SUNY Cortland Football
Cortland vs. Utica College
November 2, 2002; SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 58, Utica College 12

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Senior fullback Chris Stalker (Medina) rushed for career-highs of 72 yards and three touchdowns as Cortland (7-2) defeated visiting Utica College 58-12 in a non-conference game at the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex. The Red Dragons, who were a perfect 10-for-10 on scoring chances in the “red zone” (inside Utica’s 20-yard line), gained 501 yards in total offense and put up their highest point total since scoring 73 versus New Jersey City in 1999.

Stalker started the scoring with a 3-yard touchdown run two minutes, 40 seconds into the first quarter. The score was set up by a 49-yard pass from junior J.J. Tutwiler (Grand Island) to junior Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) and a Utica face mask penalty. Stalker added eight and 12-yard touchdown runs in the fourth quarter.

Senior kicker George Oostmeyer (Islip/Calhoun) made all three of his field goal attempts and is now tied for the career field goal lead at Cortland with 29. Oostmeyer made 17-yard and 28-yard kicks in the first quarter and a 23-yarder in the third quarter. Tutwiler completed 11-of-17 passes for 200 yards and two touchdowns, all in the first half. He connected with senior Rocco Colucci (East Northport/Northport) and Heaton Jr. on 17-yard scoring passes, both in the second quarter.

Sophomore quarterback Mike Mikolaichik (Hilton) played the second half and completed 3-of-7 passes for 50 yards, including a 5-yard pass to junior tight end Tony Romano (Marilla/Iroquois) for Romano’s school career record-tying 15th touchdown reception. Junior tailback Mike Stepnick (Marilla/Iroquois) led Cortland’s ground attack with 13 carries for 89 yards, including a 2-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Utica (1-7) was held to minus-22 yards of total offense in the first half and trailed 34-0. The Pioneers, however, mounted a 10-play, 79-yard touchdown drive to start the second half. Freshman Dave Hogan (Concord, NH) rushed for 53 yards on the drive, capping the 5:45 series with a 5-yard run to paydirt. Utica’s two-point conversion attempt failed.

Utica’s other touchdown came at the end of a nine-play, 70-yard drive in the fourth quarter. Freshman fullback Tyler Clark (Williamsville/Williamsville South) charged his way through the middle for a 22-yard scoring run to cap the drive. Clark finished with 66 yards on just six carries and Hogan ran for 65 yards on 16 rushes. The Pioneers finished with 143 yards of total offense.

Defensively, junior linebacker Anthony Venturino (Utica/DeSales) led Utica with 12 tackles and sophomore defensive back Christopher Sargis (Syracuse/Bishop Ludden) added 11 tackles. Cortland was led by freshman cornerback Sherron Swinney’s (Camden, NJ/Woodrow Wilson) seven tackles, junior linebacker Micah Kurtz’s (Clarence) six tackles, including a sack, and forced fumble, and junior defensive lineman Matthew Ferreri’s (Poughkeepsie/Our Lady of Lourdes) forced fumble and five tackles, which included 1.5 sacks.

Cortland is off next weekend and will host Ithaca College in the annual “Cortaca Jug” battle on Nov. 16 at noon. Utica will host Shenandoah University (Va.) next Saturday at 2 p.m.

(Box score on following page)
Score by Quarters 1 2 3 4 Score
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Utica College....... 0 0 6 6 - 12 Record: (1-7)
SUNY Cortland....... 13 21 10 14 - 58 Record: (7-2)

