CORTLAND, N.Y. – Junior Patrick Thompson (Camden, NJ) threw a 16-yard halfback option touchdown pass to sophomore Joe D’Imperio (Belvidere, NJ) in the first overtime period to give Rowan University a 34-31 victory over host SUNY Cortland in a New Jersey Athletic Conference matchup. The Profs, ranked 13th nationally by D3Football.com and 12th in the American Football Coaches Association Division III poll, improve to 5-1 overall and 1-1 in league play. Cortland falls to 2-4 and 1-3.

Thompson rushed for 180 yards and a touchdown on 28 carries. His 2-yard scoring run with 1 minute, 40 seconds left in regulation capped a nine-play, 67-yard drive and tied the game at 28-28.

In the overtime, Rowan won the toss and elected to play defense first. Cortland lost one yard over three plays, but junior Ryan DeCamp (Plattsburgh/Seton Catholic) nailed a career-best 43-yard field goal to give the Red Dragons a 31-28 lead. It was DeCamp’s third field goal in as many attempts in the contest. On Rowan’s possession, Thompson ran 15 yards to the Cortland 10-yard line on the first play. A penalty and a sack moved the Profs back to the 22-yard line and a 6-yard pass set up 3rd-and-goal from the 16-yard line. Thompson took the ball, ran right then threw a pass to the back right corner of the end zone. D’Imperio fought off a Cortland defender and made a sliding catch for the winning score.

Rowan raced out to a 21-3 lead after one quarter on three touchdown passes by freshman quarterback Mike Orihel (Trenton, NJ/Central Bucks (PA)). On the Profs’ first possession, Orihel completed a six-play, 62-yard drive with a 5-yard pass to sophomore Phil Silva (Vineland, NJ). On their next possession, the Profs drove 68 yards on just five plays. Orihel hit senior Endre Racz (Wanaque, NJ/Lakeland Regional) on a 12-yard touchdown pass to give Rowan a 14-0 lead with 10:08 left in the first quarter.

Cortland answered with a 37-yard DeCamp field goal, but the Profs scored two possessions later. A 4-yard pass from Orihel to senior tight end John Ferrante (Voorhees, NJ/Eastern Reg.) completed a 10-play, 62-yard scoring drive with 1:00 left in the quarter. Orihel finished the game 24 of 38 passing for 269 yards and three touchdowns.

Cortland’s defense rebounded from its slow start and kept the Profs off the board until their touchdown late in regulation. The Red Dragons stopped Rowan’s next two drives with interceptions by freshman Stef Sair (Huntington) and junior Nick Enko (Clarence). A DeCamp 25-yard field goal with 10:33 left in the half brought the Red Dragons within 21-6 at intermission.

Cortland pulled within 21-13 with 1:22 left in the third quarter on a 23-yard pass from senior quarterback J.J. Tutwiler (Grand Island) to senior receiver Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) on a 3rd-and-19 play. On their next possession, the Red Dragons drove 42 yards on six plays after a rushed Rowan punt. A Tutwiler 33-yard pass to senior Jon Frechette (Oswego) moved the ball to the 2-yard line, and three plays later Tutwiler scored on a 2-yard option run. A two-point conversion pass to sophomore Paul DeSantis (Tonawanda/Kenmore East) tied the game at 21-21 with 9:49 left. Tutwiler finished 15-of-32 passing for 213 yards and a touchdown. He became Cortland’s career leader in passing yardage (5,503).

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The Red Dragons held on the next possession and got the ball back on their own 33-yard line with 7:46 left. On the first play, junior **Steve Davis (Central Islip)** bounced off a tackle and broke free for a 67-yard touchdown run to give Cortland a 28-21 lead. Davis finished with 148 yards rushing on 21 carries. The teams then traded possessions before the Profs started their game-tying drive with 4:19 left. Rowan looked like they might win the game in regulation when sophomore **Luis Cortes (Camden, NJ/Woodrow Wilson)** returned a punt 59 yards for an apparent touchdown with 54 seconds left, but the play was called back due to an illegal block in the back penalty.

Rowan gained 503 yards of total offense to Cortland's 434 yards. Both teams rushed for more than 200 yards and passed for more than 200 yards. Junior linebacker **Mike McClain (Rockaway, NJ/Morris Hills)** led the Profs with 13 tackles and a fumble recovery. Senior linebacker **Domenic Tomeo (Bellmawr, NJ/Triton Reg.)** made 12 tackles and forced a fumble. Cortland was led defensively by sophomore linebacker **Josh Jablonski (West Seneca/West Seneca West)**'s 15 tackles. Freshman defensive lineman **Adam Haas (East Aurora/St. Francis)** had 13 tackles, five for lost yardage (including two sacks). Senior defensive lineman **Travis Costin (Glens Falls)** also recorded 13 tackles and junior linebacker **Chad Rowe (Cazenovia)** made 12 stops.