2004 SUNYAC Baseball Tournament

Day 3 - Sunday, May 2, 2004
Wallace Field; SUNY Cortland; Cortland, N.Y.

Sunday’s Scores:
Brockport 4, Cortland 0
CHAMPIONSHIP GAME -- Brockport 1, Cortland 0

Saturday’s Scores:
Cortland 6, Brockport 0
Brockport 4, Oneonta 1 -- Oneonta eliminated

Friday’s Scores:
(#2) Brockport 6, (#3) Oneonta 2
(#1) Cortland 18, (#4) Plattsburgh 0
Oneonta 11, Plattsburgh 1 -- Plattsburgh eliminated

CORTLAND -- SUNY Brockport captured its first outright SUNYAC title since 1975 and earned its first-ever trip to the NCAA Division III tournament with 4-0 and 1-0 wins over host and top-seeded Cortland in the final day of the SUNYAC tournament. The Golden Eagles snapped Cortland’s run of seven straight league championships. Brockport (28-12) earns an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament, which begins with regional play on May 20. Cortland (25-13) has two regular-season games remaining and will need to receive one of three national at-large berths to add on to its streak of 11 straight NCAA showings.

Senior Shawn Mahoney (Corning/Corning East) tossed a seven-hit shutout in the opener, striking out six and walking none. Mahoney (5-1) then started the second game but left the game after retiring the three batters he faced in the first inning. Junior Jason Waite (Rochester/Eastridge) gave up three hits and a walk and struck out one over four innings to earn the win in the second game. Senior Ben Kimball (Bainbridge/Bainbridge-Guilford) tossed the final four innings with a 1-0 lead. He allowed two hits and no walks and struck out two to earn the save.

In the first game, Brockport scored twice in the third off Cortland starter Mike Burnett (Westfield). Sophomore Tim Wilson (Long Beach) was hit by a pitch with one out and advanced to third when Burnett’s pickoff throw was wild. Senior Mike Ranalli (Niagara Falls/Niagara-Wheatfield) singled to center to drive in Wilson. Junior John Morgan (Hilton) followed with a single through the right side to move Ranalli to third and senior Rob Gladwell’s (Cheektowaga) squeeze bunt scored the run. The Golden Eagles added two runs in the ninth on Wilson’s two-run single to center.

Burnett suffered his first loss of the season and is now 7-1. He allowed nine hits and four runs, three earned, in eight and two-thirds innings. He fanned seven and walked one. Jimmy Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) doubled for the Red Dragons to lead off the bottom of the first but was thrown out trying to stretch the play into a triple. Cortland had a pair of two-out singles in both the second and third innings but couldn’t score. Mahoney retired the final 10 Cortland batters to end the game. Sophomore Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) finished 2-for-4 for Cortland and Morgan went 3-for-5 for Brockport.

(more)
In the second game, Brockport scored the only run in the top of the fourth. Senior Matt Johnson (Kingston), who finished the game 3-for-4, led off with a bunt single and stole second. He moved to third on a Jeff Schwegler (Niagara Falls/North Tonawanda) groundout to second and scored on junior Ryan Mohr’s (Cheektowaga/Maryvale) single through the left side.

Brockport left the bases loaded in the second, fourth and eighth innings and 10 men on base total for the game. Cortland had runners on first and second with one out in the fifth after a Steve Newman (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) single, a sacrifice bunt and a walk, but two flyouts ended the threat. The Red Dragons’ best scoring chance came in the sixth when Basnight led off with a single and Mead reached on an error during a sacrifice bunt. After a strikeout, a flyout moved Basnight to third, but Newman lined out to right to end the inning.

Cortland also stranded two runners in the seventh. Senior Matt Ellis (Owego/Owego Free Academy) reached on a fielding error by the second baseman to lead off the inning. Two outs later, junior Nick Wilson (Auburn) singled to left, but Basnight lined out to center. In the bottom of the ninth, senior Kyle Bestine (Westfield) singled with one out, but Kimball induced a double-play grounder to short to end the game.

Sophomore Jason Chyr (Vernon/Vernon-Sherrill) started for Cortland and allowed four hits and one run in three and two-thirds innings. Sophomore Nick McPartland (Beacon) who faced one batter in the first game, relieved Chyr in the fourth and kept the Red Dragons close with five and one-third innings of two-hit, shutout ball. He struck out seven and walked two.

**Brockport 4, Cortland 0**

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Brockport: Shawn Mahoney (W, 5-1) and Jeff Schwegler
Cortland: Mike Burnett (L, 7-1), Nick McPartland (9) and Kyle Bestine

2B - Jimmy Basnight (C)

**CHAMPIONSHIP GAME -- Brockport 1, Cortland 0**

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Brockport: Shawn Mahoney, Jason Waite (2) (W, 3-1), Ben Kimball (6) (Save, 1) and Jeff Schwegler, Joe Lux (Golden Eagles: 28-12)
Cortland: Jason Chyr (L, 4-1), Nick McPartland (4) and Matt Ellis, Kyle Bestine (Red Dragons: 25-13)

2B - Matt Johnson (B)