Cortland vs. The College of New Jersey
September 13, 2003; Lions’ Stadium; Ewing, N.J.

FINAL SCORE: The College of New Jersey 21, Cortland 14

EWING, N.J. - Junior Steve Andrews ran for two touchdowns as The College of New Jersey defeated visiting SUNY Cortland, 21-14, in the New Jersey Athletic Conference opener for both teams. The Lions are now 2-0 overall and the Red Dragons fall to 0-2.

Andrews gave the Lions a 7-0 lead with a 33-yard scoring run four minutes, 24 seconds into the game. Cortland had the first possession of the game and moved to the New Jersey 27-yard line before missing a 44-yard field goal. New Jersey then drove 73 yards on six plays, capped by Andrews’ scoring run. Cortland tied the game with 50 seconds left in the first quarter on a 10-yard touchdown run by senior Mike Stepnick (Marilla/Iroquois). The scoring drive started on New Jersey’s 28-yard line after sophomore Joe Bulone (Seaford) recovered a fumble and was kept alive by a 20-yard pass from senior J.J. Tutwiler (Grand Island) to freshman Anthony Morat (Rome/Rome Free Academy) on a 4th-and-12 play from the New Jersey 30-yard line.

The game remained tied until the final four minutes of the first half. New Jersey drove 76 yards on 10 plays, keyed by a 42-yard pass from Bob Schurtz to Alan Kotteles, and scored on a 6-yard pass from Schurtz to Jon Hedgepeth to take a 14-7 lead with 3:49 left. Cortland fumbled the ball away on its next possession, and New Jersey capitalized with a five-play, 40-yard drive that culminated in a 13-yard Andrews touchdown run with 21 seconds remaining.

Cortland shut out New Jersey and held them to 22 yards of total offense in the second half, but could manage very little offensively itself. Freshman Stef Sair (Huntington) picked off a Schurtz pass at the New Jersey 25-yard line and returned the ball to the 13-yard line on the first series of the second half. Two plays later, sophomore Matt Rickert (Holbrook/Sachem) hit paydirt on an 11-yard run to close Cortland’s deficit to 21-14.

Intermittent rain during the game, including a heavy downpour in the fourth quarter, helped shut down both offensive attacks. Cortland’s next four drives lasted only three plays each and two netted negative yardage. New Jersey was no better, as its longest drive the remainder of the game was just 23 yards.

Tutwiler connected on a 51-yard pass to Morat in the rain with just over five minutes left, but the Red Dragons lost a fumble on the next play at the New Jersey 28-yard line. The Lions were forced to punt with just over two minutes left, and punter Jon Mizglewski mishandled the snap and was tackled trying to run after regaining possession. Cortland took over on the New Jersey 18-yard line with 1:59 left and no timeouts remaining. Two Stepinick runs netted a total of seven yards and Tutwiler scrambled for two yards on third down. On 4th-and-1 from the 9-yard line, Tutwiler scrambled and threw a pass to the back of the end zone. New Jersey’s Jason Julio got a hand on the ball and Cortland’s Paul DeSantis (Tonawanda/Kenmore East) also got a hand on the ball before it fell incomplete. New Jersey took over with 31 seconds left and took a knee to end the game.

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Hedgepeth led New Jersey with 85 yards rushing on 23 carries. Schurtz completed 7-of-14 passes for 105 yards. Rickert was Cortland’s leading rusher with 39 yards on 11 carries. Tutwiler connected on 8-of-18 passes for 139 yards, with Morat catching four passes for 95 yards. Junior linebacker Chad Rowe (Cazenovia) led Cortland’s defense with 13 tackles and sophomore linebacker Casey Lorenz (Wappingers Falls/Roy C. Ketcham) made 12 tackles. Freshman defensive lineman Adam Haas (East Aurora/St. Francis) recorded 1.5 of Cortland’s four sacks and senior Pete Wilson (Rochester/Gates Chili) blocked two punts. Michael Sykes and Ray Bateman each made eight tackles for the Lions.

