FINAL SCORE: Nebraska-Omaha 6, Cortland 5

ORNMOND BEACH, Fla. – Eric Gordon singled with two out in the bottom of the ninth to drive in the winning run as Nebraska-Omaha defeated SUNY Cortland 6-5. The Red Dragons fall to 4-5 with the loss, with three of those setbacks coming in the game’s final at-bat.

Cortland tied the game in the top of the ninth. With two outs, senior Jeff Flegler (Gloucester, NJ) walked and freshman pinch-runner Adam Sidebottom (Lockport/Starpoint) stole second. Senior Ben Albright (Poughkeepsie/Arlington) followed with an RBI single. Sophomore Nate Gagnon (Wilton/South Glens Falls) followed with a pinch-hit single to put runners on first and third, but a groundout ended the inning.

Nebraska-Omaha, an NCAA Division II playoff participant last season, reached on an error to start the bottom of the ninth. A sacrifice bunt, an intentional walk and a fielder’s choice putout put runners on first and third with two outs to set up Gordon’s heroics.

Junior Toby Youngs (Windsor) started for Cortland and went six and one-third innings. He allowed seven hits and four runs, two earned, struck out six and walked one. Cortland outhit Nebraska-Omaha 18-9 in the game but left 10 runners stranded.

Nebraska-Omaha took a 2-0 lead on a two-run double by Jake Wurth in the second inning. Cortland tied the game with two runs in the top of the third. Senior Cory Haggerty (Ilion) homered to lead off the inning. Two outs later, Albright singled and advanced to third on a pair of wild pitches. Junior Pat D’Auria (Nyack) singled in Albright to tie the game. The Red Dragons added two runs in the fourth to take a 4-2 lead. Junior Matt Ellis (Owego/Owego Free Academy) led off with a single, stole second and scored on a Haggerty RBI single. Senior Brian Huber (Blue Point/St. John the Baptist) singled Haggerty to second and, two batters later, Albright singled in a run.

Nebraska-Omaha scored once in the fourth on back-to-back doubles by Spencer Doyle and Justin Cook and tallied an unearned run without the benefit of a hit in the seventh inning. They took the lead in the eighth on a Cook RBI single.

Albright finished 3-for-5 with two RBI and Haggerty was 2-for-4 with two RBI. Huber, Flegler, Ellis and junior Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) each added two hits for the Red Dragons.

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Cortland: Toby Youngs, Craig Robinson (7, L) and Matt Ellis, Kyle Bestine (9)
Neb.-Omaha: Kyle Funk, Weston Cooper (5), Nate McCabe (9, W) and Zach Ries

HR - Cory Haggerty (C)
3B - none
2B - Jim Sledge (N), Spencer Doyle (N), Justin Cook (N) 2, Jake Wurth (N)