SUNY Cortland Earns 19th NCAA Division III Field Hockey Tournament Berth; Red Dragons to Host Four-Team Regional Nov. 15-16

The SUNY Cortland field hockey team has received a berth into the 18-team NCAA Division III playoffs and will host a four-team regional on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 15-16. Sixth-year head coach Cynthia Wetmore’s Red Dragons, national quarterfinalists last year and national champions in 2001, will play Wittenberg University of Ohio (13-6) in a Round-of-16 game on Saturday at 11 a.m.

The other regional contest will feature Virginia Wesleyan College (18-1) and Williams College of Massachusetts (13-4) at 2 p.m. The winners will meet on Sunday at 1 p.m., with that winner advancing to the “final four” on Nov. 22-23 at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa. Regional ticket prices each day are $5 for adults and $3 for all students. No passes will be accepted.

Cortland is 14-2 overall and won its fourth straight State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) title with a 5-0 record. The Red Dragons received one of six “Pool B” independent bids into the NCAA tournament since the SUNYAC does not have enough teams to qualify for an automatic berth. Wittenberg is the champion of the North Coast Athletic Conference. Virginia Wesleyan and Williams received the two “Pool C” tournament berths that go to teams that do not win their league’s automatic bid. Virginia Wesleyan suffered its first loss of the season to Eastern Mennonite University, 2-1, in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference finals. Williams lost 1-0 to unbeaten Middlebury in the championship game of the New England Small College Athletic Conference tournament.


The Red Dragons feature a balanced offensive attack with five players boasting seven or more goals this fall. Freshman forward Kelli Johnson (Elma/Iroquois), the SUNYAC First Year Player of the Year, has set a school single-season record for goals by a freshman with 15 and leads the team with 33 total points (15 goals, three assists). Junior forward Ashley Ostrander (Whitney Point), the SUNYAC Player of the Year, was the previous freshman goal-scoring record holder with 13 two years ago. This season she has 11 goals and 10 assists for 32 points and she became the sixth player in school history to score 100 career points (34 goals, 32 assists).

Senior midfielder Jessica Ueltschi (Holland Patent) has seven goals and a team-high 12 assists for 26 points. Senior forward Alana LaMorte (Miller Place) and freshman forward Molly Brown (Liverpool) each have eight goals and one assist for 17 points.

Junior sweeper Becky Osier (Morrisville/Morrisville-Eaton), junior back Renee Schwertfeger (Holland Patent), sophomore back Jessica Seren (Gloversville), freshman back Sarah Child (Mt. Vision/Cooperstown) and junior midfielder Judy Slopnick (Mohawk) are among a group that has helped the Red Dragon defense allow just 15 goals in 16 games. Sophomore Jessica Anderson (East Islip), in her first season as Cortland’s starting goalie, has a 12-1 record, a 0.84 goals against average, a 81.8 save percentage and three solo shutouts in 14 games. She has also shared in four other shutouts.

(tournament pairings on next page)
2003 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Tournament

**FIRST ROUND – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

New England College (N.H.) (12-6) at Montclair St. Univ. (N.J.) (14-4)
Wesley College (Del.) (16-3) at Johns Hopkins Univ. (Md.) (11-8)

**SECOND ROUND – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

**QUARTERFINALS – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

*(at SUNY Cortland, Cortland, N.Y.)*
Wittenberg Univ. (Ohio) (13-6) at SUNY Cortland (14-2)
Virginia Wesleyan (18-1) vs. Williams College (Mass.) (13-4)
winners play in quarterfinals Sunday

*(at Middlebury College; Middlebury, Vt.)*
NEC/Montclair winner at Middlebury College (Vt.) (16-0)
Univ. of Southern Maine (17-5) vs. Rowan Univ. (N.J.) (13-3)
winners play in quarterfinals Sunday

*(at The College of New Jersey; Ewing, N.J.)*
Johns Hopkins/Wesley winner at The College of New Jersey (15-2)
Skidmore College (N.Y.) (16-3) vs. Mary Washington College (Va.) (16-3)
winners play in quarterfinals Sunday

***(at Salisbury Univ.; Salisbury, Md.)*
Mount Holyoke College (Mass.) (16-5) at Salisbury Univ. (Md.) (16-1)
Messiah College (Pa.) (15-3) vs. Eastern Mennonite Univ. (Va.) (16-3)
winners play in quarterfinals Saturday

**regional to be held on Friday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15**

**SEMIFINALS -- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

**CHAMPIONSHIP GAME – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24**

At Lebanon Valley College; Annville, Pa.
Cortland regional winner vs. Middlebury regional winner
Salisbury regional winner vs. College of N.J. regional winner

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