Box Score (Final)
SUNY Cortland vs The College of N.J. (Sep 13, 2003 at Ewing, NJ)

Score by Quarters 1 2 3 4 Score
SUNY Cortland....... 7 0 7 0 14
The College of N.J.. 7 14 0 0 21

Score: SUNY Cortland 14 - The College of N.J. 21
Record: (0-2,0-1) - (2-0,1-0)

Score Summary:
1st 10:36 TCNJ - Steve Andrews 33 yd run (Blake Abbot kick), 6-73 2:16, CORT 0 - TCNJ 7
00:50 CORT - Mike Stepnick 10 yd run (Ryan DeCamp kick), 5-28 1:49, CORT 7 - TCNJ 7
2nd 03:49 TCNJ - Jon Hedgepeth 6 yd pass from Bob Schurtz (Blake Abbot kick), 10-76 5:27, CORT 7 - TCNJ 14
00:21 TCNJ - Steve Andrews 13 yd run (Blake Abbot kick), 5-40 2:06, CORT 7 - TCNJ 21
3rd 10:28 CORT - Matt Rickert 11 yd run (Ryan DeCamp kick), 2-13 0:46, CORT 14 - TCNJ 21

CORT TCNJ
FIRST DOWNS... 9 17
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)... 34-66 58-162
PASSING YDS (NET)... 139 105
Passes Att-Comp-Int 18-8-0 14-7-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS 52-205 72-267
Fumble Returns-Yards 0-0 0-0
Punt Returns-Yards 6-18 4-37
Kickoff Returns-Yards 4-76 3-56
Interception Returns-Yards 1-12 0-0
Punts (Number-Avg) 7-35.4 6-29.7
Fumbles-Lost 4-3 7-2
Penalties-Yards 4-35 2-10
Possession Time 23:26 36:34
Third-Down Conversions 1 of 11 7 of 16
Fourth-Down Conversions 1 of 2 0 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances 2-3 2-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards 4-25 1-7

RUSHING: SUNY Cortland-Matt Rickert 11-39; Mike Stepnick 6-18; Steve Davis 5-9; Chris Stalker 2-7; J.J. Tutwiler 10-minus 7. The College of N.J.-Jon Hedgepeth 23-85; Steve Andrews 5-49; Gregg Silvesti 9-21; Cory Schoonover 2-20; Leaaire Brown 2-10; Jim Dabrowski 2-3; TEAM 1-0; Nick D’Aconti 1-minus 5; Jon Mizglewski 1-minus 8; Bob Schurtz 12-minus 13.


RECEIVING: SUNY Cortland-Anthony Morat 4-95; Tony Romano 2-14; Neal Heaton Jr. 1-22; Jon Frechette 1-8. The College of N.J.-Joe Franzione 3-29; Jon Hedgepeth 2-22; Alan Kottees 1-42; Tony Sorrentino 1-12.

INTERCEPTIONS: SUNY Cortland-Stef Sair 1-12. The College of N.J.-None.
FUMBLES: SUNY Cortland-J.J. Tutwiler 2-1; Matt Rickert 1-1. The College of N.J.-Bob Schurtz 1-0; Steve Andrews 1-0; Leaaire Brown 1-1; Jon Mizglewski 1-0; Nick D’Aconti 1-0; Jon Hedgepeth 1-1; Jim Dabrowski 1-0.

Stadium: Lions' Stadium Attendance: 1392
Kickoff time: 2:00 pm End of Game: 4:31 pm Total elapsed time: 2:31
Officials: Referee: Peter Ciriello; Umpire: David Zabel; Linesman: Jeffrey Bower; Line judge: Joe Falcone; Back judge: Richard Olivola; Field judge: Barry Fowler; Side judge: Dan McGraw; Scorer: Ann King; Temperature: 68 Wind: nw 15 m Weather: rainy