SUNY Cortland Men's Basketball
SUNY Cortland vs. SUNY Institute of Technology
Tuesday, January 17, 2006; SUNYIT Campus Center Gym; Utica, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 76, SUNYIT 70

UTICA, N.Y. – Senior Frank Ranieri (Cicero/Cicero-North Syracuse) scored a game-high 21 points on 10-of-13 shooting and junior Dave Jutton (Red Hook) added 17 points, including two crucial three-pointers in the final four minutes, as Cortland defeated host SUNYIT, 76-70, in a matchup of the SUNYAC’s co-leaders.

Cortland extended its winning streak to 13 games and improved to 13-1 on the season. The Red Dragons, fifth among the “others receiving votes” section in the latest D3hoops.com national poll, are 6-0 in league play. The Wildcats are 5-1 in the SUNYAC and 7-5 overall.

Jutton made 5-of-10 three-pointers for the Red Dragons, while junior Dave Maggiacomo (Pleasant Valley/Arlington) scored 11 points and handed out a team-high five assists. Senior Scott Taggart (Sidney Center/Franklin) scored 11 points and grabbed seven rebounds, senior Simon Skrelja (Hastings-on-Hudson/Hastings) finished with nine points and junior Rod Headley (Peekskill) recorded a game-high eight rebounds.

Chris Reaves (Syracuse/Herkimer CC) led SUNYIT with 16 points and six assists. Antoine Gilkes (Bronx/MVCC) made 6-of-7 shots and finished with 12 points and a team-high seven rebounds. Elvis Belone (Queens/MVCC) ended with 12 points on 4-of-8 three-point shooting and Chris Plante (Whitesboro) scored 11 points, including three treys.

The hosts jumped out to a 24-12 lead nine minutes into the contest, but Cortland scored 15 of the next 17 points to take a 27-26 lead with 5:49 left. The game remained tight from that point on, with neither team leading by more than six the rest of the way.

Ranieri’s jumper with 6:49 left in the game staked the Red Dragons to a 62-56 lead, but Belone nailed a pair of three-pointers to tie the game at 62-62. After Ranieri and Reaves traded baskets, Jutton hit a three-pointer with less than four minutes remaining to give Cortland a 67-64 lead.

The Red Dragons were holding on to a two-point lead when Maggiacomo made a jumper to up the lead to 71-67 with 1:20 left. Belone’s three-pointer with under a minute remaining drew the Wildcats back within 71-70, but Jutton responded with a trey of his own with under 15 seconds left and the Red Dragons were back up by four. Sophomore Mark Schaller (Rochester/Greece Athena), inserted late in the game, made two free throws with four seconds left to complete the scoring.

Cortland is 10-1 away from home this season, including a 9-0 road mark and a 1-1 record in neutral court games. The Red Dragons have played only three home games, but conclude the regular season with eight of their final 11 contests at Corey Gymnasium.