NEWPORT NEWS, VA. – Rowan, ranked 19th in Division III, erased an early 3-0 deficit and defeated eighth-ranked Cortland, 7-4, in a seven-inning matchup at Christopher Newport University. The Profs improve to 2-0, while Cortland is 0-1.

Cortland junior starting pitcher Mike Burnett (Westfield) received a no-decision despite a strong outing. He struck out nine and allowed four hits in four innings. He gave up three runs, two earned, and walked only two. Junior Brian Mitchell (Boilvar/Boilvar-Richburg) suffered the loss in relief, giving up five hits and four runs, three earned, in one and two-thirds innings.

The Red Dragons scored three times in the top of the first on a rally that started with two outs. Sophomore Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) doubled to left center and scored on a double down the left field line by senior Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport). Senior Pat D’Auria’s (Upper Nyack/Nyack) singled in Heaton, stole second and scored on a single up the middle by sophomore Travis Robinson (Ilion).

Rowan tied the game with three runs in the bottom of the fourth. With two runners on, Matt Enuco tripled and eventually scored on the play on a throwing error. The Profs took the lead for good with two runs in the fifth. Michael Rucci singled in a run and Irvin McFarland plated a run with a sacrifice fly.

Cortland closed the gap to 5-4 on senior Kyle Bestine’s (Westfield) RBI single up the middle. Rowan, however, added two runs in the sixth.

Tom McMullen earned the win, allowing five hits and three runs in five innings. He fanned four and did not issue any walks. Nick Urbanovich finished 2-for-2 with two walks and Brent Dempsey was 2-for-3.

Bestine, Robinson and junior Nick Wilson (Auburn) were each 1-for-2 for Cortland, which will play at 17th-ranked Virginia Wesleyan on Sunday.

Rowan 7, Cortland 4

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Cortland (0-1): Mike Burnett, Brian Mitchell (5) (L, 0-1), Ryan Ensel (6) and Kyle Bestine
Rowan (2-0): Tom McCullen (W, 1-0), John Kisty (6), Michael Sclafani (6) (Save, 1) and Michael Rucci

HR - none
3B - Matt Enuco (R)
2B - Andy Mead (C), Neal Heaton Jr. (C)