SUNY Cortland Baseball
SUNY Cortland vs. Virginia Wesleyan College
Sunday, February 26, 2006; Marlins Field; Virginia Beach, Va.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 17, Virginia Wesleyan 8

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. – Cortland exploded for 19 hits, including three each by juniors Mike Rosenberry (Clarence) and Travis Robinson (Ilian), and defeated host Virginia Wesleyan, 17-8, to complete a three-game weekend sweep of the Marlins. The Red Dragons, ranked second nationally in Division III, improved to 4-0 on the season.

Sophomore Ryan Hooper (Red Hook), the first of five pre-determined Cortland pitchers, earned the victory. He allowed five hits and four runs, three earned, in four innings. he struck out two and walked one. Sophomore T.J. O’Leary (Queens/Archbishop Molloy) pitched two hitless innings of relief, striking out three and walking two.

Rosenberry finished 3-for-6, including his first homer as a Red Dragon, and drove in three runs. Robinson was 3-for-4 with an RBI, senior Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) went 2-for-3 with a triple and three RBI and senior Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) and sophomore Mike Zaccardo (Irondequoit) each drove in two runs. Senior Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic) finished with two doubles and an RBI.

Brent Vuyovich was 2-for-4 with a homer, double and four RBI for Virginia Wesleyan (0-6).

Mead’s RBI triple staked Cortland to an early 1-0 lead in the first. Rosenberry led off the third with a homer to spark a four-run frame. Mead singled home two runs in the inning and the final run scored on Zaccardo’s bases-loaded walk.

The hosts scored two runs in both the third and fourth innings to pull within 5-4. Rosenberry singled in a run with two outs in the fifth, and the lead grew to 10-4 with four runs in the sixth. Senior Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) hit an RBI triple and scored on a Robinson single. Piovesan’s sacrifice fly and Zaccardo’s RBI single accounted for the other runs.

The Red Dragons put the game away with five runs in the eighth. Junior Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) led off with a single and eventually scored on a wild pitch. Rosenberry singled in a run, followed by Basnight’s two-run single. Freshman John Zlinicki (Riverhead) added an RBI single to score Basnight. Cortland’s final two runs came in the ninth on a Joey Russo (Inwood/Lawrence) sacrifice fly and a Matt Vitalone (Rome/Rome Free Academy) RBI single.

Cortland will return to action with eight games in eight days between March 11-18 in Port Charlotte, Fla., starting with Ohio Wesleyan.

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Cortland: Ryan Hooper (W, 1-0), T.J. O’Leary (5), Mike Zgorzelski (7), Brandon Olbrys (8), Nick Serio (9) and Shawn Ensel (Red Dragons: 4-0, ranked 2nd in Div. III)
VWC: Regis Diethorn (L), Mike Lenox (3), Erik Nguyen (6), Josh Grimes (8), Brett Horowitz (8), Ricky Allred (9) and Matt Hudgins, C.J. Rhodes (9)

HR – Mike Rosenberry (C), Brent Vuyovich (VW)
3B – Zach Tacelli (C), Andrew Mead (C)
2B – Ricky Piovesan (C) 2, Mike Cardwell (VW), Brent Vuyovich (VW), Keith Petters (VW)