SUNY CORTLAND RECEIVES 14th STRAIGHT NCAA BASEBALL BERTH
Cortland Top Seed in Seven-Team Regional at Auburn’s Falcon Park;
2005 National Runner-up Looking to Make Eighth World Series Appearance

The SUNY Cortland baseball team has received a berth into the 53-team NCAA Division III playoffs for the 14th straight season and the 15th time overall. The Red Dragons (37-7) have been chosen as the top seed in a seven-team regional hosted by Ithaca College at Auburn’s Falcon Park May 17-20. Cortland will receive a bye to start the tournament and will play Wednesday at 7 p.m. versus the winner of fourth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State (29-17) and fifth-seeded St. Lawrence (23-12), who open the tournament at 10 a.m. Cortland’s run of 14 straight NCAA appearances is the longest active streak in Division III.

Wednesday’s other games feature second-seeded Ithaca (31-9) versus seventh-seeded Endicott (Mass.) (23-20) at 1 p.m. and third-seeded Rensselaer (33-9) and sixth-seeded Centenary (N.J.) (28-11) at 4 p.m. The tournament continues with four games on Thursday, three on Friday and at least one game on Saturday. The regional winner advances to the eight-team NCAA Division III World Series, which will be held May 26-30 in Grand Chute, Wis. (near Appleton; south of Green Bay). Cortland finished second nationally at last year’s Series. The World Series will be in Wisconsin for the seventh straight year.

Ranked third nationally, Cortland earned an automatic berth into the NCAA tournament by winning its 25th State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) title and 14th in the last 16 years. Under seventh-year head coach Joe Brown, Cortland reached the 30-win plateau for the 12th time in the last 13 seasons. Cortland’s 37 wins to date are the third-highest in school history and the most by a Red Dragon squad entering NCAA play.

Cortland has won regional titles in seven of the last 11 years, including the three times the regional has been held at Auburn in 2000, 2001 and 2005. Cortland has advanced to the World Series in 1995, five straight years from 1997-2001 and last season.

Eastern Connecticut State won the Little East Conference tournament title and will be making its 27th NCAA showing. The Warriors have won four national titles, including crowns in 2002 and 1998. St. Lawrence was declared the winner of the rain-shortened Liberty League tournament champion with a 2-0 record. The Saints are making their second NCAA tournament appearance and first since 1991.

Endicott is the Commonwealth Coast Conference tournament champion. The Gulls are in the NCAA’s for the fourth time, all since 2000. Centenary repeated as the Skyline Conference champion and is in the national tournament for the second time, with both appearances in Auburn.

Ithaca is making its 30th NCAA Division III tournament appearance and 10th in a row. The Bombers, Empire 8 champions for the fifth straight season, earned an NCAA “Pool B” berth as an independent qualifier since their conference does not qualify for an automatic bid. Ithaca won national titles in 1980 and 1988. Rensselaer received a “Pool C” at-large tournament berth. The Red Hawks won the Liberty League regular-season title but St. Lawrence won the tournament title and automatic NCAA bid. Rensselaer is making its 15th NCAA appearance and 14th in the last 15 years.

(continued)
Cortland is 22-9 overall versus St. Lawrence, with the last meeting in 2003. The Red Dragons are 1-1 lifetime against Eastern Connecticut State, losing in the 1981 NCAA regionals and handing Eastern its lone loss at the 1998 Division III World Series. Cortland has never faced Endicott, and its lone contest versus Centenary was a 4-0 win over the Cyclones at last year’s regional.

Ithaca leads the overall series versus Cortland 81-37-2 after a split of two games this year. The Red Dragons are 10-4 versus the Bombers, however, in NCAA tournament play, including 9-8 and 9-7 wins last season to clinch the regional title. Cortland holds a 19-10-1 overall advantage versus Rensselaer, including an 11-6 NCAA mark.