Scoring Summary:
1st 12:20 CORT – Chris Stalker 3 yd run (George Oostmeyer kick), 2-55 0:16, UTICA 0 – CORT 7
09:16 CORT – George Oostmeyer 17 yd field goal, 7-51 1:29, UTICA 0 – CORT 10
02:31 CORT – George Oostmeyer 28 yd field goal, 9-43 3:21, UTICA 0 – CORT 13
2nd 12:54 CORT – Rocco Colucci 17 yd pass from J.J. Tutwiler (George Oostmeyer kick), 6-42 2:42, UTICA 0 – CORT 20
06:36 CORT – Mike Stepnick 2 yd run (George Oostmeyer kick), 10-49 4:31, UTICA 0 – CORT 27
00:33 CORT – Neal Heaton Jr. 17 yd pass from J.J. Tutwiler (George Oostmeyer kick) 2-20 0:34, UTICA 0 – CORT 34
3rd 09:15 UTICA – Dave Hogan 5 yd run (Christopher Sargis rush failed), 10-79 5:45, UTICA 6 – CORT 34
06:40 CORT – Tony Romano 5 yd pass from Mike Mikolaichik (George Oostmeyer kick), 8-64 2:35, UTICA 6 – CORT 41
01:40 CORT – George Oostmeyer 23 yd field goal, 7-43 3:10, UTICA 6 – CORT 44
4th 08:13 CORT – Chris Stalker 8 yd run (George Oostmeyer kick), 1-8 0:03, UTICA 6 – CORT 51
03:56 UTICA – Tyler Clark 22 yd run (Christopher Sargis pass failed), 9-70 4:17, UTICA 12 – CORT 51
01:14 CORT – Chris Stalker 12 yd run (George Oostmeyer kick), 5-55 2:42, UTICA 12 – CORT 58

FIRST DOWNS.................. 11 23
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)......... 49-116 45-251
PASSING YDS (NET).......... 27 250
Passes Att-Comp-Int...... 10-4-1 24-14-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS 59-143 69-501
Fumble Returns-Yards..... 0-0 0-0
Punt Returns-Yards........ 3-9 1-9
Kickoff Returns-Yards..... 10-200 3-30
Interception Returns-Yards 0-0 1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)........ 7-27.0 3-34.3
Fumbles-Lost................ 4-2 1-0
Penalties-Yards........... 9-58 8-69
Possession Time........... 30:13 29:47
Third-Down Conversions..... 5 of 15 6 of 12
Fourth-Down Conversions... 1 of 2 0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances.... 1-1 10-10
Sacks By: Number-Yards..... 0-0 7-44

RUSHING: Utica College-Tyler Clark 6-66; Dave Hogan 16-65; Kevin Mullally 8-27; Chad Clark 4-13; Paul Hart 4-7; TEAM 1-minus 11; Adam Luciano 10-minus 51. SUNY Cortland-Mike Stepnick 13-89; Chris Stalker 12-72; Ryan Tranchida 14-51; J.J. Tutwiler 2-22; Chris Boyd 2-12; Mike Mikolaichik 2-5.

PASSING: Utica College-Adam Luciano 3-9-1-24; Emilio Gigliotti 1-1-0-3. SUNY Cortland-J.J. Tutwiler 11-17-0-200; Mike Mikolaichik 3-7-0-50.

RECEIVING: Utica College-Matthew Connors 4-27. SUNY Cortland-Neal Heaton Jr. 4-85; Joe Marzullo 4-78; Rocco Colucci 3-60; Tony Romano 2-14; Ryan Tranchida 1-13.

INTERCEPTIONS: Utica College-None. SUNY Cortland-Ron Stewart 1-0.

FUMBLES: Utica College-Adam Luciano 3-1; Paul Hart 1-1. SUNY Cortland-J.J. Tutwiler 1-0.

Stadium: Cortland Stadium Attendance: 1500
Kickoff time: 1 pm End of Game: 3:46 pm Total elapsed time: 2:46

Officials: Referee: Mike Davis; Umpire: Dave Goodwin; Linesman: Peter Beratta; Line judge: Ed Renica; Back judge: Dan McLauglin; Field judge: Rick Ranucci; Side judge: Gary Janis; Scorer: Fran Elia;
Temperature: 37 Wind: Weather: Snowing

Cortland’s Tony Romano tied a school record for career TD catches (15) and George Oostmeyer tied a school record for career field goals (29).