SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. St. Joseph’s College (N.Y.)
Friday, March 24, 2006; Alfano Field; Patchogue, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 8, St. Joseph’s 2

PATCHOGUE, N.Y. – Sophomore Mike Zaccardo’s (Irondequoit) RBI groundout broke a 2-2 tie in the top of the eighth and Cortland added five runs in the ninth to put the game away as the nationally second-ranked Red Dragons defeated St. Joseph’s College of Long Island, 8-2, in a non-league matchup.

Junior Will Groff (Queensbury) went 4-for-4 with two walks, two RBI and two stolen bases for Cortland, which improved to 10-3 with the victory. Junior Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenedehowa) was 2-for-3 and senior Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) finished 2-4-2 with two steals.

Freshman George Jweid (New Hartford) earned the victory with three scoreless innings of relief. He entered the game in the sixth inning and allowed just one hit and one walk while striking out three. Junior Mike Zgorzelski (Troy/Shaker) started and allowed seven hits, one walk and two runs in five innings. He fanned five batters. Sophomore Ryan Hooper (Red Hook) pitched a hitless ninth with one strikeout.

Steve Pileggi and Steve Wiener were each 2-for-4 for the Golden Eagles (3-8). Mike Sciame started and allowed one unearned run over four and one-third innings. Fred Morales suffered the loss in relief, permitting four runs, two earned, in three and two-third innings.

The hosts took a 1-0 lead in the first when Pileggi singled with two outs, moved to both second and third on wild pitches and scored on Joseph Armenio’s RBI single to right center. Cortland tied the game in the third when Groff reached on a two-out bunt single, with an error advancing him to second. He stole third and scored when Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) reached on an error.

St. Joseph’s regained the lead in the fifth. Joe Dellauniversita and Pileggi each singled to lead off the inning. Armenio’s sacrifice bunt moved the runners to second and third and Alex Regruto’s groundout scored a run.

In the top of the seventh, Ensel singled and pinch-runner Ryan Benson (Selden/Centereach) stole second. Groff singled to move Benson to third. Groff then stole second, and Benson scored on an error on the play. In the eighth, senior Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) led off with a single and stole second with one out. A walk and a hit batter loaded the bases to set up Zaccardo’s run-scoring groundout. Cortland’s five-run ninth was highlighted by senior Ricky Piovesan’s (East Norwich/St. Dominic) RBI single, sophomore Matt Vitalone’s (Rome/Rome Free Academy) sacrifice fly and Groff’s two-run single.

Cortland 8, St. Joseph’s 2

123 456 789 R H E
Cortland 001 000 115 8 10 1
St. Joseph’s 100 010 000 2 8 4

Cortland: Mike Zgorzelski, George Jweid (6) (W, 2-0), Ryan Hooper (9) and Shawn Ensel, Mike Zaccardo (7) (Red Dragons: 10-3, ranked 2nd in Div. III)
St. Joseph’s: Mike Sciame, Fred Morales (5) (L), Gregory Walter (9), John Schwenzer (9) and Tyler Ruthizer (Golden Eagles: 3-8)

2B – Rich Rivera (SJ), Steve Wiener (SJ)