SUNY Cortland Baseball

vs. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Wallace Field; Cortland, N.Y.
Monday, April 21, 2003

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 9, Rensselaer 1

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Cortland scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to erase a 1-0 deficit and the Red Dragons defeated visiting Rensselaer 9-1 in a battle of nationally-ranked Division III squads. Cortland (22-8) is ranked sixth and Rensselaer (19-9) is ranked 30th.

Ben Albright (Poughkeepsie/Arlington) went 3-for-4 with a double and RBI and Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) was 3-for-5 with a double for the Red Dragons. Travis Robinson (Iliion) hit a pinch-hit, three-run homer in the eighth and Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) extended his hitting streak to 21 games with an infield single in the fourth. Toby Youngs (Windsor) earned the win to improve to 3-1. He allowed five hits and one run in nine innings, striking out six and walking two. After allowing a leadoff single to Pat Hughes (Delmar/Bethlehem) in the fifth, Youngs held the Red Hawks hitless the remainder of the game. Youngs retired 13 straight batters before issuing a walk to two outs in the ninth.

For the Red Hawks, Hughes went 2-for-4 and Tim Egan (Colonie) drove in a run. Rensselaer took a 1-0 lead in the second when Brian Marine (Shrewsbury, MA/St. John’s) led off with a double, moved to third on a groundout and scored when Egan’s grounder to short was misplayed. Egan received an RBI on the play since there was only one out and the run would have scored even if the ball was fielded cleanly.

Rensselaer starter Brian Brzek (Harvard, MA/Pomfret) allowed no runs and four hits through five innings before running into trouble in the sixth. Mead led off the inning with a double down the left field line and scored one out later on a Jeff Flegler (Gloucester, NJ) line-drive single up the middle that nearly hit a ducking Brzek. An Albright single put runners on first and third and a Cory Haggerty (Iliion) single to right gave the Red Dragons a 2-1 lead.

The inning continued when Nate Gagnon (Wilton/South Glens Falls) walked to load the bases. Ryan McGough (Gansevoort/South Glens Falls) entered in relief and got Pat D’Auria (Nyack) to hit a grounder to short. D’Auria was safe when the ball was mishandled at first and two runs scored. Josh Horner (Groton) then hit a ball to second base, but the Red Hawks were unable to turn the double play and Gagnon scored.

Cortland added a run in the seventh. Mead reached when RPI’s shortstop dropped a line drive. He went to second on a Heaton sacrifice bunt. Flegler was hit by a pitch and Albright doubled to left to score Mead. Pinch-runner Adam Sidebottom (Lockport/Starpoint) tried to score from first on the play but was thrown out at the plate. In the eighth, D’Auria reached off reliever Justin Pappas (Farmingdale/Chaminade) when another line drive was dropped by the Rensselaer shortstop. Horner followed with a double to left and Robinson hit his three-run homer over the right-centerfield fence.

Brzek allowed eight hits and five runs, three earned, in five and one-third innings. He recorded five strikeouts and walked only one batter. McGough gave up one hit and one unearned run in two innings. He walked one and struck out one.


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Rensselaer (19-9): Brian Brzek (L, 2-2), Ryan McGough (6), Justin Pappas (8) and Seth Shuket
Cortland (22-8): Toby Youngs (W, 3-1) and Matt Ellis

HR - Travis Robinson (C)
3B - none
2B - Brian Marine (RPI), Andy Mead (C), Ben Albright (C), Pat D’Auria (C), Josh Horner (C)