FINAL SCORE: The College of New Jersey 41, Cortland 38 (OT)

CORTLAND, NY - The College of New Jersey junior quarterback Bob Schurtz (Galloway Township, NJ/Absegami) hit junior tight end Joe Franzone (Scotch Plains, NJ/Scotch Plains-Fanwood) for a 12-yard touchdown strike in the first period of overtime to lift the Lions to a 41-38 overtime win over the Red Dragons of SUNY Cortland in the first NJAC contest of the 2002 season. TCNJ improves to 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the league, while Cortland drops to 1-1 overall and 0-1 in the NJAC.

The contest, which was highlighted by the official grand opening ceremony of the SUNY Cortland Athletic Stadium at halftime (Cortland actually opened at home last weekend), saw the two teams combine for 1,055 yards of total offense, including 614 yards by the Red Dragons.

TCNJ led 21-14 at the half and mounted a 35-21 lead at the start of the fourth quarter before the Red Dragons rallied back and tied the action at 35-all to end regulation. Cortland junior quarterback J.J. Tutwiler (Grand Island) hit junior tight end Tony Romano (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) for a 73-yard TD pass with 14:29 left in the fourth quarter to pull his team within seven. Tutwiler would find junior wide receiver Neal Heaton, Jr. (Bellport) for a 57-yard strike to cap a two-play, 80 yards drive. A penalty for excessive celebration at the end of the play caused senior kicker George Oostmeyer (Islip/Calhoun) to make his PAT from 35 yards out to tie the game. With the kick, Oostmeyer extended his streak of consecutive PAT's to 53.

In the first overtime, Oostmeyer hit a 28-yard field goal to give the Red Dragons a 38-35 lead. In the Lions' first overtime possession, Schurtz found Franzone from 12 yards out on a third-down pass for the winning touchdown, faking a swing pass before lobbing a pass perfectly to Franzone in the middle of the end zone.

Tutwiler finished with 338 yards of passing yards on a 17-for-21 effort with three touchdowns and no interceptions. He added a career-high 118 yards rushing with a touchdown. He also had four punts for 172 yards with a long of 49 yards. Romano led the Red Dragons with 117 receiving yards, while senior Rocco Colucci (East Northport) added 89 receiving yards and Heaton, Jr. finished with 86 yards and a pair of TD passes.

Schurtz threw for 333 yards on a 19-37 effort three TD pass. Senior wide receiver Joe Gargione (Egg Harbor, NJ/Absegami) added a career-high 164 yards in the air, surpassing his previous career best of 150 yards set last year at home against Cortland. Senior Tim Kosuda (Colonia, NJ) rushed for 62 yards on 12 carries with a score and added four catches for 42 yards with a 23-yard TD pass from Schurtz as well.

Defensively, Cortland senior defensive lineman John Longo (Massapequa) had 10 tackles, including two sacks for minus-12 yards and senior Todd Goodwin (Poughkeepsie/Spackenkill) made 10 tackles. For the Lions, junior Jeremy Julio (Long Branch, NJ) had seven solo stops, while senior safety Matt Scaravaglione (Sicklerville, NJ/Washington Township) added 10 tackles with six solo tackles. Sophomore Josh Baker (Ocean City, NJ) had nine tackles.

Saturday's overtime game was just the second in the history of both schools. For Cortland, its last OT game was in 1996 at Springfield (33-30 win on the road). For the Lions, their only other OT game was in 1998 as they defeated Rowan University 28-27 in Lions' Stadium. The Lions went on to capture the 1998 NJAC Championship that year.
Box Score (Final)
The College of N.J. vs SUNY Cortland (Sep 14, 2002 at Cortland, NY)

Score by Quarters     1  2  3  4 OT   Score
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The College of N.J..  7 14  7  7  6  - 41       Record: (2-0,1-0)
SUNY Cortland.......  7  7  7 14  3  - 38       Record: (1-1,0-1)

