SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Ithaca College
Wednesday, April 20, 2005; Freeman Field; Ithaca, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 2, Ithaca 2 (tie)

ITHACA, N.Y. – Cortland, ranked eighth nationally in Division III, played to a 2-2 tie at Ithaca College in a non-league matchup. The game was delayed by rain for 85 minutes in the middle of the fifth inning, resumed just before 7 p.m. and was called due to darkness with Cortland batting in the top of the sixth inning. All stats from the game count. The tie is the first for the Red Dragons since a 1993 deadlock versus Rensselaer in Florida. The Red Dragons are now 25-4-1, while Ithaca is 15-10-1.

Cortland took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Jimmy Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) walked and Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) hit into a fielder's choice to force out Basnight. Tacelli stole second, advanced to third on a passed ball and scored on Andy Mead’s (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) sacrifice fly to center.

The Red Dragons added a run in the second inning. Steve Newman (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) singled through the left side and was forced out at second on a Travis Robinson (Ilians) fielder's choice. Robinson stole second, moved to third on a groundout and scored on Erik Johnson's (Mount Kisco/Fox Lane) RBI double to right center.

Ithaca tied the game in the bottom of the second off Cortland starter Toby Youngs (Windsor). With one out, PJ Canestrari and Kyle Rutherford hit back-to-back singles. Rob Litz then hit a ground ball to third. Will Groff (Queensbury) fielded the ball and touched third base for the force out, but his throw to first was wild in an attempt to complete the double play. With runners on second and third, Eric Maya hit a Baltimore chop single that went over the shortstop's head and drove in both runs.

Cortland's best opportunity to break the tie came in the third inning. Tacelli and Mead each singled with one out, and a wild pitch moved them to second and third. Pat D'Auria (Upper Nyack/Nyack) walked to load the bases and Newman hit a grounder to short. Ithaca got the force at second, and an automatic double play was awarded when D'Auria was called for interference on his slide into second.

Ithaca rallied in the fourth when Canestrari walked and stole second and Rutherford walked. Jason Chyr (Vernon/V-V-S) relieved Youngs and recorded a flyout for the second out. After a double steal put runners on second and third, Chyr got Maya to line out to center to end the threat. Ithaca also mounted a small rally in the bottom of the fifth after the rain delay. Marty O’Boyle led off with a single and was sacrificed to second. Chyr struck out the next batter, issued an intentional walk to Rob Raux and recorded another strikeout to end the inning. The game was called with one out in the sixth after Mead lined out to start the frame.

Youngs pitched three and one-third innings, allowing two runs, one earned. He gave up four hits and three walks and struck out two. Chyr gave up one hit and one walk and fanned two in one and two-third innings. Ryan Mays started for Ithaca and permitted only four hits and two walks in five innings. Nick Sottung entered in the sixth and faced one batter.

Mead and Johnson each finished 1-for-2 with an RBI. Newman was also 1-for-2 and Tacelli went 1-for-3. Canestrari and Rutherford were each 1-for-1 with a walk and Maya was 1-for-2 with two RBI for the Bombers.

Cortland 2, Ithaca 2 (tie) (called in top of 6th)

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Cortland: Toby Youngs, Jason Chyr (4) and Erik Johnson (Red Dragons: 25-4-1, ranked 8th in Div. III)
Ithaca: Ryan Mays, Nick Sottung (6) and Rob Raux (Bombers: 15-10-1)

2B - Erik Johnson (C)