FINAL SCORE: Ithaca 8, Cortland 4

ITHACA, N.Y. -- Ithaca scored eight runs on seven hits in the bottom of the fifth inning to defeat sixth-ranked Cortland, 8-4, in baseball action. The Bombers improved to 17-8, while the Red Dragons fell to 22-9.

Cortland opened the scoring with three runs in the top half of the third inning. Junior Matt Ellis (Owego/Owego Free Academy) reached on an error to lead off the inning and moved to second on freshman Andy Mead’s (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) walk. Senior Ben Albright (Poughkeepsie/Arlington) plated Ellis with a one-out double, and both Mead and Albright scored on a single through the right side by senior Jeff Flegler (Gloucester, NJ).

Cortland sophomore Mike Burnett (Westfield) pitched effectively through the first four innings, allowing just two singles, but he ran into trouble in the fifth. Ithaca opened the inning with four straight hits, and after a sacrifice fly that gave the Bombers a 4-3 lead, Burnett issued a walk and a single to right field. Freshman Nick McPartland (Wappingers Falls/Beacon) relieved Burnett and struck out the first batter he faced. After an intentional walk loaded the bases, Ithaca connected for two singles and an 8-3 lead.

The Red Dragons threatened in the eighth with back-to-back singles by Flegler and senior Cory Haggerty (Ilion) to lead off the inning. Haggerty, however, was caught stealing, and the next Red Dragon batter struck out. Junior Josh Horner (Groton) delivered a two-out RBI single, but freshman Travis Robinson (Ilion) grounded out to end the inning.

For Cortland, Flegler finished 3-for-4 with two RBI, while Haggerty went 2-for-4. Junior Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) went 0-4, ending his 21-game hitting streak. Burnett pitched four and a third innings and took the loss.
CORTLAND BASEBALL
FINAL: Ithaca 8, Cortland 4

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Cortland: Mike Burnett (L, 3-1), Nick McPartland (5), Chad Parker (8) and Matt Ellis
Ithaca: Mike Urvalek (W, 3-1), Jon Beckerman (9) and Eric Salinas
HR - None
3B - None
2B - Ben Albright (C), Mike Pritts (I)

Cortland: 22-9 (ranked sixth nationally in Div. III)
Ithaca: 17-8