SUNY Cortland Earns 18th Trip to NCAA Division III Field Hockey Tournament; Defending Champion Red Dragons to Face Lynchburg (Va.) Nov. 16 at Salisbury (Md.)

The SUNY Cortland field hockey team has received a berth into the 18-team NCAA Division III playoffs and will face Lynchburg College (Va.) in a Round-of-16 game on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Salisbury University of Maryland. The game time will be announced on Monday. Cortland is ranked fifth and Lynchburg eighth in the latest Division III national coaches poll.

Fifth-year head coach Cynthia Wetmore’s Red Dragons are the defending NCAA Division III champions and enter the game with a 14-3 record. Lynchburg (17-3) was the regular-season champion in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) but lost to Roanoke in the ODAC tournament finals. The Hornets, however, received a “Pool C” at-large berth into the NCAA tournament.

Cortland and Lynchburg have met twice previously, with the Red Dragons winning 2-1 in 1983 on a neutral field at Franklin & Marshall and 4-1 at Lynchburg’s North-South Invitational in 1988.

Saturday’s other game features host Salisbury (15-2) and New England College (16-2). Saturday’s winners will meet on Sunday, with the winner advancing to the “Final Four” on Nov. 23-24 at Springfield College’s Benedum Field.

Cortland is making its 18th NCAA Division III playoff appearance and 11th in the last 12 years. The Red Dragons won national titles in 2001, 1994 and 1993 and finished second in 1997. They tied for third in 1999, placed third in both 1989 and 1996 and were fourth in 1988. Last season, Cortland defeated Plymouth State (4-2), Rowan (3-0), Skidmore (4-1) and Messiah (1-0) to win the national title.

Senior forward Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South) is the Division III national leader, through games of Nov. 4, with 25 goals and a school single-season record 62 total points. She is currently first in career assists at Cortland with 37 and second in career goals (62) and total points (161). Sophomore Ashley Ostrander (Whitney Point) is second on the team with 32 points, including 14 assists that are third-best in the country.

Other top offensive threats for the Red Dragons have been senior Jen Angelillo (Westbury/Carle Place) with 13 goals and three assists and senior Stacey Russell (Rome/Rome Free Academy) with 10 goals and five assists. Cortland has scored 80 goals in 17 games, one goal shy of tying the school single-season record set in 1992. Senior goalkeeper Erin Morris (East Amherst/Williamsville North) has a 1.00 goals against average in 17 starts. She has two solo shutouts and has shared in three others.

(tournament pairings on next page)
2002 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Tournament

FIRST ROUND -- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Notre Dame (Md.) (11-9) at McDaniel (Md.) (18-3)
Eastern (Pa.) (15-4) at Wellesley (Mass.) (16-3)

SECOND ROUND -- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

(at Rowan University; Glassboro, N.J.)
Notre Dame/McDaniel winner at Rowan (N.J.) (17-0)
Mary Washington (Va.) (14-4) vs. Roanoke (Va.) (14-5)

(at Salisbury University; Salisbury, Md.)
New England College (N.H.) (16-2) at Salisbury (Md.) (15-2)
Cortland (14-3) vs. Lynchburg (17-3)

(at Skidmore College; Saratoga Springs, N.Y.)
Wellesley/Eastern winner at Skidmore (17-2)
Susquehanna (Pa.) (17-3) vs. College of New Jersey (11-2)

** (at Messiah College; Grantham, Pa.)
Plymouth St. (N.H.) (17-1) at Messiah (Pa.) (15-3)
Williams (Mass.) (14-3) vs. Wittenberg (Ohio) (17-3)

QUARTERFINALS -- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Rowan/Notre Dame-McDaniel winner vs. Mary Washington/Roanoke winner
New England College/Salisbury winner vs. Cortland/Lynchburg winner
Skidmore/Wellesley-Eastern winner vs. Susquehanna/College of N.J. winner
** Plymouth St./Messiah winner vs. Williams/Wittenberg winner

SEMIFINALS -- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
CHAMPIONSHIP GAME -- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

At Benedum Field; Springfield College; Springfield, Mass.
(championship game will be Nov. 25 if Messiah is involved)

** Regional at Messiah will be held Friday-Saturday, November 15-16