NEW PALTZ, N.Y. – Cortland clinched the SUNYAC regular-season title and the right to host the league’s post-season tournament for the 10th consecutive season with a doubleheader sweep at New Paltz, 9-2 and 11-0. The nationally third-ranked Red Dragons are 29-6 overall and finish tied with Oneonta for the league title with a 12-2 record. Cortland earns the league’s top seed, however, based on its 2-0 record versus third-place Plattsburgh compared to Oneonta’s 1-1 mark against the Cardinals.

The four-team, double-elimination SUNYAC tournament will be held May 5-7 in Cortland, with the winner earning an automatic berth into the NCAA Division III playoffs.

Senior Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) went 2-for-5 with a homer and three RBI in the opener. He added a double in the second game and is now third in school history with 215 career hits. He is one hit shy of second place (Craig Kerner, 216) and nine away from the leader (Scott Weston, 224).

Junior Mike Zgorzelski (Troy/Shaker) improved to 4-1 with the win. He allowed nine hits and three walks over seven innings, struck out seven and gave up two runs. He gave up five hits and three walks over the first three innings, but settled down and permitted just two hits over the next four frames.

Senior Jason Chyr (Vernon/V-V-S) and sophomore Nick Baker (Millerton/Webutuck) each pitched an inning of hitless, scoreless relief. Junior Dan Maycock (Utica/T.R. Proctor) finished 3-for-5 and sophomore Will Groff (Queensbury), junior Travis Robinson (Ilion), senior Adam Sidebottom (Buffalo/Starpoint) and Mead recorded two hits apiece.

New Paltz took a 1-0 lead in the first when Josh Gutes led off with a double, went to third on a lineout and scored on Bill Kelts’ infield single. Cortland tied the game when sophomore John Giametta Jr. (Marlboro) hit a homer on the first pitch of the second inning and took the lead later in the inning on a Groff RBI single. The Hawks knotted the game at 2-2 in the third on a bases-loaded walk by Daniel Garcia.

Mead’s two-run single in the fourth gave the Red Dragons the lead for good. He hit a solo homer in the seventh to push the lead to 5-2, with an error later in the inning allowing two runs to score. Cortland’s final runs came on a Robinson RBI single in the eighth and an RBI double by junior Mike Rosenberry (Clarence) in the ninth.

In the seven-inning nightcap, sophomore Chris Bilyk (Ithaca) took a no-hitter two outs into the sixth inning before giving up a single down the left field line to Kelts. Bilyk exited the game at that point and finished with eight strikeouts as he improved to 5-1 on the season. Junior Justin Mattes (Queensbury) pitched the final inning and one-third, striking out three and allowing only one runner on an error.

Senior Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) finished 2-for-3 with three RBI. He led off the second inning with a homer and singled in two runs during a six-run sixth inning. Sophomore Mike Zaccardo (Irondequoit) hit a three-run homer to cap the sixth. Robinson drove in runs with a bases-loaded walk in the third and an RBI single in the sixth and Maycock finished 2-for-4, including a two-run single in the fourth.

Rosenberry went 2-for-3 and Groff was 2-for-4. Groff, who entered the week ranked second nationally in Division III in batting average, is now hitting .488 this spring and has hit safely in 30 of his last 31 games.
CORTLAND BASEBALL
Doubleheader at New Paltz; April 27, 2006

GAME 1: Cortland 9, New Paltz 2

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Cortland: Mike Zgorzelski (W, 4-1), Jason Chyr (8), Nick Baker (9) and Shawn Ensel
New Paltz: Jeff Stith, Ryan Schafer (4) (L, 0-1), Mike Virga (8), Jason Solotaroff (9) and Robert Helf

HR – Andrew Mead (C), John Giametta Jr. (C)
2B – Dan Maycock (C), Travis Robinson (C), Mike Rosenberry (C), Josh Gutes (NP), John DeKams (NP)

GAME 2: Cortland 11, New Paltz 0

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| New Paltz | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |

Cortland: Chris Bilyk (W, 5-1), Justin Mattes (6) and Mike Zaccardo (Red Dragons: 29-6, 12-2 SUNYAC; ranked 3rd in Div. III)
New Paltz: Greg Campo (L, 2-4), Tristan Greene (4), Tristan Adams (5), Chris Spizuco (6) and Josh Gutes, Eric Velazquez (5)
(Hawks: 17-20, 3-11 SUNYAC)

HR – Zach Tacelli (C), Mike Zaccardo (C)
2B – Andrew Mead (C)