SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Rochester Institute of Technology
Saturday, April 24, 2004; Wallace Field; Cortland, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 6, RIT 1

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Junior Mike Burnett (Westfield) allowed one run and six hits over six and a third innings to improve his record to 7-0 as Cortland, ranked eighth nationally in Division III, defeated visiting RIT, 6-1, in a non-league contest. The Red Dragons are 21-11, while the Tigers slip to 9-13.

Burnett struck out seven and walked none. He gave up six hits through the first three innings, but did not allow a hit over his final three and a third innings. Sophomore Nick McPartland (Beacon) gave up just one hit and struck out one in two innings of relief work. Freshman Jim Dougher (Liverpool) retired the final two batters of the game.

Sophomore Dylan Rees (Wampsville/Oneida) pitched seven innings for RIT, allowing nine hits and five runs, three earned. He struck out six and walked one. Sophomore Nick Bell (Jamestown) pitched one inning and allowed one hit – a solo homer to Cortland junior shortstop Nick Wilson (Auburn) in the eighth.

Senior Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) was 3-for-4 with two stolen bases for the Red Dragons. Jeff Ware (Orchard Park/St. Francis) and Rob Ogborne (Penfield) were each 2-for-4 for RIT.

Cortland took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first. Sophomore Jimmy Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) led off with a single up the middle, stole second, went to third on a groundout and scored on a passed ball. RIT tied the game in the top of the second. Ware singled to right and advanced to second on an Ogborne single to center. Mark Sapienza (Avon/Avon Central) bunted the runners over and Brian Lindenau’s (Tucson, AZ/Sabino) single through the right side scored Ware. Facing runners on first and third with one out, Burnett escaped further damage with a strikeout and a groundout.

The Red Dragons took the lead for good in the bottom of the second. Heaton reached on an infield single and stole second. Junior Nate Gagnon (Wilton/South Glens Falls) doubled to right center to drive in Heaton with the tying run. Sophomore Adam Sidebottom (Lockport/Starpoint) followed with a bunt single, with Gagnon holding at second, and both runners moved up one out later on a groundout. With two outs, Basnight reached on a throwing error by RIT’s shortstop to allow Gagnon to score.

Cortland added a run in the fourth on sophomore Ray Chopay’s (Commack) RBI single to left center and scored in the seventh when Josh Young (Rochester/Brighton) singled with one out, stole second and came in on an RBI double by senior Josh Horner (Groton). Wilson’s solo homer in the eighth finished the scoring.

RIT stranded runners on first and third in the third inning and also had runners in scoring position against Burnett in the first and fifth innings but couldn’t score.

Cortland 6, RIT 1

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RIT: Dylan Rees (L, 0-3), Nick Bell (8) and Rob Ogborne (Tigers: 9-13)
Cortland: Mike Burnett (W, 7-0), Nick McPartland (7), Jim Dougher (9) and Ray Chopay (Red Dragons: 21-11)

2B - Josh Horner (C), Nate Gagnon (C)
HR - Nick Wilson (C)