

## AU football team again comes up just short against Carnegie Mellon

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PITTSBURGH For the second straight year, the Alfred University football team had a chance to rally past Carnegie Mellon in the final minutes. But the Saxons' efforts again fell just short, this time in a 28-21 loss Saturday at Gesling Stadium in Pittsburgh. The Saxons (1-2) had a first down at the Carnegie Mellon 17-yard line with just over five minutes left in the game and the host Tartans clinging to a seven-point lead. Alfred had gotten the ball when Carnegie Mellon punter Michael Palmer was tackled for a 13-yard loss by AU freshman linebacker Joe Pereira (Rochester/Greece Athena). The Saxons seemed poised to put the tying points up on the board, but couldn't capitalize. After a seven-yard run by junior tailback Jesse Raynor (Weedspport/Weedspport) gave the Saxons a second-and-3 from the Carnegie Mellon 10-yard line, Alfred got nothing on its next two plays. On fourth-and-3, Raynor was stopped after a two-yard gain and the Saxons turned the ball over. Alfred got the ball back one last time, starting from the Carnegie Mellon 43 with just under a minute remaining, but three incomplete passes and a sack gave the ball back to CMU, which ran out the clock. The loss spoiled a tremendous effort by Raynor, who finished with 187 yards rushing and a touchdown. Raynor also caught six passes for 31 yards. The ending was reminiscent of last year's contest between these two teams at Merrill Field in Alfred, when the Saxons rallied from 12 points down in the fourth quarter to get to within five in the final minutes. AU drove deep into CMU territory before the drive stalled, giving the Tartans a 26-21 victory. Carnegie Mellon caught a break in taking the early lead Saturday. On their opening drive, Tartan fullback Adam Urbanczyk fumbled at the Alfred 2-yard line, but split end Matt Saneholtz was there to recover the ball in the endzone for a CMU score. Alfred came back to tie the game at 7-7 when senior fullback Chuck Fortuna (Allegany/Allegany-Limestone) scored on a two-yard run with 2:08 left in the opening quarter. Fortuna put Alfred ahead with another two-yard run with 9:45 left in the second quarter. The point after attempt failed and AU led 13-7. Carnegie Mellon took the lead six minutes later when halfback Ricardo Clarke scored on a 52-yard run. The Tartans built their lead to eight points, at 21-13, when Clarke busted loose on a 54-yard scoring run with 10:57 left in the third quarter. Clarke added a 15-yard scoring run with 2:34 left in the third to give the Tartans a seemingly insurmountable 29-13 lead. Alfred answered with a 15-play 61-yard drive in the fourth that ended with Raynor scoring on a four-yard run. Senior quarterback Todd Zandrowicz (East Aurora/East Aurora) threw to Fortuna for the two-point conversion to draw Alfred to within seven points. Alfred couldn't stop Carnegie Mellon's powerful rushing attack, as the Tartans piled up 321 yards on the ground. Clarke finished with 182 yards on only 14 carries. Neither team could generate much of a passing game. Zandrowicz finished with 101 yards passing and an interception, while CMU quarterback Eric Zimpfer threw for only 58 yards, with one interception. The AU defense was led by junior defensive tackle Pete Gaydon (Muncy, PA/Muncy) and sophomore linebacker Erich Ely (Jordan/Jordan-Elbridge), each with nine tackles. Pereira finished with seven tackles, including two for losses, and a sack, while sophomore strong safety Ryan Sutphen (Glens Falls/Glens Falls) had two tackles and an interception. Linebacker Frank Adam had 11 tackles, including three for losses and a pair of sacks, to lead the Carnegie Mellon defense. Alfred is in action next on Saturday, Sept. 29, at home against Union. Kickoff is at 1:30 p.m.