CORTLAND, NY - The SUNY Cortland women's volleyball team won its first two matches on the first day of the Red Dragon Classic at Corey Gymnasium. The Red Dragons opened the tournament with a 30-12, 30-13, 30-12 win over St. Lawrence University and later defeated St. Michael's College of Vermont, 30-20, 30-18, 35-33.

Cortland and Buffalo State are each 2-0 in Pool A after Friday's action. The two teams will meet on Saturday at 9 a.m., with the winner claiming the top spot in the pool and advancing to the Championship Bracket of the 10-team tournament. Lebanon Valley College of Pennsylvania won Pool B with a 2-0 mark and two-time defending tournament champion and nationally 24th-ranked Nazareth College won Pool C, also with a 2-0 record.

Lebanon Valley and Nazareth will play a round-robin schedule with the Pool A winner to determine the tournament champion. A Gold Medal and a Silver Medal bracket will also be held on Saturday.

Against St. Lawrence, freshman Katie Brody (Apalachin/Vestal) led the Red Dragons with eight kills and just one error in 12 attempts. Junior Natalie Pizzi (Pittsburgh, PA/Baldwin) recorded seven kills and no errors in eight attempts for a .875 attack percentage and sophomore Danielle Turner (Farmingville/Sachem) registered six kills and no errors in seven attempts for a .857 attack percentage. Sophomore Kielty Ciccone (Schenectady) registered five blocks and junior Siobhan Loughlin (Hauppauge) finished with six kills and five aces.

In the St. Michael's match, Brody finished with 15 kills and no errors in 23 attempts (.652 attack percentage) and senior Andrea Smith (San Diego, CA/Frontier Central (NY)) had nine kills and no errors in 16 attempts (.563) to go along with a team-high nine digs. The Red Dragons finished the match with a .425 attack percentage, amassing 43 kills versus only six errors in 87 attempts. Senior Jamie McMullen (Castile/Letchworth) totaled 19 assists and sophomore Lizz Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) added 18 assists. Senior Katie Pietrzak (Rochester/Greece Arcadia) contributed five blocks.

(Full tournament scores and upcoming schedule on following page)
FRIDAY’S RESULTS:

Pool A
Cortland def. St. Lawrence 3-0 (30-12, 30-13, 30-12)
Buffalo St. def. St. Michael’s 3-1 (30-26, 30-19, 17-30, 30-15)
Cortland def. St. Michael’s 3-0 (30-20, 30-18, 35-33)
Buffalo St. def. St. Lawrence 3-1 (26-30, 30-16, 30-22, 30-28)

Pool B
Lebanon Valley def. Fredonia 3-2 (30-19, 29-31, 26-30, 30-20, 15-11)
Lebanon Valley def. Keuka 3-1 (30-28, 30-15, 28-30, 30-18)
Fredonia def. Keuka 3-0 (30-23, 30-22, 30-26)

Pool C
Nazareth def. New Paltz 3-0 (30-14, 30-14, 31-29)
Nazareth def. Geneseo 3-0 (30-21, 30-14, 36-34)
Geneseo def. New Paltz 3-1 (30-13, 30-24, 28-30, 30-25)

SATURDAY’S SCHEDULE:

Pool A
9 a.m. Cortland vs. Buffalo St.
       St. Lawrence vs. St. Michael’s

Championship Bracket (Round Robin Bracket)
11 a.m. -- (A1) Cortland or Buffalo St. vs. (B1) Lebanon Valley
1 p.m. -- (B1) Lebanon Valley vs. (C1) Nazareth
3 p.m. -- (A1) Cortland or Buffalo St. vs. (C1) Nazareth

Gold Medal Bracket (Round Robin Bracket)
9 a.m. -- (B2) Fredonia vs. (C2) Geneseo
11 a.m. -- (A2) Cortland or Buffalo St. vs. (B2) Fredonia
1 p.m. -- (A2) Cortland or Buffalo St. vs. (C2) Geneseo

Silver Medal Bracket
11 a.m. -- (A4) St. Lawrence or St. Michael’s vs. (C3) New Paltz
1 p.m. -- (A3) St. Lawrence or St. Michael’s vs. (B3) Keuka
3 p.m. -- Bronze Consolation Match (losers of first two matches)
3 p.m. -- Bronze Championship Match (winners of first two matches)

NOTE: Nazareth is ranked 24th in the latest AVCA Division III poll. The Golden Flyers finished first at the Red Dragon Classic in both 2001 and 2002 and were second in 2000. Cortland has won the tournament 11 times in 18 years, but not since 1999.