FINAL SCORE: Cortland 12, Western New England 1

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. – Sophomore Ryan Hooper (Red Hook) allowed five hits and struck out nine in seven innings as nationally second-ranked Cortland (8-3) defeated Western New England College of Massachusetts, 12-1, in a non-league matchup.

Hooper allowed only one run and two walks to earn his third victory of the season. Junior Brandon Olbrys (Windsor) pitched a scoreless and hitless eighth and junior Jason Hauck (Kirkville/East Syracuse-Minoa) allowed one hit and struck out two in the ninth.

Senior Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic) and senior Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic) were each 3-for-5 with an RBI as part of Cortland’s 16-hit attack. Junior Will Groff (Queensbury) was 2-for-5 with an RBI and his 10th stolen base of the season and sophomore Matt Vitalone (Rome/Rome Free Academy) drove in three runs.

Jason Connelly and Travis Schwamb were each 2-for-3 for the Golden Bears (4-3). Chris Anderson allowed seven runs, three earned, and struck out eight in six and two-third innings.

Cortland scored once in the first on Basnight’s RBI single and added three runs in the third on Vitalone’s two-out, three-run double. Groff singled in a run in the fourth to extend the lead to 5-0. Western New England scored its run in the sixth when Connelly led off with a triple and scored on a one-out groundout.

The Red Dragons plated two runs in the seventh on back-to-back RBI doubles by sophomore John Giametta Jr. (Marlboro) and junior Mike Rosenberry (Clarence). A Piovesan RBI double and two errors accounted for three more runs in the eighth and two RBI groundouts finished the scoring in the ninth.

Cortland 12, Western New England 1

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Cortland: Ryan Hooper (W, 3-0), Brandon Olbrys (8), Jason Hauck (9) and Erik Johnson, Mike Zaccardo (7) (Red Dragons: 8-3, ranked 2nd in Div. III)
Western New England: Chris Anderson (L), Kelly McBride (7), Kevin Carroccia (8), Bryan Calzone (9) and Steve Hanjack, Steve Tolles (9) (Golden Bears: 4-3)

3B – Jason Connelly (WNEC)
2B – Ricky Piovesan (C), Matt Vitalone (C), John Giametta Jr. (C), Mike Rosenberry (C)