

Lady Saxons open season with first round loss at Buffalo State tournament

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BUFFALO The Alfred University women's basketball team dropped its 2001-02 season opener, 76-49, to Defiance on Friday in the first round of the Betty Abgott Invitational held at Buffalo State. The Lady Yellow Jackets of Defiance were strong early, hitting 50 percent of their shots from the field in the first half, including four of their first seven three pointers. By halftime Defiance had built a firm 43-26 lead, which they never let up as the Lady Saxons managed only 23 second half points. The Lady Saxons (0-1, 0-0 Empire 8) finished the game shooting 33 percent from the field, including hitting 4-of-19 from three-point range. Defiance concluded the contest having connected on 49 percent of their shots, including 7-of-11 from behind the three-point arc. Senior guard Amy Ratchuk (So. Buffalo/Mount Mercy) led the Lady Saxons offensively with 15 points, while senior forward Lisa Valitutto (Amherst, NH/Souhegan) added 12 points and seven rebounds. Freshman newcomers Michelle Kelly (Levittown/General Douglas MacArthur) and Colleen Lyons (Oakfield/Oakfield-Alabama) kicked off their Lady Saxon careers with seven points and six points, respectively. Defiance (1-0) was led by Mandy Eberle, who posted a game-high 21 points and four steals and Sarah Kuhn, who came off the bench to contribute 11 points. The Lady Saxons will face either Buffalo State or D'Youville in the consolation round tomorrow, November 18, at 12 p.m.