SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Messiah College
Sunday, March 12, 2006; Charlotte County Stadium; Port Charlotte, Fla.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 9, Messiah 6

PORT CHARLOTTE, FLA. – Cortland, ranked second in Division III, jumped out to a 6-0 lead after three innings and held on to defeat Messiah College of Pennsylvania, 9-6, at Charlotte County Stadium. The Red Dragons improve to 5-1, while the Falcons fall to 2-4.

Sophomore Ryan Hooper (Red Hook), the first of three Cortland pre-determined pitchers, earned the victory and is 2-0 on the season. He allowed five hits and three runs, two earned, in four innings. He struck out one batter and did not walk anyone.

Cortland pounded out 15 hits, including three each by junior Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenedehowa) and senior Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic). Ensel was 3-for-4 with a homer and four RBI. He singled in runs in the second and third innings, and his two-run round-tripper in the eighth extended a 6-5 lead to 8-5. Piovesan was 3-for-4 with two doubles, the first of which plated a run in Cortland’s four-run second inning.

Sophomore Joey Russo (Inwood/Lawrence) finished 2-for-3 with an RBI triple and junior Travis Robinson (Ilion) was 2-for-4, including an RBI single to cap a three-run eighth.

Chris Heisey went 4-for-4 with a double, while Craig Mease and Jonathon Ebersole were each 2-for-5 for Messiah. Mease’s RBI double drew the Falcons within 6-5 in the top of the seventh. Nick Lindner tossed the first seven innings, allowing 13 hits and eight runs, seven earned.

Cortland 9, Messiah 6

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Messiah: Nick Lindner (L), Chandler Sheaffer (8) and Ben Kirk (Falcons: 2-4)
Cortland: Ryan Hooper (W, 2-0), George Jweid (5), T.J. O’Leary (9) and Shawn Ensel (Red Dragons: 5-1, ranked 2nd in Div. III)

HR – Shawn Ensel (C)
3B – Jim Basnight (C), Joey Russo (C)
2B – Ricky Piovesan (C) 2, Craig Mease (M), Chris Heisey (M)