FINAL SCORE: Geneseo 72, Cortland 67

CORTLAND, N.Y. — Geneseo used a 17-3 run midway through the second half to break open a tight game, and the Knights held off a late Cortland rally to hand the Red Dragons their first SUNYAC loss of the season. Geneseo (4-9, 2-3 SUNYAC) won its third straight game, while Cortland (9-5, 4-1) had its four-game winning streak snapped.

Four Geneseo players scored in double figures, led by Steve McDonnell's (Fairport) 19 points. He was 3-of-5 from three-point range. Greg Spears (Olean) scored 16 points, Joe Zera (Buffalo/Canisius) added 14 points and Tarik Kitson (New York City/Grimsley (NC)) registered 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Cortland was led by sophomore Dave Jutton (Red Hook), who made 6-of-10 three-pointers en route to an 18-point performance. Junior Simon Skrelja (Hastings-on-Hudson/Hastings) scored 12 points on 6-of-8 shooting, while junior Frank Ranieri (Cicero/Cicero-North Syracuse) and sophomore Rod Headley (Peekskill) scored nine points each. Senior Justin O'Garrow (Port Washington/Paul D. Schreiber) dished out eight assists.

Cortland led a majority of the first half. Geneseo's lone lead of the period was 14-13 with 11:16 remaining on a McDonnell three-pointer. The game was tied at 27-27 before a pair of Jutton treys in the final two minutes gave the Red Dragons a 33-27 lead at halftime.

Geneseo tied the game at 41-41 with 13:53 left, but consecutive breakaway dunks by Skrelja gave Cortland a four-point lead. With the score tied at 45-45, Skrelja converted on a driving layup and his third dunk of the half to put Cortland ahead 49-45 with 10:45 remaining.

The Knights then began their decisive run, starting with six points by Spears and seven consecutive points by McDonnell that turned a 51-51 tie into a 57-51 lead. The run ended with a Spears layup off a McDonnell feed at the 4:33 mark to put Geneseo on top, 62-52, with 4:33 left.

Cortland answered back with eight straight points on a Brian Kirchhoff (Webster) layup and three-pointers by Jutton and Ranieri to pull within 62-60 with 2:04 left. Zera hit a layup at the 1:45 mark and, following one Ranieri free throw, McDonnell hit a layup with 45 seconds left to push the lead to five. Cortland got back to within three points on three more occasions, but each time Geneseo responded by hitting both ends of a one-and-one on the foul line. Nick Kelley (Almond/Geneseee Valley) made two free throws at both the 24 and 12-second marks and Zera hit two from the stripe with seven seconds left.

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