SUNY Cortland Football
Cortland vs. Kean University
September 18, 2004; SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex; Cortland, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 49, Kean 17

CORTLAND, N.Y. – SUNY Cortland freshman quarterback Alex Smith (Wheatfield/Niagara-Wheatfield) tied a school single-game record with five touchdown passes as the Red Dragons defeated Kean University, 49-17, in a New Jersey Athletic Conference matchup. Cortland is 1-2 overall and 1-1 in league play. Kean is 1-2 and 0-1.

Cortland scored 28 points in the third quarter to pull away from a 14-10 halftime. Smith completed 16-for-25 passes for 286 yards and Kean freshman A.J. Roque (Matawan, NJ) completed 20-of-45 passes, including two touchdowns, and set a school mark for passing yards with 298.

Cortland's defense, however, limited Kean to minus-23 yards rushing. The Red Dragons recorded 12 sacks for 73 yards, including two each by sophomores Josh Jablonski (West Seneca/West Seneca West) and Adam Haas (East Aurora/St. Francis). Jablonski also finished with a blocked punt and two pass breakups. Kean outgained Cortland 214-144 in the first half, but Cortland gained 298 yards in the second half and finished with 442 yards to 275 for the Cougars.

The Red Dragons quickly got on the board, scoring on their first possession when Smith hit Jon Frechette (Oswego) on a 12-yard touchdown pass just three minutes into the game. Kean answered right back on the next possession when Jonathan Robinson (Brick, NJ/Point Pleasant) connected on a 25-yard field goal to cut the deficit to 7-3. The big play on the drive was a 48-yard Roque to Jasonus Tillery (Newport News, VA/Heritage) pass completion.

In the second quarter, the Red Dragons extended their lead to 14-3 when Steve Davis (Central Islip) took an option pitch off the right side for a 39-yard touchdown at the 12:22 mark. Davis finished the game with 23 carries for 132 yards and two touchdowns. Just before halftime, Kean took over at the Cortland 46-yard line with 1:39 left in the period and executed a perfect 2-minute drill. The Cougars need six plays before Roque hit Tillery at the two yard-line. Tillery then turned up field and leapt over a defender into the end zone with just 23 seconds left in the half to cut the Cortland lead to 14-10.

After the break, the Red Dragons took their first possession and marched the length of the field as Smith hit Paul Caughell (Niagara Falls/Niagara-Wheatfield) for a 39-yard touchdown 1:52 into the second half. Following a Roque interception, Smith connected with Neal Heaton Jr. (Bellport) on a 23-yard pass touchdown pass to close a three-play, 31-yard scoring drive. The Red Dragons tacked on their third touchdown pass of the quarter when Smith hooked up with Heaton again, this time for 29 yards on the second play of the drive.

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Kean inched back into the game when Roque hit Tolu Adeyemi (Matawan, NJ) for a 6-yard touchdown to make the score 35-17 with 2:07 left in the third. However, just 19 seconds later Smith connected on his fifth touchdown pass, finding sophomore Paul DeSantis (Tonawanda/Kenmore East) on a short pass that he took down the seam for a 66-yard score. Kean’s Darryl Bradley (Galloway, NJ/Oakcrest) then took the ensuing kickoff 89 yards to the Cortland 6-yard line. The Cougars, though, failed to capitalize on the opportunity, turning the ball over on downs. Davis capped the scoring for Cortland with a 1-yard rushing touchdown early in the fourth quarter. The drive covered only six yards on two plays, set up when Kean fumbled a punt.

For Cortland, senior tight end Tony Romano (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) made four catches for 52 yards. Heaton had three catches, two for scores, while Frechette and sophomore Anthony Morat (Rome/Rome Free Academy) also made three catches apiece. Freshman Dave D’Aurelio (Rochester/Aquinas Institute), sophomore Matt Montpetit (Westhampton Beach) and sophomore Stef Sair (Huntington) each made a team-high nine tackles and freshman Jeff Beck (Middlehope/Marlboro) had an interception and three pass breakups.

For Kean, Tillery hauled in seven balls for 180 yards, one yard shy of a school record, while Adeyemi added seven catches for 80 yards and a score. Junior Jarius Kendle (Asbury Park, NJ/Red Bank Catholic) had nine tackles and freshman Jake Pew (Sussex, NJ/Vernon) recorded an interception.