CORTLAND, N.Y. – Senior Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic) hit two home runs and drove in four runs as Cortland defeated Plattsburgh, 9-5, to complete a sweep of a SUNYAC doubleheader. The Red Dragons (20-5, 7-1), ranked fourth in Division III, won the first game, 9-3, as junior Jimmy Dougher (Liverpool) improved to 5-0 and senior Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) hit a two-run homer. Junior Will Groff (Queensbury) recorded two hits in each game to extend his hitting streak to 21 games. Groff is the seventh player in Cortland history to reach that level, and is five games shy of matching the school record.

In the first game, Dougher allowed six hits and three unearned runs in seven and one-third innings. He struck out seven and walked three. Senior Jason Chyr (Vernon/V-V-S) gave up one hit and no runs the rest of the way. Mead hit his homer as part of a three-run second inning that gave the Red Dragons an 8-0 lead. Groff finished 2-for-5 with a double and two steals and Piovesan was 2-for-4 with an RBI.

Plattsburgh’s Matt Dahlin (Cohoes/Stillwater) went the distance for the Cardinals (13-9, 5-3 SUNYAC). He allowed 11 hits and nine runs, four earned, in eight innings. He struck out four and walked two, and allowed only four hits over the final six innings. Todd Hughes (Malone/Franklin Academy) and Chris Murphy (Brewster/North Salem) were each 1-for-3 with a walk.

Cortland scored five unearned runs in the first three innings, taking advantage of two errors and a passed ball in the inning. Senior Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) and sophomore Mike Zaccardo (Irondequoit) each had RBI singles in the inning. Zaccardo also scored later in the inning on the front end of a double steal after Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) stole second. The Red Dragons’ first run in the second came when Groff doubled, stole third and continued home on a throwing error. Later in the inning, junior Travis Robinson (Ilion) doubled and Mead followed with a two-run blast to deep left center.

Plattsburgh got three runs back in the top of third. Paul Strang (Montrose/Hendrick Hudson) singled and Chris Murphy (Brewster/North Salem) walked. On Zack Welch’s (Merrill/N. Adirondack) bunt, Dougher fielded the ball and had a play at third but threw the ball away, allowing Strang to score. A Kyle Kowalowski (Saranac) fielder’s choice later in the inning resulted in a run after a Cortland throwing error. Cortland’s third error of the inning occurred on a wild pickoff throw by the catcher to first, allowing John Campbell (East Patchogue/Bellport) to score from third.

The Cardinals loaded the bases with no outs in the fifth on consecutive singles by Welch, Campbell and Hughes. Dougher, however, struck out a batter and got the next hitter to line out to center, with Campbell doubled off second to end the inning.

Sophomore Ryan Hooper (Red Hook) won the seven-inning nightcap and is 4-0 on the season. He gave up five hits and two runs in five innings. He struck out three and walked none. Cortland put up three runs in the first inning. Tacelli reached on an infield single, Mead singled to center and Piovesan homered to left center. In the second, John Giametta Jr. (Marlboro) was hit by a pitch, moved to second on a passed ball and scored on Adam Sidebottom’s (Buffalo/Starpoint) single to right center.

Sidebottom also singled in a run in the fifth and finished 3-for-3. Piovesan hit a solo homer in the fifth and was 2-for-4 in the contest. Basnight was 3-for-4, including an RBI single in the sixth, and Groff went 2-for-3 with a triple and a steal, his 22nd of the season. Plattsburgh scored in the third on a Welch RBI single and closed to within 4-2 in the fourth on back-to-back singles by Kowalowski and Dave Waldron (Saranac) and an RBI fielder’s choice by Dahlin, who played shortstop in the nightcap.

Plattsburgh’s final three runs came in the top of the seventh on pinch-hitter Jared Jarvis’ (Mooers Forks/NE Clinton) RBI single, Campbell’s RBI groundout and Welch’s run-scoring double. The Cardinals had runners on first and third with the potential tying run on-deck before hitting into a fielder’s choice to end the game. Welch finished 2-for-4 with two RBI. Kevin Gent (Saratoga) started for the Cardinals and gave up 13 hits and nine runs, seven earned, in five and two-third innings.
CORTLAND BASEBALL – Doubleheader vs. SUNY Plattsburgh
April 9, 2006; Cortland, N.Y.

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Plattsburgh: Matt Dahlin (L, 3-2) and Zack Welch
Cortland: Jimmy Dougher (W, 5-0), Jason Chyr (8) and Mike Zaccardo, Shawn Ensel (8)

HR – Andrew Mead (C)
2B – Will Groff (C), Travis Robinson (C), Mike Rosenberry (C)

GAME 2: Cortland 9, Plattsburgh 5

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Plattsburgh: Kevin Gent (L, 2-1), Billy Davis (6) and Brian Mehan (Cardinals: 13-9, 5-3 SUNYAC)
Cortland: Ryan Hooper (W, 4-0), George Jweid (6), T.J. O’Leary (7), Nick McPartland (7) and Shawn Ensel (Red Dragons: 20-5, 7-1 SUNYAC; ranked 4th in Div. III)

HR – Ricky Piovesan 2 (C)
3B – Will Groff (C)
2B – Zack Welch (P), Todd Hughes (P)