CORTLAND – SUNY Cortland opened its season with three victories during the first day of competition at the 11-team Red Dragon Classic. The hosts advance to the championship pool after posting 3-0 wins over Montclair State, Skidmore and Fredonia.

The Red Dragons finish atop of Pool A with their 3-0 mark and will face the Pool B winner, either New Paltz or Baptist Bible College, at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. New Paltz plays Baptist Bible at 10 a.m. Saturday to determine the Pool B champion. Cortland will also play Pool C winner Stevens Tech Saturday at 5:30 p.m. The championship pool is a three-way round-robin; there is no single championship match.

Cortland started Friday with a 30-13, 30-19, 30-12 victory over Montclair State. Sophomore Tiffany Chatman (Watertown) led a balanced attack with five kills and also recorded a team-high eight blocks. Senior Daina Marsh (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) added five kills, four aces and five digs and sophomore Brittney Horton (Owego/Owego Free Academy) finished with 19 assists, four kills and four aces.

The Red Dragons then swept Skidmore, 30-20, 30-28, 30-28. Marsh and junior Kelsey Muka (Lansing) each totaled 10 kills, with Marsh also adding eight digs and four aces. Freshman Michelle Gaufman (Wantagh/MacArthur) chipped in with seven kills and no errors in 18 attempts and registered nine digs and Horton dished out 37 assists. Chatman finished with six kills and five blocks, junior Alice Kahrs (Kings Park) had four kills and four blocks and freshman Lindsay Snow (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) recorded eight digs.

Cortland wrapped up the night with a 32-30, 30-23, 30-22 win over Fredonia. Marsh put down a team-best seven kills and amassed seven digs. Kahrs recorded five kills and five blocks, freshman Ariel Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) had four kills and Chatman led the team with nine blocks. Muka finished with 15 digs, Horton added 22 assists and five digs and sophomore Brittany Wright (Cobleskill/Cobleskill-Richmondville) registered three aces and five digs.

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