SUNY Cortland Sports Information

Fran Elia, Director
Dan Surdam, Associate Director
(607) 753-5673 ♦ FAX: (607) 753-5789 ♦ Results Hotline: (607) 753-2521
E-mail: eliaf@cortland.edu or surdamd@cortland.edu ♦ www.cortland.edu/athletics

SUNY Cortland Baseball

Cortland vs. Eastern Connecticut State
NCAA Division III Regional – Championship Game
Sunday, May 21, 2006; Falcon Park; Auburn, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Eastern Connecticut St. 10, Cortland 7

AUBURN, N.Y. – Tournament Most Valuable Player Shawn Gilblair hit a grand slam in a five-run second inning and also struck out eight batters in three and two-thirds innings of relief for his eighth win of the season as Eastern Connecticut State defeated SUNY Cortland, 10-7, in the championship game of the NCAA Division III baseball regional at Falcon Park. The nationally 24th-ranked and fourth-seeded Warriors (35-18) advance to the Division III World Series next weekend in Wisconsin. Cortland, ranked third nationally and the top seed at the regional, finishes the season with a 39-9 record, with third-highest win total in school history. The Red Dragons were denied their second straight Series trip and eighth overall.

Gilblair finished 2-for-5 with four RBI, while Zach Mehrbach and Matt Cooney were each 3-for-5 as part of a 13-hit attack. Jimmy Jagodzinski started for the Warriors but was replaced in the fourth inning. Gilblair, the second of three relievers, allowed three hits and two runs before giving way to Justin Davis in the eighth. Davis induced a groundout with the bases loaded and two outs to end the eighth, then retired the side in order in the ninth to notch his third save of the season.

Senior Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) and junior Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) represented Cortland on the regional all-tournament team. Mead was 3-for-4 with a double and two RBI. He batted .471 (8-of-17) with three doubles, a triple, two walks and four RBI in four tournament games and finishes as Cortland’s career leader with 235 hits. Ensel was 2-for-3 with two RBI in the title game and hit .467 (7-of-15) with four doubles and five RBI at the regional.

Eastern, which defeated Cortland 9-5 on Saturday to force Sunday’s final game, jumped out to a 9-2 lead after three and a half innings. Marc Garofalo doubled in a run and eventually scored on a wild pitch in a two-run first inning. Cortland got a run back in the first on back-to-back two-out doubles by Mead and junior Dan Maycock (Utica/T.R. Proctor). In the second, the Warriors scored on a Randy Re RBI single and later loaded the bases against Cortland starter Jimmy Dougher (Liverpool). Gilblair then hit a 1-2 pitch from senior reliever Nick McPartland (Beacon) over the wall in right to give Eastern a 7-2 lead. Dougher suffered the loss for the Red Dragons – his first in 10 decisions this spring.

Cortland put a run on the board in the third on sophomore Joey Russo’s (Inwood/Lawrence) sacrifice fly. Eastern scored twice in the fourth on Zack Thomas’ two-out, two-run double to left center, but Cortland responded with an Ensel two-run single in the bottom of the inning to pull within 9-4. Eastern’s final run came in the fifth when Tristan Hobbes doubled with one out and scored on Greg Sullivan’s double to center.

Russo singled for Cortland to lead off the fifth, went to second on a Mead single and scored on a fielding error on a ball hit to second by senior Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic). In the sixth, junior Mike Rosenberry (Clarence) singled and moved to third on a one-out double by senior Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic). With two outs, Mead singled through the left side to score two runs and cut the Eastern lead to 10-7. Rosenberry and Basnight each finished the game 2-for-4.

Neither team, however, scored over the final three innings. Red Dragon juniors Jon Rockfeld (Islip Terrace/East Islip) and Justin Mattes (Queensbury) turned in solid relief efforts. Rockfeld started the sixth and allowed one hit and no runs in one and two-thirds innings. Mattes pitched out of a jam in the seventh and finished with only one hit allowed in two and one-third innings. He struck out three and walked two.

Cortland played without the services of junior second baseman Will Groff (Queensbury), the SUNYAC Player of the Year, who suffered an injury in Saturday’s contest. Groff finishes the season with a .464 batting average and will bring a streak of 44 consecutive games reaching base via hit, walk or hit by pitch into next season.
Eastern Conn. St. 10, Cortland 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Conn. St.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. Conn. St.: Jimmy Jagodzinski, Sam Iverson (4), Shawn Gilblair (5) (W, 8-1), Justin Davis (8) (Save, 3) and Matt Cooney (Warriors: 35-18, ranked 24th in Div. III)
Cortland: Jimmy Dougher (L, 8-1), Nick McPartland (2), Jason Chyr (5), Jon Rockfeld (6), Justin Mattes (7) and Shawn Ensel (Red Dragons: 39-9, ranked 3rd in Div. III)

HR – Shawn Gilblair (EC)
2B – Greg Sullivan (EC), Marc Garofalo (EC), Zack Thomas (EC), Matt Cooney (EC), Tristan Hobbes (EC), Jim Basnight (C), Andrew Mead (C), Dan Maycock (C)