CORTLAND, N.Y. -- Freshman T.J. Sakaluk (Hamilton, ON/Niagara Falls Canucks) scored with 31 seconds remaining in the third period to lift the Potsdam men's ice hockey team to a 3-2 win over Cortland Saturday night in SUNYAC action. With the win, the Bears improved to 8-12-1 overall and 4-6 in the conference, while the Red Dragons fell to 9-11-1 and 4-6.

After a scoreless first period, Cortland took a 1-0 lead at 1:51 of the second period on senior Jeremy Nau's (Rochester/SUNY Geneseo) wrist shot from the left point. Seniors Nate Gagnon (Wilton/University of Maine) and Nate Graves (Plattsburgh/Fairfield University) assisted on the goal. Potsdam tied the game with 3:12 left in the second stanza. Sophomore Greg Lee (Almonte, ON/Lindsay Muskies) deflected sophomore Vince Tarantino's (Oakville, ON/Wentworth) slap shot from the high slot past Cortland junior goalie Matt Meacham (Massena/Skidmore College) with the man advantage.

The Bears took a 2-1 lead midway through the third period on a short-handed goal. Junior Vilis Abele (Perth, ON/SUNY Canton) sent a shot wide left of the Cortland goal that rebounded out to the front of the net. Senior Mark Hathaway (Newburyport, MA/Boston Jr. Bruins) collected the puck and scored his fifth of the season. Cortland responded two and a half minutes later to knot the game up at 2-2 on the power play. Sophomore Buddy Anderson (Washington Township, NJ/Bridgewater Bandits) took a pass from Nau inside the blue line at the left point and sent a pass to junior Tom Girard (Glens Falls/Glens Falls H.S.), who one-timed a slap shot past Potsdam freshman goalie Rob Barnhardt (Fort Erie, ON/Welland Jr. Canadiens) at 12:56.

The game appeared headed to overtime when Potsdam senior Mark Stewart (Ottawa, ON/Kanata Stallions) forced a Cortland turnover at the left boards. Stewart quickly sent the puck to Sakaluk, who was alone in front with time to deke Meacham and flip a shot over him for the game winner at 19:29. The Red Dragons pulled Meacham for the final 10 seconds but did not have a chance to tie the game.

Meacham finished with 31 saves for the Red Dragons, while Barnhardt stopped 28 shots for the Bears.
MEN'S ICE HOCKEY: Potsdam 3, Cortland 2

Score by periods:
Potsdam  0-1-2   3
Cortland  0-1-1   2

Scoring Summary (Goals-Assists):
Potsdam: Greg Lee 1-0, Mark Hathaway 1-0, T.J. Sakaluk 1-0, Vilis Abele 0-1, Mark Stewart 0-1, Mike Taylor 0-1, Vince Tarantino 0-1
Cortland: Jeremy Nau 1-1, Tom Girard 1-0, Buddy Anderson 0-1, Nate Graves 0-1, Nate Gagnon 0-1
Saves: Rob Barnhardt (Potsdam) 28 saves (2 GA in 59:52), Empty Net :08; Matt Meacham (Cortland) 31 saves (3 GA in 59:50), Empty Net :10
Shots on Goal: Potsdam 34 (13-11-10), Cortland 30 (6-14-10)
Penalties: Potsdam 10-20:00, Cortland 8-24:00
Power Play: Cortland 1-9, Potsdam 1-6
Records after game: Cortland (Red Dragons) 9-11-1, 4-6 SUNYAC; Potsdam (Bears) 8-12-1, 4-6 SUNYAC

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY
Potsdam 3, Cortland 2
January 29, 2005

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<th>Team</th>
<th>Per.</th>
<th>Time</th>
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