BUFFALO, NY— Cortland won the 19th battle between the Red Dragons and Upstate New York rival Buffalo State 28-0, dropping the Bengals to 0-4 in front of a Coyer Field homecoming crowd of 2,365. Cortland improved to 3-1 and posted its first shutout since blanking Kean 48-0 at home in September 2000.

After a scoreless first quarter, Cortland drew first blood at 7:22 of the second quarter when junior J.J. Tutwiler (Grand Island) hit senior Rocco Colucci (East Northport) in the end zone from 30 yards out on a third down and 11 play. The touchdown strike capped a seven-play, 63-yard drive, and a George Oostmeyer (Islip/Calhoun) extra point put the Red Dragons in front 7-0.

After trading possessions, Cortland forced Buffalo State into a fourth down and 15 at its own 22-yard line with less than a minute remaining in the half. On the ensuing punt attempt, Cortland senior Matt Gates (Cicero/Cicero-North Syracuse) broke through the Bengals' line, blocked the punt, and continued to take the ball into the end zone. The successful point after made the score 14-0 in favor of the Red Dragons heading into the intermission.

After a pair of stalled possessions to start the second half, Cortland orchestrated an 11-play, 47-yard drive that consumed 4:23 and was highlighted by a Steve Davis (Central Islip) two-yard touchdown run, extending the Red Dragons lead to 21-0. On the ensuing kickoff, Gates recovered a fumble that was forced by junior Matthew Ferreri (Poughkeepsie/Our Lady of Lourdes) and scampered 23 yards for his second score of the day. After a fourth Oostmeyer PAT kick, Cortland led 28-0. Oostmeyer has now made 62 consecutive PAT kicks, including 15-of-15 this season.

On the day, Gates scored a pair of touchdowns in addition to recording an interception, a fumble recovery, a blocked punt and two pass breakups. Eric Bramoff (Sag Harbor/Pierson) led the Red Dragons with 14 tackles and senior Angelo Letizia (Monroe/Monroe-Woodbury) recorded four sacks. Tutwiler was 14-for-24 passing for 157 yards and Davis led the rushing attack with 61 yards on 18 carries.

Ahmir Cole led the Bengals rushers with 83 yards on 12 touches, and Billy Edwards reeled in seven catches for 40 yards. Mariano Granata was 16-for-28 for 75 yards and threw four interceptions.

(Box score on following page)
Box Score (Final)
SUNY Cortland vs Buffalo State (Sep 28, 2002 at Buffalo, NY)

Score by Quarters     1  2  3  4   Score
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SUNY Cortland.......  0 14 14  0  - 28  Record: (3-1)
Buffalo State.......  0  0  0  0  -  0  Record: (0-4)

Scoring Summary:
2nd 07:22 CORT - Rocco Colucci 30 yd pass from J.J. Tutwiler (George Oostmeyer kick),
7-63 2:20, CORT 7 - BUFF 0
00:37 CORT - Matt Gates 12 yd blocked punt return (George Oostmeyer kick)
CORT 14 - BUFF 0
3rd 05:14 CORT - Steve Davis 2 yd run (George Oostmeyer kick)
11-47 4:23, CORT 21 - BUFF 0
05:01 CORT - Matt Gates 23 yd fumble recovery (George Oostmeyer kick)
CORT 28 - BUFF 0

FIRST DOWNS...................       14       11
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)......... 42-136    39-99
PASSING YDS (NET)........... 183       75
Passes Att-Comp-Int........ 28-17-0  28-16-4
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS.. 70-319   67-174
Fumble Returns-Yards....... 1-23       0-0
Punt Returns-Yards.......... 4-27  2-13
Kickoff Returns-Yards...... 1-27       5-74
Interception Returns-Yards. 4-23       0-0
Punts (Number-Avg).......... 7-32.6   8-28.5
Fumbles-Lost................      1-1       1-1
Penalties-Yards............. 5-38  3-18
Possession Time............... 27:43  32:17
Third-Down Conversions...... 6 of 16  5 of 18
Fourth-Down Conversions..... 0 of 0  0 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances..... 1-2  0-1
Sacks By: Number-Yards...... 5-33  1-2

RUSHING: SUNY Cortland-Steve Davis 18-61; Ryan Tranchida 10-39; J.J. Tutwiler 4-26; Chris Stalker 3-10; Chris Boyd 2-5; TEAM 1-minus 1; Mike Stepnick 4-minus 4; Buffalo State-Ahmir Cole 12-83; Felix Joyner 7-17; Sterl. Anderson 8-12; Nick Stepien 1-1; Patrick Moore 1-1; Mariano Granata 9-minus 5; Jeff Shostak 1-minus 10.

PASSING: SUNY Cortland-J.J. Tutwiler 14-24-0-157; Mike Mikolaichik 3-4-0-26. Buffalo State-Mariano Granata 16-28-4-75; Jeff Shostak 0-0-0-0.

RECEIVING: SUNY Cortland-Joe Marzullo 6-39; Rocco Colucci 3-59; Neal Heaton Jr. 2-25; Steve Davis 1-15; Ryan Tranchida 1-14; Tim Lane 1-14; Jon Frechette 1-8; Adam Menter 1-5; Dan Bryant 1-4. Buffalo State-Billy Edwards 7-40; Bobby Ballard 3-14; Patrick Moore 2-7; Nick Stepien 1-10; Mike Puck 1-5; TJ Cottrell 1-2; Felix Joyner 1-minus 3.

INTERCEPTIONS: SUNY Cortland-Sherron Swinney 1-1; Justin Hartman 1-12; Micah Kurtz 1-0; Matt Gates 1-10. Buffalo State-None.


Stadium: Coyer Field Attendance: 2365
Kickoff time: 1 pm End of Game: 3:36 pm Total elapsed time: 2:36
Officials: Referee: Eric Hamblin; Umpire: Dave Goodwin; Linesman: Ed Renica; Line judge: Doug Rowe; Field judge: Gerald Webb; Side judge: Gary Janis; Scorer: D Messbauer;
Temperature: 65 Wind: 5-10 Weather: Sunny

Cortland's first shutout since Sept. 2000 (48-0 vs. Kean)