SUNY Cortland Baseball
NCAA Div. III Regional – SUNY Cortland vs. Ithaca College
Saturday, May 21, 2005; Falcon Park; Auburn, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 9, Ithaca 8

AUBURN, N.Y. – Cortland rallied from an early 6-2 deficit to take a 9-6 lead, then held off a late Ithaca rally to defeat the Bombers, 9-8, in the winner's bracket of the NCAA Division III baseball regional at Auburn's Falcon Park. The Red Dragons (38-7-1) are 3-0 in the regional and advance to the championship round Sunday at noon versus an opponent to be determined. Cortland needs one win to move on to the Division III World Series. Ithaca (24-15-2) will play Saturday night versus either Skidmore or Pitt.-Bradford and, if victorious, would have to beat Cortland twice on Sunday to win the regional crown.

Pat D'Auria (Upper Nyack/Nyack) went 4-for-5 and Travis Robinson (Ilion) was 3-for-5 to lead a 17-hit attack for the Red Dragons. Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic) finished 2-for-5 with three RBI, Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) went 2-for-4 with two RBI and Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenedehowa) ended 2-for-5 with a solo homer. Jim Dougher (Liverpool) earned the win despite allowing seven hits and six runs, five earned, in six and one-third innings. He improved to 5-0 on the season. Eric Maya was 2-for-4 with a triple and RBI, Ben McBride finished 2-for-5 with two RBI and Eric Ferguson came off the bench to go 2-for-2 with a double and an RBI for Ithaca.

Cortland took a 1-0 lead in the first on a D'Auria RBI single. With the hit, D'Auria became the third player in school history to reach the career 200-hit mark. Ensel's two-out solo homer in the second extended Cortland's lead to 2-0. Ithaca scored four runs in the third inning and two in the fourth to take a 6-2 lead. Maya led off with a single and Marty O'Boyle singled to right center to extend his hitting streak to 24 straight games, the second-longest in school history. After a fielder's choice, Josh Smith walked to load the bases and Rob Raux reached on an infield error to bring in a run. P.J. Canestrari followed with a two-run single to right and Kyle Rutherford drove in a run on a groundout. In the fourth, Bryan Stamboly led off with a single and Maya tripled down the left field line to drive in a run. Two batters later, McBride led off with a single and Maya tripled down the left field line to drive in a run. Two batters later, McBride reached on an error to score Maya.

Cortland quickly responded with four runs in the fifth to tie the game. Robinson doubled and moved to third on a D'Auria single. With the hit, D'Auria became the third player in school history to reach the career 200-hit mark. Ensel's two-out solo homer in the second extended Cortland's lead to 2-0. Ithaca scored four runs in the third inning and two in the fourth to take a 6-2 lead. Maya led off with a single and Marty O'Boyle singled to right center to extend his hitting streak to 24 straight games, the second-longest in school history. After a fielder's choice, Josh Smith walked to load the bases and Rob Raux reached on an infield error to bring in a run. P.J. Canestrari followed with a two-run single to right and Kyle Rutherford drove in a run on a groundout. In the fourth, Bryan Stamboly led off with a single and Maya tripled down the left field line to drive in a run. Two batters later, McBride reached on an error to score Maya.

The Red Dragons took the lead with three runs in the sixth. Will Groff (Queensbury) beat out a grounder to short to start the inning. He went to second on a wild pitch, advanced to third on a groundout and scored on a wild pitch. With two outs, Newman singled, advanced to second on a wild pitch and scored on a Piovesan single to right. Piovesan took second on the throw and scored on Tacelli's single to right.

Ithaca got a run back in the eighth. Ferguson led off with a double and Maya walked with one out. A fielder's choice moved Ferguson to third and McBride singled to left to drive in the run. In the ninth, Raux reached on an error to lead off the inning and moved to second on a groundout. Rutherford then reached on a dropped short fly ball to left and Ferguson singled to center to drive in a run. Reliever Nick McPartland (Beacon), who started the inning, escaped the jam with a strikeout and a fielder's choice to third for his third save of the season.

For Ithaca, Raux extended his streak of reaching base to 33 straight games when he was hit by a pitch in the fourth inning.

For Ithaca, Raux extended his streak of reaching base to 33 straight games when he was hit by a pitch in the fourth inning.