SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Marietta College (Ohio)
Sunday, March 6, 2005; Port Charlotte Sports Complex; Port Charlotte, Fla.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 5, Marietta 4

PORT CHARLOTTE, FLA. – Senior Pat D’Auria’s (Upper Nyack/Nyack) pinch-hit, two-run double with the bases loaded broke a 3-3 tie in the bottom of the eighth innings as nationally 24th-ranked Cortland defeated fifth-ranked Marietta College, 5-4. The Red Dragons even their record at 2-2 with the victory, while Marietta is now 2-1.

Freshman Ryan Hooper (Red Hook) earned the win with three scoreless innings of relief in his first collegiate appearance. He entered the game in the top of the sixth with the game tied and allowed only three hits and a walk while striking out two. Senior Matt Miller (Harrison) started and gave up five hits and three runs, two earned, in five innings. He walked three and struck out one.

Cortland took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Junior Jimmy Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) was hit by a pitch to start the inning and stole second, his first of three steals. Freshman Joey Russo (Inwood/Lawrence) walked and, following a double steal, junior Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) singled to left to drive in two runs. Mead moved to third on a wild pickoff throw and scored on sophomore Travis Robinson’s (Ilion) sacrifice fly to center.

Marietta tied the game with single runs in the third, fourth and fifth innings. John Sciullo drew a bases loaded walk in the third, Lee Guerrera singled home a run in the fourth and Chris Sidick tripled to lead off the fifth and scored on a groundout by Justin Steranka.

Russo led off the bottom of the eighth with an infield single and moved to second on Mead’s single to left. After a throwing error and a Mead steal, an intentional walk to Robinson loaded the bases. D’Auria, who was 0-for-10 on the season previously, doubled to left to drive in two runs. Cortland eventually re-loaded the bases with one out but couldn’t score again.

In the ninth, Cortland sophomore reliever Brandon Olbrys (Windsor) walked Sidick and Steranka to start the inning. After a sacrifice bunt by Dominick Winters, the Etta Express drew within one on a sacrifice fly by Sciullo. Olbrys walked the next two batters to load the bases and was replaced by sophomore Justin Mattes (Queensbury). Mattes, facing his first batter as a Red Dragon, struck out pinch-hitter Joe Litke to end the game and earn the save.

Mead finished 2-for-4 with two RBI and senior Steve Newman (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) was 2-for-4. Sciullo was 2-for-3 with two RBI for Marietta. Derek Cummings started for the Etta Express and allowed three hits and three runs, two earned, in five innings. He struck out four and walked two. Justin Panania, who pitched two innings and faced three batters to start the eighth, suffered the loss.

Cortland 5, Marietta 4

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Marietta (2-1): Derek Cummings, Justin Papania (6) (L, 0-1), Jeff Feigl (8), Bill Bakos (8), Bo Cooksey (8) and Lee Guerrera
Cortland (2-2): Matt Miller, Ryan Hooper (6) (W, 1-0), Brandon Olbrys (9), Justin Mattes (9) (Save, 1) and Shawn Ensel, Erik Johnson (9)

HR - none
3B - Chris Sidick (M)
2B - Dominick Winters (M), Pat D’Auria (C), Zach Tacelli (C)