

Saxons win overtime thriller

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ALFRED, NY - The Alfred University men's basketball team opened the 2011-12 season defeating visiting Morrisville 72-67 in overtime, Tuesday evening at McLane Center. Five Saxons scored in double digits as the Saxons used a strong second half to earn the victory. Senior forward Derek Lewis (Horseheads, NY/Horseheads (Corning CC)) recorded a double-double netting a team-high 16 points while pulling down a game-best 11 boards to lead the Saxons (1-0). At the half AU trailed Morrisville 28-23 as the Mustangs closed the half going on a 7-2 run. At intermission the Mustangs shot 35 percent from the floor and converted eight of 10 free throws, while the Saxons shot 29 percent from the floor and made 2 of 5 free throws. Lewis fueled the Saxons in the second half as he scored 13 points and recorded seven rebounds. AU 's greatest lead in the contest would be 13 with 6:39 left in the second half. Morrisville responded, outscoring the Saxons 18-5 to send the game into overtime. In overtime AU rallied back from an early five-point deficit to outscore the visitors 14-9 in the extra frame behind clutch baskets from senior guard Josh Parker (Tonawanda, NY/Sweet Home) and junior guard Sean Curran (Honesdale, PA/ Honesdale). For the game, AU held a 50-48 advantage in rebounds, and a 15-13 advantage in steals. Parker finished with 14 points, seven rebounds, five steals, and four assists, and Curran scored 13 points, pulled down eight rebounds, and had five steals. Sophomore forward Mike Branche (Schenectady, NY/Colonie) had 13 points, five boards, three assists, and a pair of steals, and senior forward Pat Hollenbeck (Ontario, NY/Wayne) netted 10 points and pulled down eight boards (including six in the first half). Kucjok Ater netted a game-high 17 points and Brandon Hanks finished with a double-double on 15 points and 11 rebounds. Alfred plays next on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m., when they take on host Old Westbury.