FINAL SCORE: Cortland 14, Skidmore 7

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Cortland outscored Skidmore 5-0 in the fourth quarter to pull away from a tight game as the nationally second-ranked Red Dragons defeated the 14th-ranked Thoroughbreds, 14-7, in an NCAA Division III tournament second round contest. Cortland will face Nazareth in the national quarterfinals on Wednesday, May 18, at a site and time to be announced.

The Red Dragons improved to 17-1 with the win and tied a school single-season record for victories. Skidmore, making its first-ever NCAA tournament appearance, ends the season with a 13-3 record.

Senior Adam Hughes (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) led Cortland with three goals and two assists. He has scored 50 goals this season and is now second on Cortland's career goal-scoring chart with 148, six behind leader Mike Perkins. Junior Mike Abbott (Syracuse/Nottingham) scored three goals and four Red Dragons – freshman Adam Hyde (West Seneca/West Seneca East), freshman Chris Hannon (Baldwin), junior Kyle Lambert (Brentwood) and junior Brian Atkins (Adams/South Jefferson) – scored two goals each. Sophomore Ryan Simensky (Locust Valley) assisted on four goals and junior Ben Gaebel (Deferiet/Carthage) made nine saves, five in the fourth quarter.

Junior Tom Spinella (New Hartford/Loomis Chaffee) led Skidmore with three goals. Junior James de Gorter (Ithaca) made 12 saves.

The teams were tied 2-2 after the first quarter. Brendan Bellefeuille (Wilbraham, MA/Minnechaug) started the scoring for Thoroughbreds with 11:23 left, but Cortland tied the game 20 seconds later on a Lambert goal. Spinella gave Skidmore the lead at the 5:11 mark and Abbott re-tied the game with 3:44 left.

Skidmore scored the first two goals of the second to take a 4-2 lead. Spinella scored with 12:11 remaining and Pat O'Leary (Needham, MA) followed with a goal 45 seconds later. Cortland, however, responded with the final four goals of the half and the first goal of the third quarter to take a 7-4 lead. Atkins and Hughes each scored twice during that stretch. The teams then traded goals before Hughes and Hyde found the net to give Cortland a 9-5 lead with 7:17 left in the third.

Skidmore fought back with the final two goals of the third quarter to close within 9-7. Charlie McNeil (Spencer, MA/Williston Northampton) scored with 6:35 left and Spinella notched his third goal of the game – and his 54th of the season – with 56 seconds remaining in the period. Cortland's fourth-quarter surge started with a Hyde goal at the 12:26 mark and extra-man goals by Lambert at 10:32 and Abbott at 8:56. Hannon scored the final two goals with 8:12 and 3:30 left, respectively. Cortland finished the game 3-for-4 on extra-man opportunities, all in the second half.

(game summary on next page)
NCAA Division III Men’s Lacrosse Tournament – Second Round
Cortland vs. Skidmore
May 15, 2005; Cortland, N.Y.

GAME SUMMARY:

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Scoring (Goals-Assists):
Skidmore: Tom Spinella 3-0, Charlie McNeil 1-0, Brendan Bellefeuille 1-0, Rich Palmer 1-0, Pat O'Leary 1-0, John Kotsinonos 0-1
Cortland: Adam Hughes 3-2, Mike Abbott 3-0, Kyle Lambert 2-0, Adam Hyde 2-0, Chris Hannon 2-0, Brian Atkins 2-0, Ryan Simensky 0-4, Matt O'Connell 0-1

Goalkeepers:
Skidmore: James de Gorter, 12 saves, 14 GA in 60:00
Cortland: Ben Gaebel, 9 saves, 7 GA in 60:00

Shots: Cortland 54, Skidmore 31
Ground Balls: Cortland 38, Skidmore 30
Clears: Cortland 17-of-22, Skidmore 14-of-19
Faceoffs Won: Cortland 13, Skidmore 12
Penalties: Cortland 1-0:30, Skidmore 4-2:30
Extra-Man Offense: Cortland 3-4, Skidmore 0-1