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SUNY Cortland Baseball
Cortland vs. Eastern Connecticut State
NCAA Division III Regional
Wednesday, May 17, 2006; Falcon Park; Auburn, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 9, Eastern Connecticut St. 0

AUBURN, N.Y. – Junior Jimmy Dougher (Liverpool) tossed a seven-hit shutout and Cortland exploded for eight runs over its final three at-bats as the Red Dragons opened NCAA Division III regional play with a 9-0 victory over Eastern Connecticut State. With the win, Cortland (38-7) advances in the winner’s bracket and will play Friday at noon versus the winner of Ithaca versus Rensselaer, which is scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

Junior Will Groff (Queensbury) finished 3-for-5 with a homer, triple and two RBI to lead Cortland’s 16-hit attack. Junior Dan Maycock (Utica/T.R. Proctor) was 2-for-5 with a homer and three RBI, senior Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic) went 3-for-4 with a triple and junior Mike Rosenberry (Clarence) was 2-for-4 with a double and two RBI. Junior Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) was 2-for-4 with a double and senior Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) finished 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Dougher struck out six and did not walk a batter as he improved his record to 9-0 while lowering his ERA to 1.66. He allowed runners past first base in only one inning. With Cortland leading 1-0 in the top of the sixth, ECU’s Marc Garofalo led off with a double, but was thrown out trying to advance to third on a grounder to short by Shawn Gilblair. A wild pitch and a groundout moved Gilblair to third with two outs. Randy Re then hit a high pop-up in the infield. After brief miscommunication between Cortland players, catcher Ensel made a diving catch to the right of the pitcher’s mound to end the inning and preserve the lead.

Cortland took a 1-0 lead in the third on Groff’s one-out solo homer to left. That hit extended Groff’s streak of reaching safely via hit, walk or hit by pitch to 42 consecutive games. In the sixth, Piovesan singled with one out and Tacelli walked. With two outs, Rosenberry doubled down the left field line to drive in both runs.

The Red Dragons helped put the game away with four runs in the seventh. Ensel doubled and Groff reached on a bunt single. Senior Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) then hit a pop-up to short left field. Eastern’s shortstop made the catch, and Ensel tagged from third and scored without a throw home from the stunned Warriors. Maycock followed with a two-run blast over the fence in center to give Cortland a 6-0 lead. Piovesan tripled two batters later and scored on Tacelli’s single.

Cortland’s final runs came in the eighth when Rosenberry singled and scored on Groff’s triple to right center. Maycock drove in the final run with a fielder’s choice grounder.

Matt Cremins started for Eastern (30-18) and allowed nine hits, two walks and three runs in six innings. He struck out five. Garofalo finished the game 3-for-4 with a double and Zack Thomas and Matt Cooney each went 1-for-3.

Cortland 9, Eastern Conn. St. 0

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E. Conn. St.: Matt Cremins (L, 4-5), Sam Iverson (7), Brian Wendell (7), Trey Bongiovanni (8), Jason LaVorgna (8) and Matt Cooney (Warriors: 30-18)
Cortland: Jimmy Dougher (W, 9-0) and Shawn Ensel, Mike Zaccardo (9) (Red Dragons: 38-7, ranked 3rd in Div. III)

HR – Will Groff (C), Dan Maycock (C)
3B – Will Groff (C), Ricky Piovesan (C)
2B – Marc Garofalo (EC), Mike Rosenberry (C), Shawn Ensel (C)