2006 NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament
Regional at Falcon Park; Auburn, N.Y.; May 17-20
(hosted by Ithaca College)

Wednesday, May 17
Game 1: (#4) Eastern Conn. St. (29-17) vs. (#5) St. Lawrence (23-12), 10 a.m.
Game 2: (#2) Ithaca (31-9) vs. (#7) Endicott (Mass.) (23-20), 1 p.m.
Game 3: (#3) Rensselaer (33-9) vs. (#6) Centenary (N.J.) (28-11), 4 p.m.
Game 4: (#1) Cortland (37-7) vs. Winner of Game 1, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 18
Game 5: Loser of Game 2 vs. Loser of Game 3, 10 a.m.
Game 6: Winner of Game 2 vs. Winner of Game 3, 1 p.m.
Game 7: Loser of Game 4 vs. Winner of Game 5, 4 p.m.
Game 8: Loser of Game 1 vs. Loser of Game 6, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 19
Game 9: Winner of Game 4 vs. Winner of Game 6, 12 p.m.
Game 10: Winner of Game 7 vs. Winner of Game 8, 3:30 p.m.
Game 11: Loser of Game 9 vs. Winner of Game 10, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 20
Game 12: Winner of Game 9 vs. Winner of Game 11, 12 p.m.
Game 13: Same teams as Game 12 (if necessary), 4 p.m.

(Remainder of NCAA tournament field on next page)
2006 NCAA Division III Baseball Championship – Regionals – May 17-20 (* host school)

Orange, Calif.
1. Redlands (Calif.) (30-9)
2. Trinity (Texas) (33-11)
3. * Chapman (Calif.) (27-10)
4. Cal State East Bay (24-10)
5. Texas Lutheran (32-11-1)
6. George Fox (Ore.) (27-13)

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
1. Ripon (Wis.) (32-5)
2. St. Olaf (Minn.) (28-8)
3. St. Thomas (Minn.) (29-9)
4. St. Scholastica (Minn.) (36-4)
5. * Wisconsin-Stevens Point (28-15)
6. Coe (Iowa) (26-17)
7. Dominican (III.) (21-19)

Rocky Mount, N.C.
1. Salisbury (Md.) (36-8)
2. Emory (Ga.) (31-7)
3. Rowan (N.J.) (27-13)
4. Bridgewater (Va.) (31-12-1)
5. * North Carolina Wesleyan (27-16)
6. Virginia Wesleyan (22-20)

St. Louis, Mo.
1. Carthage (Wis.) (33-7)
2. Millsaps (Miss.) (34-11)
3. * Washington (Mo.) (34-5)
4. Aurora (Ill.) (29-11)
5. Webster (Mo.) (26-16)

Boyertown, Pa.
1. College of New Jersey (32-5)
2. Montclair St. (N.J.) (27-16-2)
4. Gwynedd-Mercy (Pa.) (31-13)
5. Franklin & Marshall (Pa.) (28-9)
6. * Alvernia (Pa.) (30-11)
7. Frostburg St. (Md.) (27-11)

Terre Haute, Ind. (hosted by Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech.)
1. Wooster (Ohio) (38-7)
2. Otterbein (Ohio) (29-14)
3. Marietta (Ohio) (35-10)
4. Manchester (Ind.) (33-9)
5. Adrian (Mich.) (25-15)
6. King’s (Pa.) (25-14)
7. Elizabethtown (Pa.) (25-14-1)

Harwich, Mass. (hosted by the ECAC)
1. Wheaton (Mass.) (34-8)
2. St. Joseph’s (Maine) (33-8-1)
3. Middlebury (Vt.) (24-9)
4. Salem St. (Mass.) (33-6)
5. Southern Maine (29-15)
6. Western New England (Mass.) (33-10)
7. Bowdoin (Maine) (28-8-1)

Auburn, N.Y.
see teams on previous page

World Series first-round matchups:
Auburn winner vs. Orange, Calif. winner
St. Louis winner vs. Boyertown, Pa. winner
Terre Haute, Ind. winner vs. Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. winner