SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Concordia University (Wis.)
Saturday, March 13, 2004; Ormond Beach, Fla.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 11, Concordia 4 (13 innings)

ORMOND BEACH, FLA. – Cortland scored seven runs in the top of the 13th inning to defeat Concordia University of Wisconsin, 11-4, in the Red Dragons’ final game of their southern trip. Cortland improved to 3-8 with the victory and was 3-0 versus Division III opponents in the Florida portion of its trip. Concordia was playing its first game of the season.

The Red Dragons used a combination of three hits, three walks and four batters during their 13th-inning explosion. Senior Josh Horner (Groton), who finished the game 4-for-5 and reached base six times, led off the 13th with a single. After a sacrifice bunt and a flyout, junior Steve Newman (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) walked and freshman Will Groff (Queensbury) was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Junior Nick Wilson (Auburn) walked to force in the go-ahead run.

Concordia reliever Ryan Ebert entered the game but allowed the next six batters to reach base. Senior Kyle Bestine (Westfield) was hit by a pitch to bring in a run and senior Josh Young (Rochester/Brighton) singled in a run. Sophomore Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) followed with a two-run single; Horner was hit by a pitch to re-load the bases and senior Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) was also hit to force in a run. A walk to sophomore Jimmy Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) brought in the final run.

Cortland grabbed a 1-0 lead in the fourth when Mead walked, advanced to third on a Horner single and scored when Heaton grounded into a double play. Concordia tied the game in the bottom of the fourth on Jami Kaul’s sacrifice fly and scored twice in the sixth on Kaul’s RBI triple and on a Cortland error during a double-steal attempt. The Falcons added to their lead in the seventh on Andy Tuler’s RBI single. Two more hits followed, but Mead threw out a Concordia runner at third base from right field on the second hit to end the inning. The tag was applied at third before Tuler could score from second.

Trailing 4-1, Cortland rallied to tie the game with three runs in the top of the eighth. Wilson led off with a double, moved to third on a balk and scored on Young’s RBI single. Young stole second, went to third on a Mead single and scored on Horner’s RBI single to cut the deficit to 4-3. A groundout advanced the runners to second and third and Basnight singled in Mead to tie the game. The Red Dragons left the go-ahead runs stranded on second and third to end the inning.

Junior Mike Burnett (Westfield) started for Cortland and did not allow a hit until one out into the sixth inning. He pitched six innings, giving up two hits and three runs, one earned. He struck out six and issued only one walk. Senior Ryan Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa), the Red Dragons’ fourth pitcher of the game, entered in the ninth and gave up only three hits and no runs in four and one-third innings for the victory. He finished with five strikeouts and no walks.

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Cortland: Mike Burnett, Ken Hartling (7), Jim Dougher (7), Ryan Ensel (9) (W, 1-1) and Ray Chopay, Matt Ellis (8), Kyle Bestine (9)
Maine: Troy Martin, Ryan Brown (7), Jamie Grattelo (10) (W, 1-2) and Aaron Izaryk

3B - Jami Kaul (CON)
2B - Will Groff (CORT), Nick Wilson (CORT)