SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Wheaton College (Mass.)
Wednesday, March 15, 2006; Charlotte Sports Park; Port Charlotte, Fla.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 10, Wheaton 5

PORT CHARLOTTE, FLA. – Senior Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) went 3-for-4 with a triple, double and two RBI and junior Jon Rockfeld (Islip Terrace/East Islip) allowed five hits and struck out seven in five innings as nationally second-ranked Cortland snapped a two-game losing streak with a 10-5 victory over 25th-ranked Wheaton College (Mass.). Cortland improved to 6-3 with the victory.

Five Red Dragons – junior Will Groff (Queensbury), junior Travis Robinson (Ilion), sophomore Matt Vitalize (Rome/Rome Free Academy), senior Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic) and sophomore Erik Johnson (Mount Kisco/Fox Lane) – recorded two hits apiece. Vitalize finished with two doubles and two RBI, Piovesan had a double and two RBI, Robinson hit two doubles and drove in a run and Groff had a double and an RBI.

Pat O’Connor was 3-for-5 with a double and Scott Guillerault went 2-for-5 with two doubles and two RBI for the Lyons (2-2).

Rockfeld walked a batter and allowed three runs in his first outing of the season. Sophomore Nick Baker (Millerton/Webutuck), the third Cortland reliever, entered the game with two runners on and the tying run on deck with two outs in the eighth. He recorded a flyout to end the threat, then gave up one hit in a scoreless ninth to earn the save.

Cortland scored three runs in the top of the first on a Robinson RBI double and Mead’s two-run triple, then added a run in the second on a Johnson RBI single. Wheaton came back with three runs in the third, with the big hits a Guillerault RBI double and a Mark Baumer run-scoring triple. Rockfeld struck out the next batter to preserve the Red Dragons’ 4-3 lead.

Cortland extended its lead to 8-3 with four runs in the sixth. Mead led off with a double, Dan Maycock (Utica/T.R. Proctor) singled and Vitalize doubled to drive in a run. Piovesan hit a two-run single two batters later and Groff finished the scoring with an RBI double. The Red Dragons pushed across another run in the seventh when Vitalize doubled with two outs and scored on pinch-hitter Mike Zaccardo’s (Irondequoit) single to left.

Guillerault’s RBI double in the seventh brought Wheaton within 9-4, and the Lyons had the bases loaded with one out. Senior Nick McPartland (Beacon), however, escaped the jam with two strikeouts. Wheaton scored once in the eighth on a Brandon Leonard RBI double. Cortland’s final run came on a Vitalize sacrifice fly in the ninth.

Cortland 10, Wheaton (Mass.) 5

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Cortland: Jon Rockfeld (W, 1-0), T.J. O’Leary (6), Nick McPartland (7), Nick Baker (8) and Erik Johnson, Shawn Ensel (8) (Red Dragons: 6-3, ranked 2nd in Div. III)
Wheaton: Josh Moore (L, 0-1), Adam Gingras (6), Jamie Baker (9) and Mark Brown (Lyons: 2-2, ranked 25th in Div. III)

3B – Andrew Mead (C), Mark Baumer (W)
2B – Travis Robinson (C) 2, Matt Vitalize (C) 2, Will Groff (C), Andrew Mead (C), Ricky Piovesan (C), Scott Guillerault (W) 2, Pat O’Connor (W), Brandon Leonard (W)