SUNY Cortland Men's Basketball

SUNY Cortland vs. Rochester Institute of Technology
Tuesday, December 13, 2005; Clark Gym; Rochester, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 66, RIT 52

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Cortland went on a 23-3 run early in the second half to pull away from a close contest as the Red Dragons defeated RIT, 66-52, for their seventh straight victory.

Cortland (7-1) placed four scorers in double figures as it improved its record to 4-0 versus Empire 8 conference teams. Junior Dave Maggiacomo (Pleasant Valley/Arlington) scored 15 points, followed by junior Dave Jutton (Red Hook) with 14 points. Senior Frank Ranieri (Cicero/Cicero-North Syracuse) finished with 12 points and senior Simon Skrelja (Hastings-on-Hudson/Hastings) added 10 points, a career-high 15 rebounds and three blocked shots.

Jutton made 4-of-7 three-point attempts and Maggiacomo hit three shots from behind the arc. Ranieri recorded four assists and four rebounds.

Tim Bacon (Massena) led RIT (4-2) with 19 points and 11 rebounds, including seven offensive boards. He was the Tigers’ lone double-figure scorer. Barrett Zeinfeld (Tuscon, AZ/Catalina Foothills) scored eight points and Tyler Springer (Endwell/Maine-Endwell) handed out a game-high nine assists.

Cortland jumped out to an early 7-0 lead, but the Tigers fought back to take a 10-9 lead and the game remained close for most of the first half. Skrelja scored five points during a 6-0 run that turned a 24-22 lead into a 30-22 margin with 2:23 left in the half, and the Red Dragons settled for a 32-28 halftime lead.

Cortland’s lead was 34-32 when Jutton nailed a three-pointer with 18:34 left to start the decisive run. Jutton and Maggiacomo each scored six points on two three-pointers during the spurt, which was capped by Skrelja’s layup with 10:07 left to give the Red Dragons a 57-35 advantage.

RIT clawed back to with 59-46 with 5:07 left, but failed to score on its next two possessions. Freshman Carson Niehoff (West Islip) made a pair of free throws with 4:14 left to extend Cortland’s lead to 15 points and the margin was at least 12 the rest of the way. Niehoff finished with six points, including 4-of-4 foul shooting.

Cortland is off until Jan. 4, when it will host Hartwick at 6 p.m. as the second half of a doubleheader with the women’s team.

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