2003 SUNY Cortland Baseball
at NCAA Division III New York Regional
vs. Ithaca College
Joe Bruno Stadium; Troy, N.Y.
Friday, May 16, 2003

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 9, Ithaca 4

(Story courtesy of RPI Sports Information)

TROY, N.Y. – The SUNY Cortland Red Dragons scored four times in the third inning and never relinquished the lead in defeating Ithaca College, 9-4, in the fifth game of the six-team, double elimination NCAA Division III Baseball Regional at Joseph L. Bruno Stadium in Troy, N.Y. With the victory, the top-seeded Red Dragons remain undefeated in the regional and will face the other remaining undefeated team, Trinity, on Saturday at noon. Ithaca, the fourth-seed, was eliminated with its second loss of the regional.

The Red Dragons fell behind but came back to take the lead in the third inning with four runs. Jeff Flegler (Gloucester, NJ) walked and Nate Gagnon (Wilton/South Glens Falls) singled to put runners on first and third. After Neal Heaton, Jr. (Bellport) singled to drive in Flegler, junior Pat D’Auria (Nyack) came to the plate and rocketed a shot to deep left field for a three-run home run. The Bombers took the early lead, 2-0, in the bottom of the first. Kyle Wilkins singled with two out and was followed by Nick Pyzikiewicz singling to put two on base. That brought up Mike Pritts and the junior first baseman doubled to right field, driving in both runners.

The Bombers threatened in the seventh inning, loading the bases with nobody out. Sophomore Matt Miller (Harrison), the Red Dragons' starter, reached down and struck out Joe Cavano looking and then got Craig Nels to ground into an inning-ending 4-6-3 double play. After killing the Bombers' momentum, the Red Dragons took advantage in the top half of the eighth to extend the lead. Brian Huber (Blue Point/St. John the Baptist) singled in pinch-runner Adam Sidebottom (Lockport/Starpoint) to add one run for a 5-2 lead.

In the Bombers half of the eighth, Ithaca got two runs back to close to 5-4. Ben McBride singled in Pyzikiewicz, ending Red Dragons starter Miller's day. Mike Burnett (Westfield) came in and got Eric Salinas to bounce into a fielder's choice, but on the play Mike Pritts, who had singled earlier, scored. The Red Dragons put the game away in the top of the ninth. Ben Albright (Poughkeepsie/Arlington) doubled off the left centerfield wall, scoring Cory Haggerty (Ilion) and then Heaton doubled to left field to score Flegler. An error, the second of the inning, on freshman third baseman Robert Litz allowed two more Red Dragons to score to make it 9-4.

Bomber starter, senior Mike Urvalek (5-3), threw 144 pitches, 80 for strikes, and took the loss. Miller (6-1) earned the win for the Red Dragons and Burnett closed out the game for the save.

Cortland 9, Ithaca 4

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Cortland (33-9): Matt Miller (W, 6-1), Mike Burnett (8, Save 1) and Kyle Bestine
Ithaca (24-12): Mike Urvalek (L, 5-3), Jon Beckerman (9), Tom O'Connor (9) and Eric Salinas

2B - Cory Haggerty (C), Ben Albright (C), Neal Heaton Jr. (C), Mike Pritts (I) 2
3B - none
HR - Pat D’Auria (C)