SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Lakeland College (Wis.)
Tuesday, March 8, 2005; Port Charlotte Sports Complex; Port Charlotte, Fla.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 15, Lakeland 5

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. – Sophomore Will Groff (Queensbury), senior Steve Newman (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) and junior Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) went a combined 8-for-9 with two homers, three triples and eight RBI as Cortland defeated Lakeland College of Wisconsin, 15-5. The nationally 24th-ranked Red Dragons have won all three of their games in Florida to date and are 4-2 on the season.

Groff finished 4-for-4 with three RBI, including a two-run homer as part of Cortland's seven-run fourth inning. Newman was 3-for-3 with two RBI and three triples, including two in the fourth inning to tie an NCAA Division III single-game record. Three Division III players had previously hit two triples in an inning, the first of whom was former Cortland first baseman Dave Tidick in 1995 at Oneonta. Mead went 1-for-2 with a walk and belted his third homer of the season, a three-run shot in the fourth.

Sophomore Jon Rockfeld (Islip Terrace/East Islip) earned his first collegiate victory with five innings of four-hit ball. He struck out nine and walked three while allowing three runs, two earned. Senior Nick Wilson (Auburn), normally a shortstop, pitched the final two innings and allowed two hits and two unearned runs. He struck out four and did not walk a batter.

Cortland jumped out to a 5-0 lead with five runs in the bottom of the second. Sophomore Travis Robinson (Ilion) and senior Pat D'Auria (Upper Nyack/Nyack) opened the inning with back-to-back doubles. Groff followed with an RBI single and, following a fielder's choice, Newman tripled to drive in a run. Sophomore Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) singled to plate Newman, junior Jimmy Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) doubled and freshman Joey Russo (Inwood/Lawrence) hit an RBI groundout to second.

The Red Dragons blew the game open with their seven-run fourth. Newman started the inning with a triple, Ensel was hit by a pitch and Basnight hit an RBI single. Two batters later, Mead cleared the wall in left for a three-run homer and a 9-0 lead. With two outs, D'Auria walked and Groff homered to left. Junior Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic) then drew a walk and Newman followed with his second triple of the inning and third of the game.

Lakeland put up three runs in the fifth inning of the seven-inning contest. Jon Bintner hit a one-out RBI double and Brett Anschutz followed with an run-scoring single. An error later in the inning allowed the third run to score.

Cortland's final three runs came in the bottom of the sixth. Groff singled with one out and scored on Piovesan's RBI double. Piovesan advanced to third when the next batter reached on an error, then scored on Ray Chopay's (Commack) fielder's choice grounder to third. Junior Brian Edmunds (Johnson City) wrapped up the scoring with an RBI triple. Lakeland scored twice in the seventh on a two-out error and a Paul Smith RBI double.

Cortland 15, Lakeland 5

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Lakeland (0-5): Brian Swanson (L), Jon Bintner (4), Chris Daun (5) and Matt Andrews, Nicholas Hock
Cortland (4-2): Jon Rockfeld (W, 1-0), Nick Wilson (6) and Shawn Ensel, Ray Chopay (6)

HR - Andy Mead (C), Will Groff (C)
3B - Steve Newman (C) 3, Brian Edmunds (C)
2B - Paul Smith (L), Jon Bintner (L), Jimmy Basnight (C), Ryan Hooper (C), Travis Robinson (C), Pat D'Auria (C), Ricky Piovesan (C)