CORTLAND, N.Y. – Ithaca took a 10-4 lead and held off a late Cortland rally to defeat the nationally 14th-ranked Red Dragons, 10-8, in a non-league matchup. The Bombers even their record at 7-7, while the Red Dragons fall to 13-4.

Sophomore Kyle Rutherford (New Milford, CT) went 3-for-5 with a double and three RBI to lead Ithaca. Senior Marty O’Boyle (Verona, NJ) was 2-for-5 with two RBI and junior Rob Litz (Wallkill) finished 2-for-5 with an RBI. Tom O’Connor (Weedsport) earned the win to improve to 3-2 despite allowing eight hits and four runs in five and one-third innings. Senior John Dowling (Marcy/Whitesboro) entered the game with the tying run at the plate in the eighth and retired six of the seven batters he faced to earn his first save.

Sophomore Travis Robinson (Ilion) was 3-for-5 with two doubles and an RBI for the Red Dragons. Junior Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) and junior Jimmy Basnigh (East Norwich/St. Dominic) were each 2-for-5. Sophomore Will Groff (Queensbury) hit a grand slam in the eighth to pull Cortland within 10-8. Sophomore Jon Rockfeld (Islip Terrace/East Islip), the first of eight Cortland pitchers, suffered the loss and is now 2-1. He allowed six hits and five runs, three earned, in two and one-third innings.

Ithaca jumped to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first. Jeremy Peters (Utica/Proctor) led off with a single and moved to second on a passed ball. O’Boyle singled to right center to drive in Peters and moved to second on an error. He then advanced to third on a sacrifice fly.

Cortland got a run back in the second when Steve Newman (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) walked, moved to second on a balk and scored on Robinson’s double down the left field line. Ithaca answered with three runs in the top of third to knock out Rockfeld. Rob Raux (Frankfort/Ilion) singled up the middle to plate two runs, then moved to second on a wild pitch before scoring on junior Ricky Piovesan’s (East Norwich/St. Dominic) RBI single through the right side. Matthew Dorn (Ithaca) relieved O’Connor, hit the next batter and committed a balk, but escaped the jam with two strikeouts.

Litz’s RBI single to center in the top of the seventh pushed Ithaca's lead to 6-4. In the eighth, a combination of three Ithaca hits and the final three of Cortland's nine errors in the contest led to four runs. O'Boyle and Rutherford had RBI singles and Raux hit a sacrifice fly as part of the rally. In the bottom of the eighth, Tacelli was hit by a pitch and stole second. Piovesan walked and Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Groff followed with his grand slam to center to pull the Red Dragons within 10-8. Basnigh then singled and stole second. Dowling, who entered after Basnigh's single, recorded a pop out, strikeout and ground out to end the threat. In the ninth, Robinson led off with a single through the right side, but Dowling retired the final three batters, two by strikeout.

Hooper and freshman Brandon Rowlands (New York Mills/Utica-Notre Dame) turned in the best outings of Cortland's relief corps. Hooper gave up just one hit and no walks and struck out five in three innings. Rowlands, the Red Dragons' final pitcher, retired all five batters he faced, including three strikeouts.
**Cortland Baseball vs. Ithaca**  
April 6, 2005; Cortland, N.Y.

### Ithaca 10, Cortland 8

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Ithaca: Tom O'Connor (W, 3-2), Matthew Dorn (6), Jarred Flaherty (8), John Dowling (8) and Rob Raux (Bombers: 7-7)

Cortland: Jon Rockfeld (L, 2-1), Ryan Hooper (3), Ken Hartling (6), Nick McPartland (7), Nick Wilson (7), Justin Mattes (7), Brandon Olbrys (8), Brendan Rowlands (8) and Shawn Ensel (Red Dragons: 13-4)

2B - Kyle Rutherford (I), Travis Robinson (C) 2
HR - Will Groff (C)