SUNY Cortland Men’s Lacrosse
Cortland (17-3) vs. Salisbury (20-0)
2006 NCAA Division III Championship Game
May 28, 2006; 2:30 p.m.; Lincoln Financial Field; Philadelphia, Pa.

TICKET INFORMATION: All seating for Sunday’s Division III (2:30 p.m.) and Division II (5:30 p.m.) championship game doubleheader is general admission only (no reserved seats). Tickets are $20 and go on sale Friday at Lincoln Financial Field and through Ticketmaster. See the web site www.faceoffphiladelphia.com for more details. All-session tickets, which include reserved seats for Saturday’s Division I semifinals and Monday’s Division I finals, along with admission to Sunday’s games, are available for purchase through the web site as well.

The Cortland Athletics Office has a limited number of all-session tickets available for sale as well for Cortland parents, employees and students for $35 (call 607-753-4953 for information). Cortland will also be running a fan bus to the game. The cost is $40 per person. The bus will leave from the Park Center Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Call the Athletics Office for details. Also, there will be a hospitality tent for Cortland fans adjacent to the stadium on Sunday.

TELEVISION: The game will be televised live on CSTV (DirecTV Channel 610, Dish Network Channel 152 or check with your local cable provider). Time Warner customers in Central New York with digital cable can purchase a sports package upgrade that includes CSTV (call Time Warner for details). Periodic updates during the game will also be available on the Cortland Sports Hotline at (607) 753-2521.

NOTEBOOK:

Cortland in Division III: Cortland is making its 15th NCAA Division III tournament appearance. The Red Dragons are currently 14-14 in Division III playoffs games, including a 3-0 mark in this year’s playoffs. Cortland appeared in the first two NCAA Division III title games, losing at Hobart in both 1980 (11-8) and 1981 (10-8), but has not been to the finals since. The Red Dragons lost in the national semifinals in 1985 (16-10 to Washington (MD)), 1986 (22-8 to Hobart) and 2003 (9-8 in OT to Middlebury).

Cortland in Divisions I and II: Cortland is the only school that has won NCAA playoff games on the Division I, II and III levels. In 1972, the Red Dragons won 10-9 in overtime at Navy in the Division I quarterfinals before losing at home to Virginia, 14-7, in the semifinals in front of approximately 7,000 fans at Davis Field. Cortland posted a 7-5 record in six NCAA Division II tournament appearances between 1974-79. The Red Dragons won the national title in 1975 (12-11 at Hobart) and advanced to the semifinals in 1974 and 1978. Cortland also won a USILA national title in 1973. Hobart is the only other school to play in the NCAA Division I, II and III tournaments, but the Statesmen are currently 0-4 in Division I tournament games.

About Salisbury: One of the top programs in Division III history, Salisbury is the three-time defending national champion and brings a 69-game winning streak into this year’s title game. The Sea Gulls’ last loss came versus Lynchburg (13-12) on April 10, 2003. They won their final nine games that season, were 20-0 in both 2004 and 2005 and are 20-0 this spring. The Sea Gulls are making their 18th straight NCAA appearance and 24th overall. They have won six national titles (the other three came in 1994, 1995 and 1999) and have been runner-up twice.

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Cortland vs. Salisbury: Cortland holds a 4-2 advantage in the lifetime series between the schools. The teams last met in Maryland in 2002, with Cortland winning 11-5. The Red Dragons also defeated the Sea Gulls in the 1981 NCAA semifinals (14-9) as well as regular-season wins in 1985 (10-9, OT) and 1990 (11-10). Salisbury defeated Cortland in the 1984 NCAA quarterfinals (12-7) and in the 1991 regular season (22-7).

Win Record: Cortland’s 17 victories this year ties a school single-season record set by both the 2003 (17-3) and 2005 (17-2) Red Dragon squads. Cortland also posted 16 wins in 2002 and 15 wins in 2004. The Red Dragons are a combined 82-14 (.854) since the start of the 2002 season.

Cortland’s Coach: Cortland’s Rich Barnes is in a unique situation, leading his team to the national championship game in his first, and perhaps only, season as head coach. Barnes, an All-America goalie for the Red Dragons in both 1988 and 1989, was named the program’s interim head coach this spring after Lelan Rogers left to become director of men’s lacrosse operations at Syracuse University. Barnes has enjoyed a successful run as an assistant coach at both Cortland and Ithaca College. He served as an assistant at Cortland in 1990 and 1996 and rejoined the staff as the team’s defensive coordinator in 2005. He was an assistant at Ithaca from 1991-92 and 1998-2004, with the Bombers advancing to the national semifinals in both 1992 and 2002.

The Road to Philly: Cortland earned its NCAA tournament berth after defeating Geneseo, 13-7, on the road in the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) tournament championship game. The Red Dragons had lost to the Knights, 9-8, at home during the regular season and were the second seed in the league’s four-team post-season tournament. Cortland received a bye into the second round of the NCAA playoffs and was the top seed in the North bracket. The nationally fifth-ranked Red Dragons defeated 13th-ranked Stevens Institute of Technology (N.J.), 16-7, in the second round, knocked off seventh-ranked Middlebury, 12-8, in the quarterfinals and edged 10th-ranked Wesleyan (Conn.), 7-6, in the semifinals on Ryan Simensky’s (Locust Valley) goal 42 seconds into overtime.

Cheering on the Red Dragons: Sunday’s anticipated crowd of more than 20,000 fans will most likely be the largest audience ever to attend a SUNY Cortland athletic event. Cortland’s football games with rival Ithaca College regularly draw between 8,000-12,000 fans each fall, with the largest crowd in that series 12,620 in 2001.

Lambert Career Goal Leader: Cortland senior attack Kyle Lambert (Brentwood) has scored a team-high 43 goals this season and is the school’s career goal-scoring leader with 163. The previous record of 154 goals was set by Mike Perkins from 1982-85. Lambert is also one of six players in school history to reach the career 200-point mark. He is currently sixth with 214 points (163 goals, 51 assists).

Others in the Century Club: Three other Cortland players in addition to Lambert have scored more than 100 career points. Senior midfielder Matt O’Connell (Camillus/West Genesee) has 66 goals and 73 assists for 139 points in four seasons. Ryan Simensky has registered 61 goals and 68 assists for 129 points in three years. Senior midfielder Mike Abbott (Syracuse/Nottingham) has 82 goals and 30 assists for 112 points in just two seasons. Abbott transferred to Cortland after two seasons at Division I Virginia. Division I Connections: For Mike Abbott, Sunday’s game is a chance to win a second national title. He was a member of Virginia’s Division I national championship team during his freshman year in 2003. Abbott’s rooting interest in Saturday’s Virginia-Syracuse Division I semifinal, however, leans toward Syracuse since his brother, Matt, is a freshman midfielder for the Orange.

In addition, Cortland senior defensman Casey Dougherty’s (Syracuse/Corcoran) brother, Kevin, and Cortland assistant coach Jake Plunket were members of Syracuse’s 2004 national championship team. Kevin was named to the NCAA all-tournament team that year.