SUNY Cortland Men's Ice Hockey

SUNYAC Quarterfinals vs. SUNY Fredonia; Steele Hall; Fredonia, N.Y.
Saturday, February 19, 2005

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 4, Fredonia 3 (Game Two)
FINAL SCORE: Fredonia 2, Cortland 1 (OT) (20-Minute Mini-Game)

FREDONIA, N.Y. -- Joe Muli scored during sudden-victory overtime to give nationally 14th-ranked Fredonia a 2-1 win over Cortland in the series deciding mini-game Saturday night at Steele Hall. The Blue Devils (16-5-4) advance to the SUNYAC Semifinals where they face second-seeded Geneseo, while the Red Dragons close their season at 11-14-2.

Cortland forced the mini-game with a dramatic 4-3 win in the second game of the series. Junior Tom Girard (Glens Falls/Glens Falls H.S.) broke a 3-3 tie with his fourth goal of the season at 17:53 of the third period. The Blue Devils pulled goalie Rick Cazares, who made 20 saves, for the final 1:16 looking for the game-tying goal but couldn’t score the equalizer.

Facing a must-win situation, the Red Dragons scored three power-play goals and junior goalie Matt Meacham (Massena/Skidmore College) turned away 23 shots, including 10 in the third period.

After a scoreless first period, Fredonia took a 1-0 lead on Chad Berman’s power-play goal at 12:14 of the second period. The Red Dragons capitalized on a two-man advantage less than two minutes later. Seniors Nate Graves (Plattsburgh/Fairfield University) and Kevin Watters (Pittsford/Rochester Jr. Americans) set up senior Tim Earl’s (Troy/Capital District Selects) team-high 17th goal of the season at 13:51. The assist was Watters’ 100th career point, making him the ninth Cortland player to reach the milestone. Twelve seconds later, Earl and Watters set up junior Matt Schillace’s (Auburn/Niagara University) power-play goal, and the Red Dragons held the 2-1 lead heading into the third period.

The Blue Devils struck first in the third, tying the game at 2-2 on Matt Zeman’s 19th goal of the season at 5:39. Schillace answered for Cortland, again with the man advantage, off assists from Earl and senior Nate Gagnon (Wilton/University of Maine) at 9:08. Any momentum Cortland had grabbed was quickly squelched as Jim Gilbride tied the score at 3-3 just 17 second later, setting up Girard’s heroics. Freshman Barry McLaughlin (Bellport/Bay State Breakers) assisted on Girard’s goal and the Red Dragons hung on to force the mini-game.

McLaughlin gave Cortland a 1-0 lead early in the 20-minute mini-game, and the Red Dragons were in position to hold on and advance to the semifinals for the first time in three seasons. Zeman, however, spoiled Cortland’s bid for the upset, tying the game with just 12 seconds remaining on an unassisted score, sending the mini-game into sudden-victory overtime where Muli connected on the game winner and ended the Red Dragons’ season.

Watters finished his career tied for seventh with 101 points on 38 goals and 63 assists. Gagnon completed his career with 113 points on 49 goals and 64 assists, tying him for fourth in school history. Earl narrowly missed the century mark, finishing his career 10th in scoring with 98 points on 46 goals and 52 assists.

(game summary on next page -- mini-game statistics do not count)
Cortland 4, Fredonia 3
Game Two; SUNYAC Quarterfinals; Feb. 19, 2005; Fredonia, N.Y.

Score by periods:
Cortland 0-2-2 4
Fredonia 0-1-2 3

Scoring Summary (Goals-Assists):
Cortland: Matt Schillace 2-0, Tim Earl 1-2, Tom Girard 1-0, Kevin Watters 0-2, Barry McLaughlin 0-1, Nate Graves 0-1, Nate Gagnon 0-1
Fredonia: Matt Zeman 1-1, Jim Gilbride 1-0, Chad Berman 1-0, Nick Malina 0-1, Evan DiValentino 0-1, Kraig Kuzma 0-1

Saves: Matt Meacham (Cortland) 23 (3 GA in 60:00); Rick Cazares (Fredonia) 20 (4 GA in 58:44), Empty Net 1:16
Shots on Goal: Cortland 24 (6-12-6), Fredonia 26 (4-10-12)
Penalties: Cortland 6-12:00, Fredonia 12-32:00
Power Play: Cortland 3-11, Fredonia 1-6
Records after game: Cortland (Red Dragons) 11-14-2; Fredonia (Blue Devils) 16-5-4

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