DANBURY, CONN. – Senior running back Steve Davis (Central Islip, NY) ran for 130 yards and one touchdown and Cortland's defense scored its fifth touchdown of the season as the Red Dragons defeated host Western Connecticut State, 26-10. The contest was the first New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) game to feature two non-New Jersey schools. Cortland has been a football-only NJAC member since 2000. The Colonials joined the league for football this fall.

Cortland (5-3, 4-2 NJAC) has won five of its last six games. The Red Dragons raced out to a 23-0 halftime lead and held off a late charge by the Colonials (4-5, 1-4), who have now lost their last four contests.

Cortland's defense, which entered the game ranked 12th nationally in rushing defense, held the Colonials to 65 yards on 21 carries. Western Connecticut State quarterback Joe DiMeglio (Bethel, CT) attempted a school-record 65 passes and completed 34 of them for 323 yards. He was held, however, without a touchdown pass.

Sophomore safeties Chuck Eich (Cheektowaga) and Josh Jablonski (West Seneca/West Seneca West) led the Red Dragons with 10 tackles each. Freshman cornerback Jeff Beck (Middlehope/Marlboro) made eight solo tackles, intercepted a pass and broke up two other pass attempts. Sophomore defensive lineman Rich DeJesus (Ronkonkoma/Connetquot) scored on a 40-yard fumble return in the second quarter. Cortland has scored on two fumble returns and three interception returns this year, including a touchdown in each of the last three games.

The Red Dragons capped an eight-play, 72-yard drive midway through the first quarter with a 28-yard field goal by senior Ryan DeCamp (Plattsburgh/Seton Catholic). Beck intercepted a Western Connecticut pass on the next series and returned the ball 37 yards to the Western 9-yard line. Davis scored from two yards out on third-and-goal with four seconds left in the quarter to give the Red Dragons a 10-0 lead.

The lead grew to 17-0 when DeJesus collected DiMeglio's errant lateral at the Western 40-yard line and broke three tackles before finding paydirt. With 8:26 remaining in the first half, the Red Dragons struck again as Alex Smith (Wheatfield/Niagara-Wheatfield) hooked up with Neal Heaton, Jr. (Bellport, NY) from two yards out. The extra point was blocked. The 38-yard scoring drive featured a 16-yard run by freshman Dustin Bowser (Jamestown/Southwestern) and a 14-yard pass from Smith to freshman tight end Paul Caughell (Niagara Falls/Niagara-Wheatfield).

Smith finished the game 15 of 23 passing for 176 yards on the one touchdown, while Heaton made a team-high six catches for 54 yards. Senior tight end Tony Romano (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) had three receptions for 39 yards and now has 100 catches in his collegiate career. He is the 12th player in school history, and the first tight end, to reach the 100-reception mark.

Western got on the scoreboard when third-string quarterback Ryan Woodruff (West Greenwich, RI) booted his first career field goal, a 22-yarder, just two seconds into the final period. Jason Adamson (Brooklyn, NY) helped cut the Colonials' deficit to 13 points when he dove over the defense from two yards out with 10:14 remaining in the game.

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The Colonials got the ball back with 8:31 left in the game and drove from their 47-yard line to the Cortland 25-yard line. A first-down pass was stopped for a four-yard loss, and the next three pass attempts were incomplete. Sophomore safety Stef Sair (Huntington), who had intercepted a pass in the first half, broke up the fourth-down toss to give the Red Dragons the ball on downs with 5:59 remaining.

On second down at the Cortland 33-yard line, Davis, who surpassed the 100-yard mark for the sixth time in eight games, broke free for a season-high 48-yard run to the Colonials' 19-yard line. Three plays later, freshman Derek Ziders (Lancaster) made a 30-yard field goal – his first collegiate points – to give the Red Dragons a 26-10 lead with 4:09 remaining. Ziders entered the game for DeCamp, who had missed from 32 yards away in the second quarter and 37 yards out in the third quarter. Western's final drive stalled on downs at the Cortland 37-yard line as sophomore Matt Montpetit (Westhampton Beach) broke up a fourth-down pass.

Vinny Sheperis (North Kingstown, RI) had 12 catches for 132 yards while Adamis Gonzalez (Meriden, CT) collected 10 balls for 80 yards to lead the Colonials air attack. Ryan Ellis made 10 tackles, nine solo, and blocked both a punt and an extra point.

The Red Dragons amassed 442 total offensive yards, 266 on the ground, to Western’s 388 total yards.