FINAL SCORE: Brockport 9, Cortland 4

TROY, N.Y. – Ben Kimball scattered 10 hits and allowed four runs, two earned, as Brockport defeated Cortland, 9-4, in the first game of the NCAA Division III baseball regional at Joe Bruno Stadium. The Golden Eagles (31-13) will play on Friday at noon versus the winner of Thursday's Ithaca-Rensselaer game. Cortland (28-15) will play the Ithaca-Rensselaer loser Friday at 3:30 p.m. If the Red Dragons win that game, they would play again Friday at 7 p.m. Cortland needs to win two games on Friday and two on Saturday to win the regional.

Cortland and Brockport combined to make 11 errors in the contest – seven for Cortland and four by the Golden Eagles. Four of Brockport's nine runs were unearned. Kimball improved to 8-1 with the win, striking out three and walking none.

The Golden Eagles scored at least one run in every inning from the second to the seventh. Andy Peterson and Jeff Schwegler each singled with one out in the second. Ryan Mohr then hit an apparent double-play ball to second base. Cortland second baseman Steve Newman (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) touched second, but his throw to first was wild and Peterson scored.

In the third, Tim Wilson reached first to lead off the inning on a dropped pop-up. He moved to second on a Mike Ranalli sacrifice bunt, went to third on a groundout and scored on a wild pitch. The Golden Eagles then scored three runs on one play in the fourth. Cortland starter Matt Miller (Harrison) issued one-out walks to Schwegler and Mohr, but struck out Rob Astalos for the second out. Wilson doubled to left field, with Schwegler easily scoring. Mohr also headed for home on the play, and Cortland's relay throw to the plate hit Mohr and went to the backstop. Wilson kept running on the play and scored to give Brockport a 5-0 lead.

The lead grew to 7-0 in the fifth. Miller walked the first batter and was replaced by Ryan Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa). Peterson doubled to left center with one out to drive in pinch-runner Mark Morlock. Miller, now 7-3, gave up five hits and six runs, four earned, in four-plus innings. He walked three and struck out two.

Cortland got on the board in the sixth, ending a 26-inning scoring drought against Brockport. Senior Matt Ellis (Owego/Owego Free Academy) led off with a single and stole second with two outs. Senior Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) reached on an error, with Ellis holding at second. Sophomore Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) followed with a two-run double to right center, with Heaton just beating the relay throw home.

Each team scored twice the rest of the way. Matt Biviano singled in a run for Brockport in the sixth. In the seventh, Astalos singled with two outs and went to second on a wild pitch. He then attempted to steal third. Ensel stepped off the mound, but his throw to third eluded the third baseman and Astalos scored.

Cortland's run in the top of the seventh started with a Newman single to right. He went to second on a groundout and stole third, with a wild throw on the steal allowing him to score. In the eighth, sophomore Jimmy Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) singled and Heaton doubled to put runners on second and third with one out. A Mead groundout to short drove in Basnight, but a strikeout ended the inning.

Schwegler was 2-for-3 and Peterson went 2-for-4 with an RBI to pace Brockport's 10 hit attack. Cortland also finished with 10 hits. Mead was 2-for-4 with three RBI and sophomore Adam Sidebottom (Lockport/Starpoint) and Newman were each 2-for-4.

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NCAA Div. III Baseball Regional
Thursday, May 20, 2004; Joe Bruno Stadium; Troy, N.Y.

Brockport 9, Cortland 4

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Cortland: Matt Miller (L, 7-3), Ryan Ensel (7), Ken Hartling (8) and Matt Ellis (Red Dragons: 28-15)
Brockport: Ben Kimball (W, 8-1) and Jeff Schwegler (Golden Eagles: 31-13)

2B - Neal Heaton Jr. (C), Andy Mead (C), Adam Sidebottom (C), John Morgan (B), Rob Gladwell (B), Andy Peterson (B), Tim Wilson (B)