SUNY Cortland Men's Basketball

SUNY Cortland vs. Buffalo State
Saturday, February 21, 2004; Corey Gymnasium; Cortland, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Buffalo St. 75, Cortland 66

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Joshua Becker and Perry Davis combined for 49 points and 21 rebounds as Buffalo State defeated Cortland, 75-66, to keep its SUNYAC playoff hopes alive. The Bengals, last year's SUNYAC champion and the preseason favorite to win this year's title, would have missed the eight-team league tournament with a loss to the Red Dragons. Instead, the Bengals (13-11, 7-9 SUNYAC) finish in a three-way tie for sixth in the final league standings and, based on a tiebreaker, will be the sixth seed in next week's playoffs.

Cortland (16-9, 8-8) finished fifth in the league and will travel to fourth-seeded Geneseo on Tuesday, Feb. 24, for an 8 p.m. quarterfinal matchup. The winner of that game will face either #1 Brockport or #8 SUNYIT on Friday at 3 p.m. in the semifinals at the Utica Memorial Auditorium.

Becker finished the game with 26 points, 17 in the second half, and he grabbed a game-high 14 rebounds. Davis had 23 points, seven rebounds, five assists, three steals and three blocked shots.

Freshman Dave Jutton (Red Hook) led Cortland with 18 points and three assists. He made 5-of-10 three-pointers. Sophomore Brian Kirchhoff (Webster) connected on 4-of-9 shots from behind the arc and finished with 15 points and seven rebounds. Junior Justin O'Garrow (Port Washington/Paul D. Schreiber) contributed 10 points, eight rebounds and three assists and sophomore Jon Rother (Sodus Point/Sodus Central) scored 10 points.

Buffalo State never trailed in the first half, leading 5-0 to start the game and holding a 19-7 lead in the period. The Red Dragons slowly chipped away at the lead and tied the game at 28-28 with 3:20 left on a Jutton trey. The game was tied again at 30-30 before the Bengals scored the final three points of the half.

Cortland led on two brief occasions in the second half, the latter at 46-45 with 12:16 left on a Kirchhoff free throw. The Bengals, however, outscored the Red Dragons 22-6 over the next eight minutes to take a 15-point lead. Cortland was able to get back to within eight points on Jutton's three-pointer with 3:11 left before the rally faltered.