2003 SUNY Cortland Baseball
at NCAA Division III New York Regional

vs. Messiah College
Joe Bruno Stadium; Troy, N.Y.
Thursday, May 15, 2003

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 6, Messiah 1

(Story courtesy of RPI Sports Information)

TROY, N.Y. – SUNY Cortland allowed just four hits and one earned run to defeat Messiah College, 6-1, in the first game of the six-team NCAA Division III Baseball Regional at Joseph L. Bruno Stadium in Troy, N.Y. The top-seeded Red Dragons (32-9) advance to the winners’ bracket and will play the loser of the game between Trinity and Ithaca on Friday at 3:30pm. Messiah (22-14), the sixth seed, will face the loser of the game between Rensselaer and Mount Saint Mary on Friday at noon.

Cortland starter Mike Hubbs (Averill Park/Tamarac), a junior, allowed three hits, one earned run and two walks while striking out six over eight innings to improve to 7-0 on the season. He entered the game ranked second in the nation with a 0.65 earned run average.

Nick McPartland (Wappingers Falls/Beacon) pitched the ninth inning for the Red Dragons.

Cortland jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning when leadoff hitter Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) singled, was sacrificed to second base and scored on a single by senior Jeff Flegler (Gloucester, NJ). The Falcons tied the game in the top of the third inning when sophomore Andrew Bagley doubled, moved to third base on a fielder’s choice and scored on a double play groundout. The Red Dragons regained the lead right away, however, scoring twice in their half of the third. Senior Brian Huber (Blue Point/St. John the Baptist) led off the inning with a double and scored two batters later when senior Cory Haggerty (Ilion) tripled to the rightfield gap. Haggerty scored the third run on an error on a pickoff attempt to third base.

The Red Dragons made it 4-1 with a run in the sixth inning. Junior Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport), reached on a fielder’s choice, advanced to third base on a single by Nate Gagnon (Wilton/South Glens Falls) and scored on a single over second base, just out of the reach of the shortstop, by junior Pat D’Auria (Nyack). Cortland added two more runs in the next inning to lead, 6-1, after seven innings. Mead got on with a one out walk, stole second base and advanced to third on a throwing error by the catcher. After Haggerty walked and stole second base, Flegler knocked home Mead with a sacrifice fly and Haggerty scored on an RBI single by Ben Albright (Poughkeepsie/Arlington).

Flegler finished with two hits and two runs batted in in three at bats and D’Auria was 2 for 3 with an RBI. Gagnon (2 for 4) also had two hits.

For Messiah, four players had one hit each, including Bagley, who scored the Falcons’ lone run. Senior starter Ryan Engle allowed just one walk with five strikeouts in the complete game but fell to 7-4 on the season.

Cortland 6, Messiah 1

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Messiah (22-14): Bryan Engle (7-4) and Chris Regan
Cortland (32-9): Mike Hubbs (W, 7-0), Nick McPartland (9) and Matt Ellis

2B - Andrew Bagley (M), Brian Huber (C)
3B - Cory Haggerty (C)
HR - none