SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Christopher Newport University
Saturday, February 18, 2006; Captains Park; Newport News, Va.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 5, Christopher Newport 1

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. – Juniors Justin Mattes (Queensbury) and Jimmy Dougher (Liverpool) combined on a no-hitter and junior Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) hit a three-run homer as Cortland, ranked second nationally in Division III, opened the season with a 5-1 victory at Christopher Newport University. The game was called with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning due to snow, and Cortland’s game with Rowan University, which was scheduled for Saturday afternoon, was canceled.

The no-hitter is the first for Cortland since Mike Dempsey tossed one at New Paltz in the 1998 season. It is also the first combined no-hitter in the Cortland record books and the first no-hitter where the opponent scored since 1986.

Mattes started the game and pitched the first three innings. He struck out two, walked five and allowed one run. Dougher entered in the bottom of the fourth and recorded four strikeouts and a walk to earn the victory.

Cortland took a 1-0 lead in the second inning. Sophomore Mike Zaccardo (Irondequoit) and senior Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) led off with back-to-back singles and Ensel was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Junior Mike Rosenberry (Clarence) followed with a sacrifice fly to right to score Zaccardo. The Red Dragons re-loaded the bases with a two-out walk, but a strikeout ended the inning.

In the third, junior Travis Robinson (Ilion) singled and senior Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) doubled to advance Robinson to third. Zaccardo hit a grounder to the pitcher and Robinson was put out in rundown between third and home. Mead went to third and Zaccardo advanced to second on the play. Tacelli then singled to drive in Mead, and Ensel hit a three-run homer to extend the lead to 5-0.

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The Captains scored their run in the bottom of the third. Garrett Robinson walked, stole second and moved to third on a ground out by Rob Quinn. John Corbin grounded out to short to drive in Robinson. Christopher Newport also had a runner advance to third base in the first inning when Robinson walked and advanced on a passed ball and a ground out, but Mattes induced a pop-up to end the threat.

Travis Robinson and Tacelli each finished 2-for-3 as part of Cortland’s seven-hit attack. Senior Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) went 0-for-2 with a walk to end his 17-game hit streak, which carried over from last season.

Cortland will play this upcoming Saturday and Sunday at Virginia Wesleyan College. The teams were originally scheduled to play once each day, but may add another game on Saturday to make up for Cortland’s cancellation with Rowan.

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Cortland: Justin Mattes, Jimmy Dougher (4) (W, 1-0) and Shawn Ensel (Red Dragons: 1-0, ranked 2nd in Div. III)
CNU: Kenny Moreland (L, 0-1), Cary Bruner (4) and Michael Kurbjeweit (Captains: 1-1)

HR – Shawn Ensel (C)
2B – Andrew Mead (C)