

## **Lady Saxons knock off Cazenovia, 54-53, on last-second shot**

11/27/01

ALFRED The Alfred University women's basketball team opened their home schedule with a 54-53 victory over Cazenovia Tuesday evening in the McLane Center. A tightly matched second half saw several lead changes before senior guard Amy Ratchuk (South Buffalo/Mount Mercy) banked in a layup with four seconds left to win the game for Alfred (3-1, 0-0 Empire 8). The Lady Saxons were led by senior forward Lisa Valitutto (Amherst, NH/Souhegan), who had a team-high 15 points and nine rebounds. Ratchuk added 13 points and nine rebounds, while junior forward Brandi Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) had nine points and five rebounds. Freshman guard Michelle Kelly (Levittown/General Douglas MacArthur) scored nine first-half points on 3-of-6 shooting from three-point range. AU won despite shooting 30 percent from the field. The Lady Saxons held a 25-23 halftime lead despite shooting only 27 percent in the opening 20 minutes. "It was a great win for us," remarked AU coach Michele Finn. "We started out slow in the first half but never gave up." Finn credited junior forward Liz Smith (Fulton/G. Ray Bodley) with playing exceptional defense. Smith finished the game with nine rebounds and three steals. Cazenovia (1-3) was led by forward Jen Seymour and guard Tiffany Trent. Seymour had a game-high 19 points, while Trent added 15 points and 10 rebounds. The Lady Saxons are next in action at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30 when they host Geneseo.