. Senior free safety Jon Jackson (47 tackles) leads the team in interceptions with five, and senior end Chris Steeves has 45 tackles (nine for loss, 7 1/2 sacks).

Fuentes averages 25.2 yards on kick returns and 4.5 yards on punt returns. Junior Zach Tavalaro has made 13 of 16 PATs and senior Matt Girolmo averages 33.9 yard per punt.

About the Bobcats: Frostburg State is 3-5 overall and is coming off a 21-0 home loss to St. John Fisher that dropped the Bobcats' Empire 8 Conference record to 1-4.

The Bobcats are scoring 17 points per game with a balanced offense that averages 157.5 yards passing and 152 yards rushing (309.5 overall).

Quarterback Ken Emmons has completed 108 of 206 passes for 1,260 yards with eight touchdowns. His primary targets have been the wide receiver tandem of Anthony Young (39 catches, 519 yards, four touchdowns) and Antonio Wood (24, 366, 2).

Tailback Chuky Iweh has 452 yards on 100 carries and two touchdowns to lead the Bobcats' rushing attack. Emmons has run for 137 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Frostburg allows 30 points per contest, with the defense allowing 426.1 yards per game (253.8 passing; 172.3 rushing). Safety Brendon Blanchette has a team-leading 85 tackles (1 1/2 for loss) with four pass breakups and a forced fumble. Free safety Keith Smith has 54 tackles and an interception; defensive end Aaron Gruber has 40 tackles, including a team-best 5 1/2 for loss; and linebacker Rowan Pinkett has 28 tackles and a team-high two interceptions.

Michael Taylor averages 18.5 yards per kick return and Nicholas Stubbs 5.5 yards per punt return. Placekicker Jonathan Adams has made all 19 extra point attempts and one of six field goal tries, and Zach Tuckmantel averages 34.4 yards on punts.

