SUNY Cortland Football
Cortland vs. Kean University
September 20, 2003; Kean Alumni Stadium; Union, N.J.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 23, Kean 20

UNION, N.J. – Cortland scored a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns to erase a 10-point deficit as the Red Dragons defeated host Kean University, 23-20, in a New Jersey Athletic Conference matchup. Cortland improves to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in NJAC play. Kean is now 0-3 and 0-1.

Senior wide receiver Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) caught eight passes for 93 yards and a touchdown. He also ran for a team-high 68 yards on just two carries, including a 67-yard run on a reverse play in the fourth quarter that led to Cortland's winning touchdown. Cortland faced a 3rd-and-18 on its own 21-yard line before Heaton's heroics. He ran to the 12-yard line, and a face mask penalty at the end of the play moved the ball to the 6-yard line. Three plays later, junior Steve Davis (Central Islip) scored from two yards out to give the Red Dragons the lead with 3:40 remaining.

Kean led 20-10 after three quarters behind a sterling perfomance by freshman running back Chandler Brown. Brown finished the game with 227 yards and three touchdowns on 34 carries. He ran 30 yards for a score in the second quarter and broke loose for 32 and 42-yard touchdown runs in the third quarter. A bad snap led to a failed PAT try after Brown's second touchdown.

Cortland grabbed a 3-0 lead in the first quarter on junior Ryan DeCamp's (Plattsburgh/Seton Catholic) 35-yard field goal. The kick was the first Cortland field goal for DeCamp, a Canisius transfer. The Red Dragons trailed 7-3 at the half and 13-3 in the third quarter before mounting a 10-play, 73-yard drive that culminated in an 18-yard touchdown pass from senior J.J. Tutwiler (Grand Island) to Heaton. The pass was Tutwiler's 40th career touchdown throw, tying a school record held by Dick Puccio (1988-91). Kean, however, returned the ensuing kickoff 41 yards, tacked on 15 yards due to a personal foul and scored on the next play on Brown's 42-yard run.

Late in the third quarter, Cortland freshman linebacker Matt Montpetit (Westhampton Beach/Westhampton) forced a fumble that freshman safety Stef Sair (Huntington) picked up at the Kean 12-yard line. Sair returned the ball to the 1-yard line, just missing the corner of the end zone, as the third quarter expired. On the first play of the fourth quarter, Tutwiler snuck in for the touchdown. DeCamp's extra point kick was wide left, leaving the Red Dragons behind 20-16.

Tutwiler finished the game 15-of-27 for 169 yards and one touchdown. He has not been intercepted in 73 pass attempts through three games this fall. Freshman linebacker Chuck Eich (Cheektowaga) made 11 tackles and freshman linebacker Michael Dunn (Kenmore/Kenmore West) recorded nine stops. Sair finished with six tackles, and his interception at the Cortland 1-yard line stopped a first-quarter Kean scoring threat. Sophomore cornerback Ron Stewart (Bentonville, AR) and freshman safety Will Groff (Queensbury) also intercepted passes. Groff's pick halted Kean's final offensive series at the Cortland 44-yard line with 2:23 remaining.

Cortland outgained the Cougars 362-273 in total offensive yards, including a 169-65 advantage through the air. The Red Dragons converted 10-of-20 third downs, 7-of-11 in the second half, and scored on all four trips into Kean's “red zone.” Kean freshman quarterback Chris Ebbeson completed 6-of-11 passes, with all six completions going to sophomore wide receiver Derrick Valentine. Senior defensive back Lance Smith and senior linebacker Nolan James each made 10 tackles for the Cougars.