NCAA Division III Field Hockey Tournament – Semifinals

SUNY Cortland vs. Middlebury College
Friday, November 21, 2003; Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pa.

FINAL SCORE: Middlebury 2, Cortland 1

ANNVILLE, PA. – Senior forward Abigail Lamb (Mendham, NJ) scored with 23 minutes, 3 seconds remaining to give nationally top-ranked Middlebury College a 2-1 victory over sixth-ranked SUNY Cortland in the NCAA Division III Field Hockey semifinals at Lebanon Valley College. The Panthers (19-0) will play in the national title game Saturday at 1 p.m. versus Salisbury University, a 1-0 winner over The College of New Jersey. Cortland (16-3) was making its ninth Division III “Final Four” appearance. The Red Dragons have won three national titles, were runnerup once and have now placed third or tied for third four times.

“I’m really proud of this team for what they did this year,” said Cortland sixth-year head coach Cynthia Wetmore. “They accomplished a lot. They have a lot to look forward to next year since we lose only three seniors.”

Lamb scored her winning goal on a 15-yard shot from just right of the top of the circle off a penalty corner. Ashley Pullen (Oakland, ME) sent the initial pass to Lamb, who scored her 15th goal of the season. The Panthers took a 1-0 lead 6:18 into the game on senior Char Glessner’s (Ipswich, MA) 19th goal of the year. Glessner’s shot from the top of the circle was assisted by sophomore Channing Weymouth (Plymouth, NH).

Cortland was outshot 6-2 in the first half, but raced out early in the second half and scored the equalizer 1:43 into the period. Freshman forward Kelli Johnson (Elma/Iroquois) scored the goal, her NCAA Division III tournament record-tying seventh in three playoff games. The record was originally set in 1990 by Bloomsburg’s Denise Miller, who scored seven goals in four games. Senior Jessica Ueltschi (Holland Patent) blasted a shot that was saved by Middlebury freshman goalie Meghan McGillen (Harwick, MA). Johnson collected the rebound to the right of the cage and scored the tying goal. Johnson’s team-high 22 goals this fall are the fifth-highest single-season total in school history.

Cortland sophomore goalie Jessica Anderson (East Islip) made eight saves, while McGillen finished with four saves. Middlebury outshot Cortland 14-6 and took 12 penalty corners to 10 for the Red Dragons.

“I thought we played better in the second half,” Wetmore said. “We came out with more intensity and made some adjustments that helped us in transition. I thought Kelli’s goal would propel us, but we didn't finish well the rest of the second half.”

The Red Dragons’ best scoring opportunity after Lamb’s goal came with 11:22 remaining. After a restart just to the right of the circle, Ueltschi sent a crossing pass in front of the goal. Johnson was in position near the cage but was unable to connect with the ball. Cortland earned a penalty corner with 3:15 left, but Ueltschi’s pass from the top of the circle went untouched as it sailed right of the cage. The Red Dragons were unable to get the ball back into the circle the rest of the game.

“Our goal in the pre-season was to make it to the Final Four, but deep down we were thinking about winning a national championship,” said Cortland senior captain Alana LaMorte (Miller Place). “We had 10 seniors graduate last year. No one thought we’d be here. I’ve never been part of a team that's been so together.”

LaMorte reflected upon her four-year Red Dragon career, which also featured an NCAA title in 2001, quarterfinal showings in both 2000 and 2002 and an overall record of 63-14. “My four years at Cortland were outstanding. There are 151 Division III teams, and we're always one of the nation’s elite. Our motto is that you don’t come to Cortland to be an all-star, you come to win a national title. I wouldn't change anything about these last four years.”

NOTE: Johnson and Ueltschi were named to the NCAA Division III All-Tournament Team after the tournament concluded. Salisbury defeated Middlebury, 4-1, in the title game.
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Middlebury 2, Cortland 1

Scoring Summary (Goals-Assists):
  - **Cortland**: Kelli Johnson 1-0
  - **Middlebury**: Abigail Lamb 1-0, Char Glessner 1-0, Ashley Pullen 0-1, Channing Weymouth 0-1

**Halftime**: Middlebury 1, Cortland 0

**Shots**: Middlebury 14, Cortland 6

**Penalty Corners**: Middlebury 12, Cortland 10

**Saves**: Jessica Anderson (Cortland) 8 (2 GA in 70:00); Meghan McGillen (Middlebury) 4 (1 GA in 70:00)

**Record after game**: Cortland (Red Dragons) 16-3, Middlebury (Panthers) 19-0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Half</th>
<th>Time Left</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Assist(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIDD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28:42</td>
<td>Char Glessner</td>
<td>Channing Weymouth</td>
<td>Shot from top of circle</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORT</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33:17</td>
<td>Kelli Johnson</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Off rebound after shot by Jessica Ueltschi was saved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23:03</td>
<td>Abigail Lamb</td>
<td>Ashley Pullen</td>
<td>15-yd blast off penalty corner</td>
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