SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Thomas More College (Ky.); SUNY Cortland vs. West Virginia Wesleyan Univ.

Monday, March 8, 2004; Ormond Beach Sports Complex; Ormond Beach, Fla.

FINAL SCORES: Cortland 8, Thomas More 2; West Virginia Wesleyan 8, Cortland 7

ORMOND BEACH, FLA. – Junior Nate Gagnon (Wilton/South Glens Falls) went 3-for-5 with a homer, double and four RBI as eighth-ranked Cortland defeated 14th-ranked Thomas More (Ky.), 8-2, in the first of two games on the day for the Red Dragons. In its second game, Cortland lost to Division II West Virginia Wesleyan, 8-7, on a one-out bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth. Gagnon was also 3-for-5 with a homer, double and two RBI in that contest and finished the day 6-for-10 with two homers and six RBI.

Junior Mike Burnett (Westfield) earned the win versus Thomas More, allowing only four hits and no walks in six and one-third innings. He struck out five batters and gave up one run. Sophomore Jason Chyr (Vernon/Vernon-Verona-Sherrill) pitched the final two and two-third innings, giving up one hit and one unearned run. He fanned four and walked one.

Cortland registered 14 hits in the contest. In addition to Gagnon's three hits, sophomore catcher Kyle Bestine (Westfield) went 3-for-3 with a double, sophomore designated hitter Travis Robinson (Ilion) was 2-for-3 with a triple, two RBI and three runs scored and sophomore outfielder Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) was 2-for-4.

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Cortland took a 1-0 lead in the first when sophomore outfielder Jimmy Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) singled, stole two bases and scored on a wild pitch. Robinson singled to lead off the second and eventually scored on a bases-loaded walk by junior shortstop Nick Wilson (Auburn). The lead grew to 3-0 in the third as senior third baseman Josh Young (Rochester/Brighton) singled, moved to second on a groundout, stole third and scored on a Robinson grounder to third.

Robinson's RBI triple in the fifth gave the Red Dragons a 4-1 lead. In the seventh, Mead doubled and Robinson drew a one-out walk. Two batters later, Gagnon hit a three-run homer to push the lead to 7-1. Robinson was hit by a pitch with one out in the ninth and eventually scored on a Gagnon double. Brad Thoma was 2-for-4 for Thomas More. Matt Kaiser suffered the loss, allowing 10 hits and five walks in five and one-third innings.

In the second game, the teams combined for 27 hits – 14 by Cortland and 13 by West Virginia Wesleyan. The Bobcats took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first on a solo homer by Matthew Surrency, but Gagnon answered with a solo shot of his own to lead off the top of the second. The game stayed tied at 1-1 until West Virginia Wesleyan scored three runs in both the sixth and seventh innings to take a 7-1 lead.

Mike Jackanich's RBI single and Steven Holdsworth's two-run homer plated the runs in the sixth, while Surrency's RBI single and Eric Schmook's two-run roundtripper scored the runs in the seventh.

Cortland, however, rallied to tie the game with five runs in the eighth and one in the ninth. Seniors Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) and Josh Horner (Groton) each had RBI singles in the eighth, then both scored on junior second baseman Steve Newman's (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) three-run homer. In the ninth, Robinson reached on a one-out error. Pinch-runner Basnight stole second, senior Pat D'Auria (Upper Nyack/Nyack) walked and a wild pitch moved the runners to second and third. Gagnon's double tied the game, with D'Auria holding at third. The Red Dragons ended up leaving the bases loaded in the inning.

West Virginia Wesleyan's winning rally started with a Rickey Bergen walk. An error on a sacrifice bunt put runners on first and second and a wild pitch moved the runners to second and third. An intentional walk loaded the bases before Schmook hit into a fielder's choice, forcing out Bergen at the plate. Matt Watermolen ended the game with an RBI single.

Junior Ken Hartling (Poughkeepsie/Arlington) started for Cortland and gave up seven hits and three runs in five and two-thirds innings. He recorded four strikeouts and three walks. Freshman Jason Hauck (Kirkville/East Syracuse-Minoa), Cortland's third pitcher of the game, allowed a hit and a walk in one and one-third innings. He struck out one. He suffered the loss after issuing the leadoff walk in the ninth that started the winning rally. Heaton finished 3-for-5 and Horner was 2-for-3.

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Cortland Baseball vs. Thomas More and West Virginia Wesleyan
March 8, 2004; Ormond Beach, Fla.

Cortland 8, Thomas More 2

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Cortland: Mike Burnett (W, 1-0), Jason Chyr (7) and Kyle Bestine, Ray Chopay (9)
Thomas More: Matt Kaiser (L, 1-1), Mike Gray (6), Chuck Houston (8) and Bobby Kinkade

HR - Nate Gagnon (C)
3B - Travis Robinson (C)
2B - Andy Mead (C), Nate Gagnon (C), Kyle Bestine (C), Nick Pieczonka (TM)

West Virginia Wesleyan 8, Cortland 7

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Cortland: Ken Hartling, Nick McPartland (6), Jason Hauck (7) (L, 0-1), Brian Mitchell (9) and Matt Ellis
West Va. Wesleyan: Art Yerecic, Dustin Schilpp (8), Eric Schmook (8) (W) and Steven Holdsworth

HR - Nate Gagnon (C), Steve Newman (C), Matthew Surrency (W), Eric Schmook (W), Steven Holdsworth (W)
3B - none
2B - Nate Gagnon (C)