

AU women's basketball team victorious in season opener

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ALFRED, NY - The Alfred University women's basketball team opened its 2011-12 season with a 76-58 victory over visiting Penn State-DuBois Tuesday evening at the McLane Center. AU freshman guard Harley Cleary (Rochester, NY/Our Lady of Mercy) scored a game-high 20 points in her collegiate debut and sophomore forward Grace Williamson (Olean, NY/Olean) turned in a double-double with 16 points and 13 rebounds. Alfred (1-0) led 31-30 at halftime but used improved shooting and a tenacious defensive effort to outscore DuBois 45-28 in the second half. The Saxons shot 31 percent in the first half, while DuBois was making 50 percent of its shots. AU buckled down in the second frame, holding the visitors to 27 percent shooting while making 42 percent of its own shots. Cleary and Williamson came up big after in the second half, scoring 16 and 13 points, respectively, after intermission. For the game, AU shot 37 percent but forced 26 turnovers and held DuBois to 38 percent from the floor. Cleary made eight of 19 shots, including a pair of three-pointers, and added seven rebounds, two assists and a pair of steals and Williamson had a game-high four steals. Senior guard Christina Jordan (Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, NY/Cornwall) had 10 points for AU and sophomore forward Sarah Federico (Buffalo, NY/Holy Angels) tallied eight points and seven boards. Senior guard Kacey Kwiecien (Perry, NY/Perry) dished out a game-high four assists. Guard Tessa Vargas led DuBois with 17 points on 6-of-12 shooting and forward Jenna Matzinger added 10 points and a team-best eight rebounds. Forward Kelsey Rini had eight points, four rebounds and four blocks for the Lions (0-1). Alfred is in action next Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18 and 19, at the Buffalo State Tournament. The Saxons play Hamilton in Friday's first round, at 5 p.m. and either Hilbert or Buff State in the consolation or championship game Saturday.