UPPER MONTCLAIR, N.J. -- Junior quarterback J.J. Tutwiler (Grand Island) threw two second-half touchdown passes as SUNY Cortland scored 17 straight points en route to a 20-16 victory over Montclair State before a crowd of 1,225 at Sprague Field in New Jersey Athletic Conference action on Saturday afternoon. Tutwiler finished with 261 yards as the Red Dragons (4-1, 2-1 NJAC) defeated MSU for the first time since the 1997 season. Montclair State's John DiGirolamo (Morris Plains, NJ/Parsippany Hills) threw for 283 yards as the Red Hawks (1-3, 0-1 NJAC) lost a conference game for just the second time in their last 18 NJAC contests.

Montclair led 10-3 in the third quarter before Cortland tied the score with 9:12 left after marching 93 yards. Tutwiler kept the drive alive with a six-yard, third-down completion to Neal Heaton, Jr. (Bellport). Three plays later at the Cortland 42 - again on third-down, Tutwiler scrambled away from three defenders before finding a wide-open Heaton at the MSU 24. Heaton then raced the final yardage to tie the game at 10-10.

After a Montclair punt and blocking penalty that pinned the Red Dragons at their own 4, Cortland marched 96 yards in 12 plays that took over five minutes. A Tutwiler 25-yard pass to Rocco Colucci (East Northport/Northport) helped bring the ball down to the MSU 17. After an incompleteness, Tutwiler connected with Tony Romano (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) for a 17-yard touchdown and a 17-10 Cortland lead with 11:18 to play in the game.

Things then got worse for Montclair State as a low snap on a punt forced a turnover on downs as the Montclair 26 yardline. The Red Dragons then converted that miscue into a 35-yard field goal by George Oostmeyer (Islip/Calhoun). Montclair State's final touchdown came with time expired as DiGirolamo connected with Jasper Hankins (Union, NJ) on a 55-yard catch-and-run touchdown.

In a mistake-filled first-half that saw both teams have long touchdown passes called back due to penalties, Montclair State took a 7-0 lead with 1:11 to play in the second quarter as DiGirolamo hit Steve Armstrong (Paterson, NJ/St. Mary's (Rutherford)) on an eight-yard scoring strike. But Cortland came back just before the half as they moved the ball 66 yards before Oostmeyer booted a 34-yard field goal at the gun.

Tutwiler completed 20-of-35 passes, including seven to Joe Marzullo (Cicero, NY/Cicero-North Syracuse), who finished with 59 yards. Heaton, Jr. had four catches for 94 yards. DiGirolamo was 14-of-31 for 283 yards, including six to Eric Magrini (Wayne, NJ/Wayne Hills), who had 108 receiving yards. Colucci had two catches as he became the ninth player in Cortland history to reach the 100-catch plateau. MSU's Jermarl Buie (Paterson, NJ/Passaic County Tech) rushed for 135 yards on 19 carries, while Cortland's Steve Davis (Central Islip) had 83 yards on 20 carries.

Junior free safety Justin Hartman (Woodbourne/Tri-Valley) led the Red Dragons with 12 tackles. He also intercepted a pass in the end zone in the first half and recorded two pass breakups. Senior linebacker Todd Goodwin (Poughkeepsie/Spackenkill) made 10 tackles and senior defensive end Justin Gualtieri (Rome/Rome Free Academy) recorded six tackles, including three of Cortland's six sacks.
Box Score (Final)
SUNY Cortland vs Montclair St. Univ. (Oct 05, 2002 at Upper Montclair, NJ)

Score by Quarters     1  2  3  4   Score
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SUNY Cortland.......  0  3  7 10  - 20       Record: (4-1,2-1)
Montclair St. Univ..  0  7  3  6  - 16       Record: (1-3,0-1)

Scoring Summary:
2nd 01:11 MONT - Armstrong, S. 8 yd pass from DiGirolamo, J. (Grablachoff, B. kick), 0-5, 63 1:03, CORT 0 - MONT 7
  00:00 CORT - George Oostmeyer 34 yd field goal, 9-66 1:05, CORT 3 - MONT 7
3rd 11:32 MONT - Grablachoff, B. 24 yd field goal, 8-73 3:20, CORT 3 - MONT 10
  09:12 CORT - Neal Heaton Jr. 58 yd pass from J.J. Tutwiler (George Oostmeyer kick), 9-93 2:10, CORT 10 - MONT 10
4th 14:09 CORT - Tony Romano 17 yd pass from J.J. Tutwiler (George Oostmeyer kick), 12-96 5:25, CORT 17 - MONT 10
  11:18 CORT - George Oostmeyer 35 yd field goal, 4-9 1:39, CORT 20 - MONT 10
  00:00 MONT - Hankins, J. 55 yd pass from DiGirolamo, J., 3-73 0:22, CORT 20 - MONT 16

CORT     MONT
FIRST DOWNS.................       22       19
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)..........   41-150   38-161
PASSING YDS (NET)..........      261      283
Passes Att-Comp-Int..........  35-20-1  31-14-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS...   76-411   69-444
Fumble Returns-Yards........      0-0      0-0
Punt Returns-Yards..........      2-4      5-39
Kickoff Returns-Yards........      2-24     1-19
Interception Returns-Yards...      1-0     1-12
Punts (Number-Avg).............  6-39.3    7-36.1
Fumbles-Lost..................      1-0      3-0
Penalties-Yards............     6-54     11-106
Possession Time...............   30:58    29:02
Third-Down Conversions......   7 of 18   3 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions......  1 of 2     0 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances.......  3-3      2-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards.......   6-35      2-10

RUSHING: SUNY Cortland-Steve Davis 20-83; Ryan Tranchida 8-33; Chris Stalker 7-23; J.J. Tutwiler 6-11. Montclair St. Univ.-Buie, J. 19-135; Earvin, Z. 9-74; TEAM 1-minus 1; DiGirolamo, J. 9-minus 47.


RECEIVING: SUNY Cortland-Joe Marzullo 7-59; Neal Heaton Jr. 4-94; Tony Romano 3-46; Steve Davis 3-15; Rocco Colucci 2-42; Ryan Tranchida 1-5. Montclair St. Univ.-Magrini, E. 6-108; Hankins, J. 3-72; Earvin, Z. 3-43; Reitmeyer, B. 1-52; Armstrong, S. 1-8.


FUMBLES: SUNY Cortland-J.J. Tutwiler 1-0. Montclair St. Univ.-DiGirolamo, J. 3-0.

Stadium: Sprague Field   Attendance: 1225 Kickoff time: 1:30pm   End of Game: 4:31pm
Total elapsed time: 3:01 Officials: Scorer: Mike Scala;
Temperature: 80        Wind: Light        Weather: Partly Sunny