SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. St. Xavier Univ.
Tuesday, March 9, 2004; Ormond Beach Sports Complex; Ormond Beach, Fla.

FINAL SCORE: St. Xavier (IL) 17, Cortland 8

ORMOND BEACH, FLA. – St. Xavier, ranked 20th in the national NAIA pre-season poll, erased an early 4-0 Cortland lead with five runs in the bottom of the first and the Cougars (6-2) went on to defeat the Red Dragons, 17-8. Cortland, ranked eighth nationally in Division III, is now 1-6 on the season, including a 1-3 mark versus nationally-ranked teams.

Brendan Christy was 4-for-5 with a homer, triple and five RBI to lead St. Xavier. Ryan Howell went 3-for-6 with two RBI and A.J. Coia and Kevin White each drove in three runs. Cortland senior Ryan Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) suffered the loss as he was unable to retire any of the six batters he faced in the bottom of the first.

Sophomore Travis Robinson (Ilion) led a 12-hit Cortland attack by going 3-for-5 with four RBI. Senior Pat D'Auria (Upper Nyack/Nyack) was 2-for-5 with a homer and two RBI and senior Josh Horner (Groton) and junior Steve Newman (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) were each 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Cortland scored its four first-inning runs on a two-run single by Robinson and a two-run homer by D'Auria. St. Xavier answered with five in the first, capped by White's two-run double, and four in the third, key by Coia's two-run single.

The Red Dragons scored once in the fourth on Newman's RBI single and once in the sixth on a Robinson RBI single. Cortland's final runs came in the eight on a Horner RBI single and an RBI groundout by Robinson.

Howell's two-run double and Christy's two-run homer produced four runs for St. Xavier in the sixth. The Cougars finished the scoring with three runs in the bottom of the eighth. Pete Pignatiello earned the win despite allowing nine hits, three walks and six runs in seven innings.

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<td>Cortland (1-6)</td>
<td>123 456 789</td>
<td>400 101 020</td>
<td>8 12 3</td>
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<td>St. Xavier (6-2)</td>
<td>504 014 03x</td>
<td>17 15 2</td>
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Cortland: Ryan Ensel (L, 0-1), Lex Redding (1), Nick McPartland (3), Eric Wright (6), Brian Mitchell (6) and Kyle Bestine, Ray Chopay (8)
St. Xavier: Pete Pignatiello (W), Brian Ratleph (8) and Carlos Campos

HR - Pat D'Auria (C), Brendan Christy (S)
3B - Brendan Christy (S)
2B - Neal Heaton Jr. (C), Ryan Howell (S), Joe Williams (S), Kevin White (S)