SUNY Cortland Sports Information

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SUNY Cortland Football
Cortland vs. Western Connecticut State
October 29, 2005; SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex; Cortland, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 26, Western Conn. St. 7

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Tailbacks Matt Rickert (Holbrook/Sachem) and Dustin Bowser (Jamestown/Southwestern) combined for 115 rushing yards and three touchdowns and Cortland’s defense recorded eight sacks and held Western Connecticut to minus-39 yards rushing as the Red Dragons defeated the Colonials, 26-7, in a New Jersey Athletic Conference matchup.

Cortland improved to 6-2 overall and clinched at least second place in the NJAC with a 5-1 mark in its final league game of the season. Western falls to 4-4 overall and 2-3 in the NJAC.

Rickert finished with 67 yards and a score on 20 carries, while Bowser had 11 rushes for 48 yards and two touchdowns. Quarterback Alex Smith (Niagara Falls/Niagara-Wheatfield) completed 17-of-27 passes for 134 yards, including a 3-yard touchdown pass to Zak Carter (Fayetteville/Fayetteville-Manlius). Linebacker Josh Jablonski (Buffalo/West Seneca West) made 10 tackles and blocked a punt – his school single-season record fifth block of the season.

Western quarterback Joe DiMeglio (Bethel, CT/Univ. of New Haven) connected on 23-of-47 passes for 234 yards, including nine completions for 79 yards to Adamis Gonzalez (Meriden, CT/Platt). Three Colonials recorded double-figure tackles. Defensive back John Hoke (Tomkins Cove/North Rockland) made 15 stops, linebacker Jason Alcin (Nyack/Univ. of New Haven) registered 12 tackles and linebacker Kenny Jost (Staten Island/Moore Catholic) finished with 11 tackles. Western’s lone score came in the third quarter when defensive lineman Kevin Marchant (East Lyme, CT) blocked a field goal that Rick Jackson (Wallingford, CT/Lyman Hall) returned 74 yards for a touchdown.

Cortland jumped out to a 13-0 lead in the first quarter. The Red Dragons drove 83 yards on 10 plays on their first possession. Smith’s 15-yard pass to fullback Mike Sveda (Nesconset/Smithtown) moved the ball to the 3-yard line, setting up Rickert’s touchdown run on the next play. The extra point failed. Later in the quarter, Stef Sair (Huntington) fielded a punt at the Cortland 47-yard line. He appeared to be down near the left sideline after a short gain, but instead bounced back, raced right and almost scored before being tackled at the 1-yard line after a 52-yard return. Bowser ran in on first down to extend the lead to 13-0.

Neither team scored again until Cortland’s 29-yard field goal attempt midway through the third quarter was blocked by Marchant and returned by Jackson, who raced untouched down the right sideline to pull WCSU within 13-7. Late in the half, Jablonski blocked a punt deep in Western territory to give Cortland the ball on the 11-yard line. A personal foul penalty on Western on 2nd-and-18 gave Cortland a first down at the 9-yard line, and three plays later Smith found Carter open on the right side for a touchdown. Bowser capped the scoring with a 22-yard run with 2:02 remaining.

Cortland’s eight sacks increase its season total to 46 in eight games. The school record for single-season sacks is 47, set in 2002. Cortland’s defense has not allowed any points in its last two games.

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