FINAL SCORE: Cortland 16, Ithaca 12

CORTLAND, N.Y. -- Junior quarterback J.J. Tutwiler (Grand Island) completed 22-of-34 passes for 264 yards and a touchdown as Cortland defeated Ithaca 16-12 in front of a sellout crowd of 8,700 at Cortland. The Red Dragons claim the "Cortaca Jug" traveling trophy, which goes to the annual winner of the Central New York rivalry, for the first time since 1999.

Cortland's defense preserved the victory with two goal-line stands in the final seven minutes. Trailing 16-10, Ithaca had the ball fourth-and-goal on the Cortland 2-yard line, but Pete Celebre (Wallingford, PA/Strath Haven) was stopped at the 1-yard line with 6:08 remaining. The Bombers got the ball back with 4:45 left at the Cortland 24-yard line after a 22-yard punt return by Jeff Welch (Ithaca). Ithaca moved the ball inside the 10-yard line and eventually faced a fourth down at the 6-yard line. Ithaca freshman quarterback Josh Felicetti (Doylesstown, PA/Central Bucks East) scrambled right and threw a pass up for grabs in the end zone. Cortland linebacker Todd Goodwin (Poughkeepsie/Spackenkill) knocked down the pass in a crowd with 1:53 left to give the Red Dragons the ball.

Cortland was held on three plays on its ensuing possession and elected to take a safety as Tutwiler, also the team's punter, ran out of the end zone with 21 seconds left. Ithaca got the ball back at its own 48-yard line after the free kick but was only able to run one play -- a 6-yard scramble by Felicetti -- before time expired.

Ithaca took a 7-0 lead on its first possession of the game. The Bombers started on their own 21-yard line after a punt and drove 79 yards on 12 plays. The drive was capped by a 5-yard screen pass from Felicetti to wide receiver Aaron Fiorini (Rome/Rome Free Academy). The Red Dragons got on the board early in the second quarter when senior fullback Chris Stalker's (Medina) 6-yard touchdown run capped an 11-play, 75-yard drive. The point-after kick was blocked. Stalker finished the game with a career-high 83 yards rushing on 18 carries.

Cortland's next possession started on its own 8-yard line after an illegal block penalty during a punt return. A 31-yard pass from Tutwiler to junior receiver Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) moved the ball from the 13-yard line to the 44. After a penalty and a rushing loss, Cortland faced 3rd-and-24 at its own 30-yard line but earned a first down on a 31-yard pass from Tutwiler to senior Joe Marzullo (Cicero/Cicero-North Syracuse). Later in the drive, a 2-yard Stalker touchdown run was called back due to a holding call. On the next play, however, Tutwiler found Heaton Jr. near the front right pylon of the end zone for a 13-yard touchdown pass and a 13-7 Cortland lead.

Cortland added to its lead in the third quarter after another long scoring drive. The Red Dragons were pinned on their own 5-yard line on their first possession of the half after a booming 65-yard punt by Ithaca senior Brian Bicher (Paramus, NJ/Montclair Kimberly Academy). Cortland moved 78 yards on 14 plays before settling for a 35-yard field goal by George Oostmeyer (Islip/Calhoun) to take a 16-10 lead. The kick was Oostmeyer's 30th career field goal, setting a new school record.

Late in the third quarter, Ithaca began a 13-play, 55-yard drive that eventually stalled at the Cortland 10-yard line. Bicher's 27-yard field goal attempt barely cleared the crossbar to draw the Bombers within 16-10. Cortland's ensuing drive was halted at the Ithaca 18-yard line and Ithaca senior cornerback Justin Daly (Warwick/Warwick Valley) blocked a 35-yard field goal attempt by Oostmeyer.

(continued)
CORTLAND FOOTBALL vs. Ithaca College, Nov. 16, 2002 (continued)

On the following drive, Ithaca advanced to the Cortland 36-yard line but apparently had its drive stall. However, Cortland was flagged for a substitution infraction with the Bombers in punt formation to keep the drive alive. A Red Dragon personal foul also helped the Bombers move the ball. The drive eventually ended when Cortland held at its 2-yard line with 6:08 left.

Marzullo finished with nine catches for 111 yards and Heaton Jr. made five catches for 85 yards to lead Cortland. Marzullo became the 10th player in school history to reach 100 career receptions in a Red Dragon uniform. He now has 101 catches in three years at Cortland, plus 45 as a freshman at Alfred in 1999. Marzullo finishes the regular-season with 52 receptions. Graduate student Eric Bramoff (Sag Harbor/Pierson) officially finished with 14 tackles, including a sack, and junior Justin Hartman (Woodbourne/Tri-Valley) made 11 tackles. Goodwin broke up two passes and recorded eight tackles.

