

## **AU football team comes up short in comeback bid, falls to Hobart, 24-21**

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ALFRED An early 21-point deficit proved too much for the Alfred University football team to overcome, as the Saxons dropped a tough 24-21 decision to visiting Hobart Saturday afternoon at Merrill Field. Alfred (2-5) had a chance to drive toward a potential tying or go-ahead score, but a Hobart interception at near midfield late in the fourth quarter ended any chance of an Alfred comeback. Hobart (5-1) opened the scoring with two first-quarter touchdowns: a seven-yard pass from quarterback Craig Swanson to fullback Carlvin Johnson and a four-yard run by freshman tailback Ty Godinho. Offensive tackle Alex Bell scored on a one-yard plunge with 10:21 left in the second quarter to give Hobart a 21-0. Both Godinho's and Bell's touchdowns were set up by Alfred turnovers. AU got on the board when senior quarterback Todd Zandrowicz (East Aurora/East Aurora) scored on a one-yard run with 5:38 left in the first half. Hobart's Eric Ampuja kicked a 42-yard field goal with just over two minutes left before intermission to give the Statesmen a 24-7 lead, but AU cut the deficit to 10 when Zandrowicz hit sophomore split end Nick Coleman (Waverly/Waverly) on a 52-yard touchdown pass with a minute left in the half. After a scoreless third quarter, Zandrowicz scored on a one-yard run with 10 minutes left in the fourth to make the score 24-21, Hobart. After Hobart drove to the Alfred 27-yard line, the Statesmen turned the ball over on downs with just over four minutes left. However, on Alfred's first play of the ensuing drive, Hobart's Skip Grantling intercepted Zandrowicz and the Statesmen offense ran out the clock to secure the win. The loss spoiled another solid effort from Alfred's Jesse Raynor (Weedsport/Weedsport). The junior tailback, hampered by a leg injury, rushed for 127 yards on 27 carries. He went over the 2,000-yard mark for his career with a first-quarter carry. Godinho was impressive as well, gaining 113 yards on 28 rushes. Zandrowicz threw for 146 yards but was intercepted twice, while Swanson had 155 yards passing with no interceptions. Senior flanker Nick Freeman (Bolivar/Cuba-Rushford) was Alfred's top receiver, with six catches for 86 yards. Freeman also returned three kickoffs for 100 yards. Hobart's Joe Pirozzolo had five catches for 67 yards. Senior tackle Todd Strong (Deposit/Deposit) led the Alfred defense with 15 tackles. Sophomore linebacker Colin Murphy (Manchester, NH/Central) and freshman strong safety Joe Pereira (Rochester/Greece Athena) had five tackles and a sack. Linebacker Tim Booth led the Hobart defense with 10 tackles, including three for losses. Alfred plays next on Saturday, Oct. 27, at 1:30 p.m. at William Paterson, while Hobart travels to Ithaca next Saturday.