SUNY Cortland Baseball

Cortland vs. Ithaca College
NCAA Division III Regional
Friday, May 19, 2006; Falcon Park; Auburn, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 8, Ithaca 3

AUBURN, N.Y. – SUNY Cortland jumped out to an 8-0 lead after four innings and defeated Ithaca College, 8-3, in a winner’s bracket game at the NCAA Division III baseball regional at Falcon Park. The nationally third-ranked Red Dragons (39-7) advance to the regional final and will play either Ithaca or Eastern Connecticut State Saturday at 4 p.m. If Cortland wins that game, it advances to the Division III World Series. If the Red Dragon lose, a final game will be played Sunday at noon.

Freshman George Jweid (New Hartford) pitched five innings, allowing three hits, a walk and two runs, for the victory. He struck out four. Jweid is 8-0 this season, setting a school record for single-season victories by a freshman. He retired the first 12 batters he faced before allowing a single to lead off the fifth.

Sophomore Ryan Hooper (Red Hook), Cortland’s second reliever, gave up only one hit, struck out seven and did not walk a batter over the final four innings for his first save of the season. Hooper entered the game with runners on first and second and no outs in the sixth with Cortland leading 8-3. He got out of the jam by striking out two batters and inducing a flyout.

Cortland pounded out 13 hits, 12 in the first four innings. The Red Dragons hit nine doubles in the game, one shy of tying an NCAA Division III tournament record, and had 10 extra-base hits.

Junior Dan Maycock (Utica/T.R. Proctor) finished 3-for-4 with two doubles and an RBI. Junior Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) was 2-for-4 with two doubles and two RBI, senior Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) went 2-for-5 with two doubles and an RBI, junior Mike Rosenberry (Clarence) finished 1-for-3 with an RBI triple and junior Will Groff (Queensbury) was 2-for-5. Rob Raux was 3-for-5 and two RBI and accounted for three of 12th-ranked Ithaca’s five hits.

Jeremy Peters started for the Bombers but was knocked out in the second inning after allowing seven hits and five runs. He is 9-2 on the season.

Cortland scored once in the first on senior Ricky Piovesan’s (East Norwich/St. Dominic) two-out RBI double that dropped between three fielders in right center. Rosenberry’s run-scoring triple started the Red Dragons’ four-run second. Ensel followed with an RBI double and, following a Groff bunt single, senior Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) hit into a fielder’s choice to drive in a run. After a wild pitch, Mead doubled down the left field line to drive in Basnight.

Run-scoring doubles by junior Travis Robinson (Ilion) and Ensel brought home runs in the third. Maycock’s RBI double to deep center drove in Cortland’s final run in the fourth.

Ithaca scored in the fifth when Raux led off with a single and eventually scored on an Eric Maya fielder’s choice with the bases loaded. Raux singled home two runs in the sixth before Hooper entered and kept the Bombers in check.

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Ithaca: Jeremy Peters (L, 9-2), Greg Allocco (3), Bryan Gardner (7), Brendan Conway (7) and Rob Raux (Bombers: 33-10, ranked 12th in Div. III)
Cortland: George Jweid (W, 8-0), Chris Bilyk (6), Ryan Hooper (6) and Shawn Ensel (Red Dragons: 39-7, ranked 3rd in Div. III)

3B – Mike Rosenberry (C)
2B – Jim Basnight (C), Andrew Mead 2 (C), Ricky Piovesan (C), Dan Maycock 2 (C), Travis Robinson (C), Shawn Ensel 2 (C)