Cortland Baseball Earns Seventh Trip to Division III World Series; Red Dragons to Face College of Wooster (Ohio) in Opening Round Friday in Wisconsin

The SUNY Cortland baseball team earned its seventh trip to the NCAA Division III World Series and its first since 2001, defeating Ithaca College, 9-7, on Sunday afternoon in the championship round of the New York Regional at Falcon Park in Auburn. The Red Dragons (39-7-1) will face The College of Wooster (37-7) this Friday, May 27, at 7:45 p.m. (8:45 p.m. Eastern) in the opening round of the World Series at Fox Cities Stadium in Grand Chute, Wis. (near Appleton). The eight-team, double-elimination tournament runs until Tuesday, May 31.

Cortland made five consecutive World Series appearances from 1997-2001. The Red Dragons finished third in both 1997 and 1998 (3-2 records each year) and tied for fifth in 1999, 2000 and 2001 (1-2 record each time). Cortland also tied for seventh in its first World Series showing in 1995. The Red Dragons qualified for the NCAA tournament for the 13th consecutive year, the longest active streak in Division III.

Sixth-year head coach Joe Brown's squad, seeded first in the six-team New York Regional, opened tournament play with a 9-8 win in 10 innings versus Rhode Island College. The Red Dragons rallied to tie that game with four runs in the bottom of the ninth. Cortland defeated Centenary College (N.J.) the following day, 4-0, then rallied from a 6-2 deficit to defeat Ithaca, 9-8, to advance to the regional finals. In the title game, Cortland led 9-0 after six innings before holding off an Ithaca rally.

Five Red Dragons were named to the New York Regional All-Tournament Team. Sophomore first baseman Travis Robinson (Ilion) was named the regional's Most Outstanding Player. He went 3-for-5 with a homer, two doubles and three RBI in the title game and batted .389 with five RBI and played errorless ball for four games. Senior outfielder Pat D'Auria (Upper Nyack/Nyack) batted .500 (5-for-10) with three walks in the tournament. Junior third baseman Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic) batted .357 with four walks and seven RBI, including a 3-for-4 effort with three RBI in the title game. Sophomore pitcher Jon Rockfeld (Islip Terrace/East Islip) won the championship game, allowing five hits and one walk in six and one-third innings. He did not allow a run over the first six innings as Cortland built its lead. Junior outfielder Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) batted .308 with six RBI, walked three times and was hit by pitches three times. He hit a clutch three-run double in the championship game.

Cortland and Wooster have met twice previously. The Fighting Scots defeated the Red Dragons in the second-to-last game of the 1997 World Series in Salem, Va., and also beat Cortland in a 1994 regular-season tilt. Cortland has faced three of the other six World Series qualifiers. Rowan (N.J.) defeated Cortland in 2004 in the only meeting between the schools. Trinity (Conn.) and Cortland played three times in the 2003 NCAA regional in Troy, N.Y., with the Bantams winning two of those meetings, including the title game to advance to the World Series. Chapman (Calif.) defeated Cortland to eliminate the Red Dragons from the 2000 World Series in Wisconsin. Cortland has never faced Wisconsin-Whitewater, Hampden-Sydney (Va.) or Wartburg (Iowa).

Full tournament information, including live in-game stats, is available online at:
http://www.titans.uwosh.edu/NCAAChampionship/2005

(tournament pairings and team Series history on next page)
NCAA Division III Baseball World Series  
May 27-31, 2005; Fox Cities Stadium; Grand Chute, Wis.

FRIDAY, MAY 27 (All times Central)  
Game 1  10 a.m.  Univ. of Wisconsin-Whitewater (41-7) vs. Trinity College (Conn.) (35-7)  
Game 2  1:15 p.m.  Chapman Univ. (Calif.) (36-9) vs. Wartburg College (Iowa) (35-9)  
Game 3  4:30 p.m.  Hampden-Sydney College (Va.) (27-13) vs. Rowan Univ. (N.J.) (41-8)  
Game 4  7:45 p.m.  SUNY Cortland (39-7-1) vs. The College of Wooster (Ohio) (37-7)  

SATURDAY, MAY 28  
Game 5  10 a.m.  Loser of Game 1 vs. Loser of Game 2  
Game 6  1:15 p.m.  Loser of Game 3 vs. Loser of Game 4  
Game 7  4:30 p.m.  Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2  
Game 8  7:45 p.m.  Winner of Game 3 vs. Winner of Game 4  

SUNDAY, MAY 29  
Game 9  Noon  Winner of Game 6 vs. Loser of Game 7  
Game 10  3:30 p.m.  Winner of Game 5 vs. Loser of Game 8  
Game 11  7 p.m.  Winner of Game 7 vs. Winner of Game 8  

MONDAY, MAY 30  
Game 12  Noon  Winner of Game 9 vs. Winner of Game 10  
Game 13  3:30 p.m.  Winner of Game 12 vs. Loser of Game 11  

TUESDAY, MAY 31  
Game 14  1 p.m.  Winner of Game 11 vs. Winner of Game 13  
Game 15  4:30 p.m.  (If necessary) Winner of Game 14 vs. Loser of Game 14  

TEAM |
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Chapman |
PREVIOUS WORLD SERIES |
SERIES W-L |
7-7 |
NCAA TITLES |
2003 |
BEST FINISH |
1st (2003) |

Cortland |
(6) 1995, 1997-2001 |
9-12 |
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Hampden-Sydney |
(First appearance in 2005) |
Rowan |
8-7 |
1978, 1979 |
1st (1978, 1979) |

Trinity (CT) |
(1) 2003 |
0-2 |
---- |
Tied 7th (2003) |

Wartburg |
(1) 2000 |
1-2 |
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Tied 5th (2000) |

Wis.-Whitewater |
(2) 1989, 2004 |
2-4 |
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4th (2004) |

Wooster |
(3) 1989, 1994, 1997 |
4-6 |
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2nd (1997) |