For Ithaca, Felicetti completed 21-of-35 passes for 233 yards and a touchdown. Junior Pete McCaffrey (Ithaca) made six catches for 72 yards and Celebre ran for 53 yards on 19 carries. Junior Jon Edgcomb (Honeoye Falls/Honeoye Falls-Lima) recorded 12 tackles and sophomore Alex Shafiro (New Rochelle) made 11 tackles to pace the Bombers’ defense.

(Box score on next page)
Score by Quarters     1  2  3  4   Score
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Ithaca College......  7  0  0  5  - 12       Record: (7-3)
SUNY Cortland.......  0 13  3  0  - 16       Record: (8-2)

Scoring Summary:
1st 06:01 ITHACA - Aaron Fiorini 5 yd pass from Josh Felicetti (Brian Bicher kick), 12-79 5:40, ITHACA 7 - CORT 0
2nd 12:11 CORT - Chris Stalker 6 yd run (George Oostmeyer kick blocked), 11-75 3:59, ITHACA 7 - CORT 6
05:25 CORT - Neal Heaton Jr. 13 yd pass from J.J. Tutwiler (George Oostmeyer kick), 12-92 5:35, ITHACA 7 - CORT 13
3rd 07:37 CORT - George Oostmeyer 35 yd field goal, 14-78 4:52, ITHACA 7 - CORT 16
4th 13:42 ITHACA - Brian Bicher 27 yd field goal, 13-55 3:51, ITHACA 10 - CORT 16
00:21 ITHACA - TEAM safety, ITHACA 12 - CORT 16

Ithaca College         SUNY Cortland
FIRST DOWNS.................       18       23
RUSHES-YARDS (NET).........    35-80   39-125
PASSING YDS (NET)..........      233      264
Passes Att-Comp-Int.......  35-21-0  34-22-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS... 70-313   73-389
Fumble Returns-Yards.......  0-0       0-0
Punt Returns-Yards.........  3-36       1-1
Kickoff Returns-Yards.......  5-121      3-29
Interception Returns-Yards. 0-0       0-0
Punts (Number-Avg).........  4-41.2      4-34.5
Fumbles-Lost...............  4-1       0-0
Penalties-Yards...............  8-80     10-86
Possession Time.............. 29:31     30:29
Third-Down Conversions......  6 of 16     6 of 15
Fourth-Down Conversions.....  2 of 4      0 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances.....  2-4       3-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards......  1-12       1-7

RUSHING: Ithaca College-Pete Celebre 19-53; Josh Felicetti 13-30; Jeff Welch 1-4; C. Greer-Carney 1-0; TEAM 1-minus 7. SUNY Cortland-Chris Stalker 18-83; Steve Davis 11-40; Mike Stepnick 3-4; J.J. Tutwiler 6-8; TEAM 1-minus 10.


RECEIVING: Ithaca College-Pete McCaffrey 6-72; Justin Esposito 4-46; Aaron Fiorini 3-33; Pete Celebre 3-32; Jamie Free 3-26; Jeff Welch 1-12; Brett Gioseca 1-12. SUNY Cortland-Joe Marzullo 9-111; Neal Heaton Jr. 5-85; Tony Romano 3-37; Rocco Colucci 2-18; Mike Stepnick 1-7; Steve Davis 1-6; Adam Menter 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS: Ithaca College-None. SUNY Cortland-None.

FUMBLES: Ithaca College-TEAM 2-0; Josh Felicetti 2-1. SUNY Cortland-None.

Stadium: Cortland Stadium      Attendance: 8700
Kickoff time: 12:04 pm   End of Game: 3:01 pm   Total elapsed time: 2:57
Officials: Referee: Charles Haven; Umpire: Alan Gens; Linesman: John Swartz; Line judge: Douglas Rowe; Back judge: Thomas Connolly; Field judge: Gary Janis; Side judge: Dan McLaughlin; Scorer: Fran Elia; Temperature: low 30s   Wind:           Weather: Cold (snow before)

Cortland wins the 2002 Cortaca Jug. The Red Dragons stopped Ithaca twice inside the 10-yard line in the final 6:08. Joe Marzullo goes over 100 career receptions at Cortland (101). George Oostmeyer is the career FG leader at Cortland (30).