FINAL SCORE: Virginia Wesleyan 8, Cortland 5

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. – The SUNY Cortland baseball team lost its season opener at Virginia Wesleyan College, 8-5, in a game called after six and one half innings due to rain. The game was originally scheduled for nine innings. The Red Dragons are ranked 25th nationally in the American Baseball Coaches Association Division III pre-season poll and third nationally in the pre-season by Baseball America.

The host Marlins scored two runs in the third inning and five in the fourth to take a 7-0 lead. John Kasiiski led off the fourth with a home run for the Marlins, but their next four runs came without a hit as the Red Dragons committed three errors in the frame.

Cortland scored two runs in the sixth and three in the seventh before the game was called. Cortland’s three runs in the seventh count since the scoring did not affect the game’s final outcome.

Senior second baseman Ben Albright (Poughkeepsie/Arlington) went 3-for-4 to lead the Red Dragons. Senior shortstop Cory Haggery (Ilion) was held hitless in four at-bats and had his 22-game hitting streak, which he carried over from last spring, snapped just four games short of tying the Cortland school record.

Senior P.J. Hermance’s (East Rochester) pinch-hit RBI single drove in a run in the sixth inning for Cortland. Haggerty’s RBI groundout plated a run in the seventh.

Jason Jarrett earned the win for the Marlins, allowing five unearned runs and striking out 13 batters. Senior Kyle Johnson (Hornell) suffered the loss for Cortland, giving up five hits and seven runs, three earned, in three and two-third innings.

Cortland will play a doubleheader Saturday at Christopher Newport University, a 2002 NCAA Division III World Series participant, before heading to Ormond Beach, Fla., for an eight-game trip.

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Cortland: Kyle Johnson (L, 0-1), Mike Hubbs (4) and Matt Ellis
Va. Wesleyan: Jason Jarrett and Mike Supa

HR - John Kasiiski (VW)
3B - Brian Burkhart (VW)
2B - Josh Horner (C), Brandon Elliott (VW)