



SUNY Cortland Sports Information

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SUNY Cortland Football

Cortland vs. Brockport

September 3, 2005; Special Olympics Stadium; Brockport, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 20, Brockport 10

BROCKPORT, N.Y. – Junior tailback **Matt Rickert (Holbrook/Sachem)** rushed for 136 yards and two touchdowns and the Cortland defense held Brockport without a touchdown until the final minute of the game as the Red Dragons opened the season with a 20-10 road victory over the Golden Eagles. The win is Cortland's first at Brockport since 1995 and its first opening day victory since a win over Brockport in 2002.

The Red Dragons recorded six sacks and held Brockport to 54 net rushing yards on 31 attempts. Rickert, who rushed for 238 yards all of last season as Cortland's starting fullback, averaged 5.2 yards per carry on his 26 attempts. Of his 136 yards, 120 came in the first half, including both of his scores.

Brockport gained a net eight yards on its first three possessions combined, but took the lead on its third possession when **Adam Lancot** made a 37-yard field goal with 3:15 left in the first quarter. A 29-yard **Brian Wise** punt return gave Brockport the ball on Cortland's 19-yard line. A 2-yard rushing loss and two incomplete passes, however, forced the field goal attempt.

Cortland answered with a 14-play, 70-yard drive that ate up more than seven minutes and culminated in a 2-yard Rickert touchdown run with 11:04 left in the half. Sophomore quarterback **Alex Smith (Niagara Falls/Niagara-Wheatfield)** completed a 15-yard pass to junior **Anthony Morat (Rome/Rome Free Academy)** on 3rd-and-11 from the Cortland 29-yard line and rushed for four yards on 3rd-and-1 at the Brockport 47-yard line to keep the drive alive. Other key plays in the drive were a 14-yard pass to sophomore **Stan Cadet (Hicksville)** to the 13-yard line and a pass interference call that pushed the ball from the 9-yard line to the 2-yard line.

With less than four minutes remaining in the half, a Brockport punt gave Cortland the ball on its own 43-yard line. On the ensuing play from scrimmage, Rickert broke a couple of tackles and raced 57 yards for a touchdown. Sophomore **Derek Ziders (Lancaster)** converted his second point-after kick to give Cortland a 14-3 lead.

Ziders provided Cortland's lone points of the second half as he connected on both of his field goal attempts. His 27-yard kick with 7:59 left in the third quarter capped a 10-play, 43-yard drive to push the lead to 17-3. With 11:25 left in the game, Brockport mounted its longest drive of the game to that point, covering 47 yards over eight plays, but a fumble after a reception was recovered by junior safety **Stef Sair (Huntington)** and was returned 55 yards to the Brockport 20-yard line. Cortland lost one yard over its next three plays, but Ziders made a 38-yard field goal to give the Red Dragons a 20-3 lead with 6:31 remaining.

Brockport's next drive was halted on the Cortland 36-yard line by a **Matt Montpetit (Westhampton/Westhampton Beach)** interception. On their final drive, the Golden Eagles mounted a 10-play, 67-yard touchdown drive. A 1-yard touchdown pass from **A.J. Covella** to **Mike Bond** completed the drive with 45 seconds left.

Covella completed 21-of-38 passes for 175 yards, including five tosses to both Bond and Wise. **John Walther** led the Golden Eagles with 14 tackles and **Damien Aliseo** made 12 stops.

Morat and freshman **Zak Carter (Fayetteville/Fayetteville-Manlius)** each made three catches for the Red Dragons. Smith completed 11-of-28 passes for 131 yards. Junior defensive linemen **Adam Haas (East Aurora/St. Francis)** and **Rich DeJesus (Ronkonkoma/Connetquot)** each finished the game with 1.5 sacks. Sair recorded an interception and a pass breakup in addition to his fumble return. Junior linebacker **Josh Jablonski (Buffalo/West Seneca West)** made eight tackles and sophomore linebacker **Bill Hauser (Lancaster)** added seven stops and a pass breakup.

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