CORTLAND, N.Y. – The SUNY Cortland women’s volleyball team wrapped up the regular season with a 41-2 record after defeating visiting Elmira College, 30-18, 30-26, 30-27, in a non-conference match.

The Red Dragons were led by freshman Katie Brody’s (Apalachin/Vestal) 11 kills and .588 hitting percentage. Junior Natalie Pizzi (Pittsburgh, PA/Baldwin) added six kills and nine digs, senior Jamie McMullen (Castile/Letchworth) had 22 assists and 11 digs, senior Katie Pietrzak (Rochester/Greece Arcadia) finished with five kills, six blocks and six digs and senior Andrea Smith (San Diego, CA/Frontier Central (NY)) had six kills and 11 digs.

Elmira (21-13) was led by senior outside hitter Alicia Boscarello’s (Olmstead Falls, OH) 11 kills and junior outside hitter Kristen Wheaton’s (Corning/Corning East) seven kills and 20 digs.

The contest was the final regular-season home match for Red Dragon seniors Pietrzak and Smith. McMullen has one year of eligibility remaining after redshirting in 2001. Pietrzak is ranked second in school history in career blocks (463) and is fourth in hitting percentage (.318). Smith is ranked third in both career kills (1,178) and digs (1,814).

Cortland jumped out early in the first game, using a 9-1 run to take a 9-2 lead. Elmira moved to within 9-4 before an 11-2 run gave the Red Dragons a 20-6 lead. The second and third games were close throughout. The Soaring Eagles were within 27-26 in the second game before the Red Dragons scored the last three points on a block by McMullen and junior Siobhan Loughlin (Hauppauge), a kill by Pizzi and an Elmira error.

In the third game, Elmira held a 25-23 lead after an ace by sophomore Sara DiDio (Brewster). Two kills by Brody, a kill by Pizzi and a block by Brody and freshman Megan Hyland (Webster/Webster-Schroeder) give Cortland a 27-25 lead. Two Boscarello kills, sandwiched around a Brody kill, brought the Soaring Eagles within 28-27, but an Elmira serving error and an attack that went long ended the match.

The Red Dragons will host the six-team State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) tournament on Friday-Saturday, Nov. 7-8, with the winner receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III tournament.

Elmira will be the fourth seed in the upcoming Empire 8 tournament this Saturday. The Soaring Eagles will face host and top-seeded Nazareth College in the semifinals at 11 a.m. The championship match is set for 6 p.m.

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