Scoring Summary:
1st 09:01 TCNJ - Tim Kosuda 4 yd run (Matt Hamilton kick), 5-80 1:11, TCNJ 7 - CORT 0
05:22 CORT - J.J. Tutwiler 5 yd run (George Oostmeyer kick), 7-82 3:39, TCNJ 7 - CORT 7
2nd 12:54 TCNJ - Tim Kosuda 23 yd pass from Bob Schurtz (Matt Hamilton kick), 9-49 2:43, TCNJ 14 - CORT 7
07:32 CORT - Ryan Tranchida 14 yd run (George Oostmeyer kick), 5-82 2:11, TCNJ 14 - CORT 14
04:35 TCNJ - Jon Hegedpeth 28 yd run (Matt Hamilton kick), 7-75 2:57, TCNJ 21 - CORT 14
3rd 10:08 CORT - Neal Heaton Jr. 9 yd pass from J.J. Tutwiler (George Oostmeyer kick), 10-82 4:52, TCNJ 21 - CORT 21
08:42 TCNJ - Joe Gargione 25 yd pass from Bob Schurtz (Matt Hamilton kick), 3-42 1:26, TCNJ 28 - CORT 21
4th 14:55 TCNJ - Chris Franco 4 yd run (Matt Hamilton kick), 10-50 5:10, TCNJ 35 - CORT 21
14:29 CORT - Tony Romano 73 yd pass from J.J. Tutwiler (George Oostmeyer kick), 2-80 0:26, TCNJ 35 - CORT 28
01:41 CORT - Neal Heaton Jr. 57 yd pass from J.J. Tutwiler (George Oostmeyer kick), 2-72 0:16, TCNJ 35 - CORT 35
OT  15:00 CORT - George Oostmeyer 28 yd field goal, 6-14 0:00, TCNJ 35 - CORT 38
15:00 TCNJ - Joe Franzone 12 yd pass from Bob Schurtz, 4-25 0:00, TCNJ 41 - CORT 38

TCNJ       CORT
FIRST DOWNS...................       25       26
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)............   40-108   48-269
PASSING YDS (NET).............      333      345
Passes Att-Comp-Int...........  37-19-0  24-18-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS.....   77-441   72-614
Fumble Returns-Yards...........  0-0    0-0
Punt Returns-Yards.............  3-24  6-24
Kickoff Returns-Yards...........  6-172  4-66
Interception Returns-Yards....  0-0    0-0
Punts (Number-Avg).............  8-41.2  6-32.7
Fumbles-Lost...................  0-0    3-0
Penalties-Yards................  8-82  14-136
Possession Time...............  30:35  29:25
Third-Down Conversions........  6 of 16  3 of 12
Fourth-Down Conversions.......  1 of 1  0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances.......  3-4  5-7
Sacks By: Number-Yards........  2-12  5-27

RUSHING: The College of N.J.-Tim Kosuda 12-62; Jon Hegedpeth 10-42; Chris Franco 7-27; Bryan Gallagher 1-minus 3; Bob Schurtz 10-minus 20. SUNY Cortland-J.J. Tutwiler 17-118; Steve Davis 17-93; Chris Stalker 11-43; Ryan Tranchida 3-15.


RECEIVING: The College of N.J.-Joe Gargione 5-164; Matt Dunn 4-64; Tim Kosuda 4-42; Joe Franzone 4-36; Jon Hegedpeth 1-20; Chris Franco 1-7. SUNY Cortland-Rocco Colucci 5-89; Neal Heaton Jr. 5-86; Joe Marzullo 5-53; Tony Romano 3-117.

INTERCEPTIONS: The College of N.J.-None. SUNY Cortland-None.
FUMBLES: The College of N.J.-None. SUNY Cortland-J.J. Tutwiler 2-0; Tony Romano 1-0.

Stadium: Cortland Stadium      Attendance: 4000
Kickoff time: 1 pm      End of Game: 4:36 pm      Total elapsed time: 3:36
Officials: Referee: John Spencer; Umpire: Ronald Wheeler; Linesman: D.Kruttschnitt; Line judge: Douglas Rowe; Back judge: James Sheehan; Field judge: Dennis Blythe; Side judge: Fred Dewey; Scorer: Fran Elia;
Temperature: 80      Wind:      Weather: Hazy, hot
NJAC opener for both teams. The game was the second OT game in school history for each team.