

Lady Saxons lose on road at Ithaca

2/15/02

ITHACA The Alfred University women's basketball team suffered its second conference loss to Ithaca in as many tries, as the Lady Bombers downed AU, 71-55, on Friday night. The Lady Saxons (10-12, 5-8 Empire 8) fell behind early and struggled the entire game to make up the difference. AU shot a dismal 26 percent from the field in the first half, including missing on all nine three-point attempts, and trailed 32-20 by intermission. Despite a 35-point second half rally, the team was unable to effectively cut into Ithaca's lead. Senior forward Lisa Valitutto (Amherst, NH/Souhegan) and junior center Brandi Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) put up big numbers to lead AU. Valitutto posted a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds, while Backus had 20 points and eight rebounds. Senior guard Amy Ratchuk (So. Buffalo/Mount Mercy) rounded out AU's top performers with eight points, four rebounds and four assists. Kerry Brown finished with 18 points and five assists to lead Ithaca (20-3, 12-1 Empire 8). Stephanie Cleary and Jennie Swatling followed with 13 and 11 points, respectively. With the win, the Lady Bombers clinched their third straight Empire 8 conference title. The Lady Saxons close out the regular season tomorrow, February 16, at 2 p.m. in Elmira.