

Alfred University men's basketball team defeats Hilbert in home opener

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ALFRED The Alfred University men's basketball team pulled away late to defeat Hilbert College, 75-59, Tuesday night in the Saxons' season home opener. Alfred (2-1, 0-0 Empire 8) led by only five points with under five minutes remaining before building a double-digit lead down the stretch, courtesy of some timely defense and clutch shooting from the field and free throw line. Sophomore guard Gavin Backus (Mt. Upton/Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton) led Alfred with a game-high 28 points and seven rebounds. Backus made his first five shots, all three-pointers, and had 18 points at the half. For the game, he made eight of 14 shots, including seven of 11 from long range. Alfred shot only 37 percent from the field, but made 11 three-pointers and held the visiting Hawks to 30 percent shooting. Three other Saxons scored in double figures: senior guard Brian Roegiers (Marion/Marion) with 18 points; and senior forward Bryan Crandall (Andover/Canisteo) and sophomore guard Doug Baker (Waterloo/South Seneca), each with 10 points. Sophomore guard Adam Gioia (West Seneca/West Seneca West) led Hilbert (0-3) with 19 points and five steals. Freshman forward Allen Leight (Oakfield/Oakfield-Alabama) scored 12 points and pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds, while junior forward Marc Gaylor (Hinsdale/Hinsdale) added 13 points and five boards. Alfred is in action next on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at SUNY Cortland.