

Muskingum rallies in second half to edge Saxons at St. John Fisher Classic

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PITTSFORD, NY Muskingum College rallied past the Alfred University men's basketball team to claim a 78-73 victory Monday evening in first-round action at the St. John Fisher College Classic. Alfred (4-4, 0-1 Empire 8) led at halftime, 38-28, before Muskingum (5-5) opened the second half with a 15-7 run to get to within two points, at 45-43. The Muskies got their first lead, at 57-56, with 9:22 left in regulation. Alfred would tie the contest on two occasions, the last coming with 3:21 left and the score 68-68. Muskingum then scored five unanswered and AU would get no closer than three (73-70 with 25 seconds left) as the winners made five of six free throws down the stretch. Junior guard Bobby Barry (Delanson, NY/Duanesburg) netted a game-high 24 points to lead Alfred, making eight of 13 shots (five of seven from behind the three-point arc) and added three rebounds and three steals. Sophomore guard Mike Stopera (Scotia, NY/Scotia-Glenville) and junior forward Jared Patt (Nelson, PA/Elkland) each scored 14 points for the Saxons, with Stopera dishing out a team-best five assists. Senior forward Carl Embury (Perry, NY/Perry) tallied 13 points and shared the team lead in rebounds (six) with Patt. Alfred shot 46 percent from the floor (41 percent on three-pointers), but was outdone by Muskingum, which made 60 percent of its shots, including 47 percent from long range. The Muskies also held a 36-19 rebounding advantage. Trevor Scott had 20 points to pace Muskingum, while Cory Bourquin added 19 points and eight boards. Alfred plays St. Mary's College of Maryland, the 20th-ranked team in Division III, in the tournament's second round, at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30. Muskingum takes on St. John Fisher at 3 p.m. Tuesday. Fisher played St. Mary's Monday evening.