SUNYAC Men’s Soccer Finals

SUNY Cortland vs. SUNY Fredonia
Saturday, November 8, 2003; Hall of Fame Fields; Oneonta, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 1, Fredonia 0 (2OT)

ONEONTA, N.Y. - Junior Christian Peters (Wesel, Germany/Konrad-Duden) scored on a direct kick one minute, 28 seconds into the second overtime to lead the third-seeded Cortland men’s soccer team to a 1-0 win over fourth-seeded Fredonia in the SUNYAC finals Saturday afternoon at the Hall of Fame Fields in Oneonta. Cortland captured its third straight conference playoff title despite not being the top seed in any of those tournaments. The Red Dragons earned an automatic NCAA Division III tournament bid with the win.

The Red Dragons (15-4-2) tied the school record for wins first established in 1982 and since matched in 1991 and last season and now have a nine-game unbeaten streak (8-0-1). Fredonia fell to 12-6-3 with the loss and has dropped its last five games against the Red Dragons.

Peters ended the contest with a perfectly placed shot inside the left post for his eighth goal of the season. He was named the tournament Most Valuable Player, having scored the game-winning goal in all three of Cortland's SUNYAC playoff victories. He tallied twice in a 3-0 win over New Paltz on Tuesday and scoring the decisive goal in a 2-0 semifinal victory over Geneseo on Friday. Junior midfielder Chad Becker (Rochester/Churchville-Chili), senior defender Brian Dermody (Port Washington/Paul D. Schreiber) and sophomore goalie Sean Trask (Alplaus/Niskayuna) were also named to the all-tournament team.

In a scoreless first half, the Blue Devils had a strong wind at their back, outshot the Red Dragons 7-2 and held a decisive 6-1 advantage in corner kicks. Fredonia had a goal disallowed due to a hand ball and two other balls were cleared off the goal line by Becker and senior Brian Schnall (Holbrook/Sachem).

In the first overtime, Cortland freshman midfielder Jordan Berg (Jamestown) one-timed a shot in front of the goal that beat Fredonia's goalie Matt Borchard but trickled wide of the left post. Later in the period, Fredonia defender CJ Knapp made a run down the right side, beat two Cortland players and served a dangerous ball across the goal mouth that was deflected away by Trask. Trask started in goal for the Red Dragons and made six saves in 97:29 before giving way to sophomore Ross Morelli (Rochester/Hilton), who did not have to make a save in earning the win. Borchard stopped two shots in a losing effort the Blue Devils.

Scoring Summary (Goals-Assists):
Fredonia: none
Cortland: Christian Peters 1-0

Halftime: Cortland 0, Fredonia 0
Shots: Fredonia 12, Cortland 7
Corner Kicks: Fredonia 7, Cortland 6
Saves: Matt Borchard (Fredonia) 2 (1 GA in 101:28); Sean Trask (Cortland) 6 (0 GA in 97:29), Ross Morelli (Cortland) 0 (0 GA in 3:59)

Record after game: Cortland (Red Dragons) 15-4-2; Fredonia (Blue Devils) 12-6-3

(goal summary on next page)
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