

## **Saxons falls to Hobart, 21-14**

10/28/06

ALFRED, NY The Alfred University football team dropped a 21-14 decision to visiting Hobart College in a non-conference contest Saturday afternoon on Merrill Field. Hobart wide receiver James Wright caught a pair of touchdown passes from Hobart quarterback Shawn Mizro, the second one coming with 11:15 left in the fourth quarter to break a 14-14 tie. The teams were matched evenly throughout, with Alfred totaling 363 yards of offense and 17 first downs to Hobart's 304 and 15. But three turnovers by Alfred (6-2, 3-1 Empire 8), one coming at the Hobart goal line after an interception return, hurt the Saxons' chances. Hobart (7-0) scored on its second possession of the game when Mizro hit tailback Doug Blakowski with a short pass that Blakowski turned into a 31-yard scamper to the endzone. The extra point was blocked and Hobart led, 6-0. Alfred got on the board and took a 7-6 lead with 10:20 left in the second quarter when quarterback Paul Keeley (Caledonia, NY/Caledonia-Mumford) hit tight end Matt Gibbins (Clifton Park, NY/Shenendehowa) with a 58-yard touchdown strike down the middle. Alfred missed a chance to extend its lead late in the second quarter when AU free safety Brian Nitsche (Portville, NY/Portville) intercepted a Mizro pass near midfield. He returned the ball to the Hobart 1-yard line but fumbled as he reached toward the endzone. Hobart recovered the ball in the endzone for a touchback. Hobart reclaimed the lead on its first possession of the second half, marching 64 yards on four plays, with Mizro connecting with Wright from 19 yards. A two-point conversion made the score 14-7 Hobart, but AU would tie the game at 14-all on its ensuing possession, as Keeley hit Gibbins with an eight-yard pass to cap a 10-play 62-yard drive. Hobart drove 76 yards in eight plays to get the winning score, twice converting third down plays. The Saxons would get three more possessions, driving into Hobart territory on the final two. The first ended with a punt from the visitors 41; the last ended when AU turned the ball over on downs at the Statesmen 41-yard line. Keeley completed 18 of 43 passes for 254 yards, a pair of touchdowns and an interception. His two TD tosses gives him 21 on the year, tying his own single-season record. He now has 42 career scoring tosses, which ties him for the AU career record. Freshman wide receiver Jared Manzer (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City) caught four passes for 51 yards while Gibbins finished with three receptions for 72 yards and the two TDs. Junior tailback Elmer Newsome (Cadosia, NY/Hancock) had 71 yards rushing for the Saxons. Junior placekicker Chris Reynolds (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford-Sutherland) made both his point-after attempts, giving him 90 for his career, which ties a school record. Junior tackle Don Miller (LeRoy, NY/LeRoy) led the AU defense with 11 tackles, seven of them solo. Junior cornerback Josh Rammacher (Angola, NY/Lake Shore) had five solo tackles and Nitsche and senior linebacker Ralph Jackson (Forestville, NY/Forestville) each had interceptions. Mizro finished with 137 yards passing and three TD passes, while Wright caught a game-high five passes for 87 yards and two TDs. Blakowski, in addition to catching two passes for 30 yards and a score, ran for 98 yards on 24 carries. Free safety Mike Kaplun led the Hobart defense with eight solo tackles and an interception. Linebacker Evan Hoffman had six solo tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Alfred is in action next on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 1 p.m. at home against Ithaca.