2003 SUNY Cortland Baseball at NCAA Division III New York Regional

vs. Messiah College
Joe Bruno Stadium; Troy, N.Y.
Saturday, May 17, 2003

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 3, Messiah 2
(Story courtesy of RPI Sports Information)

TROY, N.Y. – SUNY Cortland got the winning run in the eighth inning and senior Kyle Johnson (Hornell) pitched a complete game six-hitter to propel the top-seeded Red Dragons over Messiah, 3-2, in the ninth game of the six-team, double elimination NCAA Division III Baseball Regional at Joseph L. Bruno Stadium in Troy, N.Y.

With the victory, Cortland (34-10) will play third-seeded Trinity in Sunday's championship round beginning at noon. The Red Dragons must beat the Bantams twice in order to advance to the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament.

Pinch hitter P.J. Hermance (East Rochester) began Cortland's eighth inning with a single to left center. After a balk moved pinch runner Adam Sidebottom (Lockport/Starpoint) to second base, a two-out single by Pat D'Auria (Nyack) scored what would be the winning run.

After three scoreless innings, Messiah drew first blood on a sacrifice fly by sophomore Chris Regan in the fourth inning. Peter Godino led off the stanza with a single and moved to third base on a base hit by Tyler Hollenbach before scoring the game's first run.

The Red Dragons came right back in their half of the fourth, beginning with a double down the left field line by Ben Albright (Poughkeepsie/Arlington). After Nate Gagnon (Wilton/South Glens Falls) walked, Neal Heaton, Jr. (Bellport) sacrificed both runners up one base. A Messiah error on a D'Auria line drive allowed Albright to score. D'Auria eventually came around on a single by Kyle Bestine (Westfield).

The Falcons knotted the score at two on a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning by Hollenbach. Keren Morgan walked and moved to third on a bunt single to third base to set up the tying run.

For Cortland, Johnson allowed just six hits, two earned runs and a walk while striking out five to improve to 6-1.

Reliever Garrett Dobbs (0-2) suffered the loss for Messiah, who got three hits and a run from Godino.

Cortland 3, Messiah 2

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Messiah (24-15): Nathan Derstein, Garrett Dobbs (4, L, 0-2), Kyle Brobst (8) and Chris Regan
Cortland (34-10): Kyle Johnson (W, 6-1) and Kyle Bestine, Matt Ellis (9)

2B - Chris Regan (M), Ben Albright (C)
3B - none
HR - none