FINAL SCORE: Emory 8, Cortland 0

SALEM, VA. – Emory scored four runs in the top of the first inning and never looked back as the Eagles defeated SUNY Cortland, 8-0, in a loser’s bracket game at the NCAA Division III Softball Championships. Cortland is eliminated from the tournament and finishes tied for fifth nationally. The Red Dragons finish the season 42-8-1, setting a school single-season record for victories.

“This loss hurts right now,” said Cortland senior shortstop Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South), “but in a few days we’ll remember how good of a year it was. We’ll be able to focus on the fact that it was a record-breaking year for us.”

Tamara Boggs went 3-for-4 with two RBI for Emory and Allison Bouknight was 2-for-4 with three RBI. Emory registered 12 hits in the contest and Catherine O’Brien pitched a four-hit shutout, striking out four and walking one.

Lauren Dix led off the game with a walk versus Cortland freshman starter Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro). A sacrifice bunt by Emily Sunshine and a walk to Melissa Roberts put runners on first and second. Boggs singled to right, and Dix scored when the ball was bobbled in right field. With runners on second and third, Bouknight doubled down the left field line to score two runs. Two batters later, Mandy Chastang singled to center to drive in Bouknight.

The Eagles knocked out Adamshick in the second inning with a leadoff single by Tracey Summa. Junior Lara Almansberger (Fairport) entered the game and gave up a single to Sherri Rauenzahn, with an error allowing the runners to move to second and third. A walk to Dix loaded the bases with no outs. Almansberger almost escaped the jam, getting a force out at home on a grounder to second and a short lineout to right, but Boggs lined a two-out, two-run single to center to give the Eagles a 6-0 lead.

“We were flat today,” said Julie Lenhart, Cortland’s ninth-year head coach. “We didn’t have the defense, pitching or offense going today. We expected to be here for a while today. It’s disappointing.”

Cortland’s best scoring threat came in the fourth inning. Senior Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South) led off with a single that dropped in down the right field line. Gentner finished 2-for-3 with a double. Junior Carin Placente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) singled through the left side to put runners on first and second. Dix scored when the ball was bobbled in right field. With runners on second and third, Bouknight doubled down the left field line to score two runs. Two batters later, Mandy Chastang singled to center to drive in Bouknight.

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Emory added a run in the fifth on an RBI double by Elizabeth Hampson and another in the seventh when Roberts tripled and scored on a Bouknight RBI squeeze bunt. Hampson was 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Adamshick allowed four hits and five runs, all earned. She walked two and did not strike out anyone in one inning plus one batter. She finishes the season with an 18-5 record – the most victories ever by a Red Dragon freshman. Almansberger gave up eight hits and three runs, all earned, in six innings. She registered two strikeouts and one walk.

(Cortland notes and game linescore on next page)
CORTLAND NOTES: Cortland junior catcher Jill Seymour (Conklin/Susquehanna Valley) threw out all three Emory baserunners attempting to steal in the game...Julie Gentner’s double in the first inning was her school single-season record 18th...Gentner finishes her career as Cortland’s leader in hits (224), RBI (139), doubles (58) and games played (181) and second in home runs (19)...Gentner, Carin Placente, Lara Stone and freshman Jennifer Rockwell (Scotia) each played in a school-record 51 games this spring. The previous record was 50 games, set by current Red Dragon pitching coach Tara Schanbacher in 1998.

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Emory (38-5): Christine O’Brien (W, 19-2) and Sherri Rauenzahn
Cortland (42-8-1): Stephanie Adamshick (L, 18-5), Lara Almansberger (2) and Jill Seymour

2B - Allison Bouknight (E), Elizabeth Hampson (E), Julie Gentner (C)
3B - Melissa Roberts (E)
HR - none