SUNY Cortland Baseball

SUNY Cortland vs. Virginia Wesleyan College (Doubleheader)
Saturday, February 25, 2006; Marlins Field; Virginia Beach, Va.

GAME 1: Cortland 11, Virginia Wesleyan 5
GAME 2: Cortland 2, Virginia Wesleyan 1 (8 inn.)

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. – Cortland, ranked second nationally in Division III, improved to 3-0 on the season with a doubleheader sweep at Virginia Wesleyan College. The Red Dragons won the nine-inning opener, 11-5, and posted a 2-1 eight-inning victory in the seven-inning nightcap.

Senior Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) led Cortland in the first game, finishing 3-for-4 with a grand slam, double, five RBI and three runs scored. Sophomore Joey Russo (Inwood/Lawrence) and senior Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) were each 2-for-4 and sophomore Mike Zaccardo (Irondequoit) and junior Mike Rosenberry (Clarence) were each 2-for-5 as part of a 15-hit attack.

Junior Jimmy Dougher (Liverpool) earned his second win of the season as the first of four pre-determined Cortland pitchers. He allowed four hits and two walks, struck out four and gave up three runs, two earned. Freshman George Jweid (New Hartford) pitched two and two-third hitless innings with two strikeouts. He walked two and allowed an unearned run.

Cortland rallied for four runs with two outs and no one on in the second. Senior Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic) and Russo drew back-to-back walks, Rosenberry singled to load the bases and Basnight followed with his first homer of the season.

The host Marlins scored two in the bottom of the second on Phil Cadle’s two-run single and another in the fourth on a wild pitch. Cortland answered with a run in the fifth on Zaccardo’s two-out RBI single and added two in the sixth on RBI singles by Russo and Rosenberry.

Leading 7-4, Cortland added three insurance runs in the eighth on a Basnight RBI double and a two-run single by junior Travis Robinson (Iliion). Piovesan’s sacrifice fly finished the scoring in the ninth.

In the nightcap, senior Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) went 3-for-4 and drove in both of Cortland’s runs. His RBI single gave the Red Dragons a 1-0 lead in the first, and his run-scoring double plated the winning run in the eighth. Virginia Wesleyan tied the game in the bottom of the first on a Dan Sellers RBI single, but managed only three more hits the rest of the way.

Cortland’s winning rally started when Basnight singled to lead off the top of the eighth. He stole second, moved to third on a groundout and scored on Mead’s double.

Sophomore Chris Bilyk (Ithaca) started for the Red Dragons and allowed three hits, a walk and a run in four and one-third innings. He fanned seven batters. Bilyk allowed a one-out triple in the second, but struck out the next two hitters to escape the jam. Junior Justin Mattes (Queensbury) gave up only one hit and two walks and struck out two over the final two and two-third innings for the victory. The only hit against him was a bunt single with two outs in the fifth.

The teams will finish their three-game weekend series Sunday at 10 a.m.

(linescores on next page)
GAME 1: Cortland 11, Virginia Wesleyan 5

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Cortland: Jimmy Dougher (W, 2-0), George Jweid (4), Nick McPartland (6), Nick Baker (8) and Mike Zaccardo
VWC: Brandon Hendrix (L, 0-1), Zach Baker (6), Jesse Freeman (8), Brett Horowitz (9) and Matt Hudgins

HR – Jim Basnight (C)
2B – Jim Basnight (C), Ricky Piovesan (C), Joey Russo (C)

GAME 2: Cortland 2, Virginia Wesleyan 1   (8 inn.)

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Cortland: Chris Bilyk, Justin Mattes (5) (W, 1-0) and Shawn Ensel (Red Dragons: 3-0, ranked 2nd in Div. III)
VWC: Wayne Renfrow (L, 0-2), Erik Nguyen (8) and Matt Hudgins (Marlins: 0-5)

3B – Greg D’Alessandro (VW)
2B – Andrew Mead (C), Travis Robinson (C), Shawn Ensel (C)