

Saxons victorious at Utica 27-10

10/18/08



UTICA, NY The Alfred University football team rebounded from last week's conference loss to Hartwick, with a 27-10 win over host Utica College on Saturday afternoon. The Saxons' victory was the eighth straight over the Pioneers in the two teams brief history. The Saxons opened up the scoring five minutes into the first quarter as junior tailback Vinson Hendrix (Rochester, NY/East) galloped into the endzone from eight yards out, capping a six play, 32 yard drive. Hendrix, who has been banged up all year with a knee injury, rushed for 43 yards on 13 carries as the Saxons posted 127 yards on the ground, with two rushing touchdowns. In the second frame, Utica (2-4, 1-1 E8), tied the game at 7-7, when Josh Wright took a pass from Keith Barone, 23 yards for a touchdown. Freshman placekicker Eric Rockwood (Allegany, NY/Allegany-Limestone) proved to be the difference maker in the first half as he nailed field goals from 29 and 34 yards, giving the Saxons a 13-7 lead going into the half. Utica's placekicker Casey McNulty was not to be outdone, as he booted a 40-yard field goal three minutes into the third quarter to bring the Pioneers within three. This is as close as Utica would get as AU would find the endzone twice in the third quarter. On the ensuing kickoff, junior wide receiver Jared Manzer (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City) returned the ball 44 yards to the Pioneers 41 yardline. Three plays later, freshman quarterback Tom Secky (Bemus Point/Maple Grove) connected with Manzer on a 30-yard scoring strike and the Saxons led, 20-10. Manzer led all receivers with seven receptions for a game-high 138 yards and a touchdown. Secky completed 15 passes for 198 yards, an interception and a touchdown. AU rounded out the game's scoring with 4:58 left in the third when Senior tailback Morgan O'Brien (Bradford, PA/Bradford) found the endzone from three yards out, capping a seven play, 57 yard drive. O'Brien finished with 82 yards on 22 carries as he continues to be the featured back for the Saxons and has now rushed for 438 yards and three touchdowns on the season. Alfred's defense continues to impress, allowing only 10 points while holding the Pioneers to just 86 yards on the ground. Freshman linebacker Nick Clark (Canisteo, NY/Canisteo-Greenwood) led the defense with a game-high 12 tackles (seven solo) and two for loss. Junior linebacker Marc Mangovski (Kirkville, NY/East Syracuse-Minoa), senior defensive lineman Dan Dunham (Vestal, NY/Susquehanna Valley), and freshman defensive lineman Marcellus Jones (Lancaster, NY/Lancaster), each recorded a sack in the contest. Cody Elliot led all Pioneer receivers with seven catches for 82 yards while Barone finished with 196 yards, a touchdown and an interception. Peter Vano was Utica's leading tackler with a team-high 10 tackles. With the win, Alfred (5-2, 3-1 E8) now sits atop the Empire 8 with two conference games left to play. The Saxons play next on Saturday, November 1, at noon when they travel to the University of Rochester to take on the Yellow Jackets