FINAL SCORE: Buffalo State 68, Cortland 56

CORTLAND, N.Y. -- Junior Joshua Becker (Hamburg/ Frontier) scored 25 points as Buffalo State defeated host Cortland 68-56 in SUNYAC men's basketball action Tuesday evening.

Becker made 10-of-14 shots from the field, including 5-of-8 from three-point range, for the Bengals (9-4, 4-1 SUNYAC). He also recorded nine rebounds. Senior Anthony Piccolo (Depew) scored 14 points and grabbed nine rebounds and junior Perry Davis (Buffalo/Seneca), the SUNYAC's leading rebounder at 10.4 per game, registered a game-high 12 caroms.

Freshman Jon Rother (Sodus Point/Sodus Central) led Cortland (2-10, 0-4 SUNYAC) with 14 points and five rebounds. He has scored in double-figures in all 12 games this season. Senior Kevin DeVantier (Roscoe) scored 12 points and sophomore Steve Esposito (Fairport) poured in nine points.

Buffalo State took an 8-0 lead 2:02 into the game and never trailed, although Cortland was back within 14-13 on a Rother layup with 12:57 left in the half. The Bengals rattled off 10 straight points to take a 24-13 lead and led by at least nine the rest of the game.

Trailing 59-39 with 7:42 left in the contest, Cortland mounted one final rally. Esposito's layup and three-pointer, followed by three-pointers from freshman Frank Ranieri (Cicero/Cicero-North Syracuse) and freshman Steve Dicklich (Highland), gave the Red Dragons an 11-0 run that pulled them to within 59-50 with 1:54 remaining. Sophomore Jeremy Konst (Williamsville/Williamsville East), however, made four straight free throws to put the Bengals ahead 63-50 with 53 seconds left.

(Full box score on following page)
Official Basketball Box Score -- GAME TOTALS -- FINAL STATISTICS
Buffalo State vs SUNY Cortland
1/21/03 8 p.m. at Cortland, NY (Corey Gymnasium)

VISITORS: Buffalo State 9-4, 4-1 SUNYAC

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TEAM Totals: 24-59 9-20 11-17 13 29 42 12 68 15 8 4 3 200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 14-36 38.9% 2nd Half: 10-23 43.5% Game: 40.7% DEADB
3-PT FG% 1st Half: 6-12 50.0% 2nd Half: 3-8 37.5% Game: 45.0% REBS
F Throw % 1st Half: 0-1 0.0% 2nd Half: 11-16 68.8% Game: 64.7% 2,1

HOME TEAM: SUNY Cortland 2-10, 0-4 SUNYAC

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TEAM Totals: 22-58 5-22 7-12 9 26 35 20 56 12 10 2 6 200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 10-29 34.5% 2nd Half: 12-29 41.4% Game: 37.9% DEADB
3-PT FG% 1st Half: 1-11 9.1% 2nd Half: 4-11 36.4% Game: 22.7% REBS
F Throw % 1st Half: 0-0 0.0% 2nd Half: 7-12 58.3% Game: 58.3% 2

Officials: Kevin McGoff, Jamie Frank, Don McEvoy
Technical fouls: Buffalo State-None. SUNY Cortland-None.
Attendance: 175
Score by Periods

Buffalo State................. 34 34 - 68
SUNY Cortland............... 21 35 - 56

Buffalo State led 8-0 early and never trailed. The Bengals led by 23 points at 51-28 with 13:58 left and 59-39 with 7:42 remaining. Cortland scored the next 11 points to close within 59-50 with 1:54 left but got no closer. Junior Joshua Becker (Hamburg/ Frontier) led the Bengals with 25 pts (5-8 from three).