

## **Saxons earn ECAC bid, will host Maine Maritime Academy**

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ALFRED, NY The Alfred University football team will host Maine Maritime Academy in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) North Atlantic Championship Bowl Saturday, Nov. 19. Kickoff at Merrill Field is at noon. The Saxons are the top seed among six teams chosen to compete in the three ECAC Division III championship bowl games. Maine Maritime is the sixth seed. Alfred wrapped up its regular season Saturday with a 13-7 victory at St. John Fisher. The win improved the Saxons' record to 8-2 overall and 5-1 in Empire 8 Conference play. Alfred finished second in the Empire 8, its best-ever performance in the conference. In the final Upstate football poll, announced today, AU is ranked fifth. Maine Maritime, a member of the New England Football Conference, comes into Saturday's game with a 7-2 overall record. The Mariners, who began the season 4-0, dropped two before winning their last three. Saturday's game will mark the first-ever meeting between the two teams. Despite not earning a berth in the NCAA Division III championships, Alfred is riding high after last Saturday's win at 12th-ranked Fisher, which snapped a three-game losing streak to the Cardinals. Fisher came into the game ranked third in the nation in scoring (45.9 points per game) and ninth in total offense (499 yards per game). The Saxons, who came into the game ranked in the top 25 nationally in total defense and rush defense, held Fisher to 277 yards of offense. Alfred enters this weekend's ECAC title game allowing 15.1 points per game and 257.6 yards in offense per game (98.1 rushing and 159.5 passing). The Saxons have scored 26.3 points per game while racking up 367 yards in offense per contest (171.6 rushing and 195.4 passing). Saturday's game will mark the second straight year Alfred has played in the ECAC Northeast Championship game. The Saxons hosted Norwich University last year and won 36-17.