SUNY Cortland Softball
Doubleheader vs. Ithaca College
Thursday, March 27, 2003; Kostrinsky Field; Ithaca, N.Y.

GAME 1: Cortland 6, Ithaca 5
GAME 2: Cortland 5, Ithaca 4 (8 innings)

ITHACA, N.Y. – Cortland rallied from seventh-inning deficits in both games of a doubleheader to sweep nationally top-ranked and defending NCAA Division III champion Ithaca College at Kostrinsky Field. The Red Dragons won the opener 6-5 and the nightcap 5-4, the latter in eight innings, to improve to 14-2 on the season. Cortland has defeated both the 2002 Division III national champion (Ithaca) and runnerup (Lake Forest) this season. Ithaca falls to 10-5 with the losses.

Cortland trailed 5-1 entering the top of the sixth inning in the first game. Julie Gentner’s (Williamsville/Williamsville South) RBI double to the base of the fence in center and Rudy Loiacono’s (Williamsville/Williamsville South) two-out, two-run single up the middle cut the Ithaca lead to 5-4.

In the seventh, Jill Seymour (Conklin/Susquehanna Valley) led off with a walk and pinch-runner Kaylin VanDusen (Schuyler/West Canada Valley) went to second on a wild pitch. With one out, Jonna Ball (Peekskill/Hendrick Hudson) hit an infield single to the hole between short and third. VanDusen was safe at third on the play when she kicked the ball loose from the third baseman on her slide. Jennifer Rockwell (Scotia) walked to load the bases and Gentner followed with a hard-hopper to third that resulted in VanDusen being forced out at home for the second out.

Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) followed with a grounder to short. Ithaca tried to record a force out at third to end the game, but Rockwell was safe and Ball scored the tying run. Lara Stone (Windsor) then walked to force in the go-ahead run.

Ithaca took a 1-0 lead in the first on Liz Yentema’s RBI double and added two runs in the second on a two-out, two-run error. Cortland got a run back in the third when Stone reached on a fielder’s choice and scored on Loiacono’s double to deep right field. Ithaca added two runs in the fifth on a two-out, two-run double to left-center by Sara Durant. Cortland starter Maria McFeely went the distance for the win. She allowed eight hits and five runs, three earned, in seven innings. She struck out one and walked one. Ithaca pitcher Abby Hanrahan gave up seven hits and six runs, four earned. She walked 11 Cortland batters and struck out six.

Cortland stranded 15 baserunners, including the bases loaded in the second, fifth and seventh innings. Loiacono finished 2-for-4 with three RBI and Ball was 2-for-5 with two runs scored. Sara Coddington was 3-for-4 for Ithaca.

In the second game, Cortland scored twice in the fourth without the benefit of a hit. Rockwell walked and Gentner reached on a throwing error. A wild pitch moved the runners to second and third and two runs scored when Stone was safe on a throwing error. Ithaca tied the game in fourth, scoring once on an error and once on a Durant RBI double.

Ithaca pitcher Abbey Pelot held Cortland hitless until Ball singled up the middle to lead off the sixth inning. In the bottom of that inning, the Bombers took a 3-2 lead when Kimberly Stephens singled, stole second, went to third on a groundout and scored when Cortland misplayed a two-out fly ball.

(continued)
In the top of the seventh, Piacente laced a single through the left side to start the inning. Pinch-runner VanDusen was sacrificed to second by Amber Ortolano (Tonawanda/Kenmore West) and came around to score when the throw on Keri Banta's (Washingtonville) bunt was mishandled by Ithaca’s first baseman.

The teams were tied 3-3 after seven innings and in the eighth inning utilized the NCAA tiebreaker rule, in which a runner is placed on second to start the inning. In the top of the eighth, Megan Cross (Middletown/Minisink Valley) was placed on second and Ball singled to left to move her to third. After Ball stole second, Rockwell hit a ball back to the pitcher. Cross took off on contact and was thrown out at the plate. Gentner followed with a double to right-center that scored Ball and Rockwell and gave the Red Dragons a 5-3 lead. Ithaca got one run back on an RBI infield single by Stephens. On the play, however, she rounded first base when a throw got past the Cortland first baseman and was thrown out trying to retreat back to the base. Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro) struck out the next batter – her ninth strikeout of the game – to end the contest.

Adamshick improved to 6-0 with the win. She gave up just five hits and one walk in eight innings and only two of the four runs she permitted were earned. Ball finished 2-for-4 to account for half of Cortland’s four hits against Pelot, who finished with five strikeouts and four walks. Stephens went 3-for-3.

GAME 1: Cortland 6, Ithaca 5

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Cortland: Maria McFeely (W, 5-2) and Jill Seymour, Keri Banta (7)
Ithaca: Abby Hanrahan (L, 4-3) and Maddie Kraemer

HR - none
3B - none
2B - Julie Gentner (C), Rudy Loiacono (C), Liz Yentema (I), Sara Durant (I)

GAME 2: Cortland 5, Ithaca 4 (8 innings)

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Cortland (14-2): Stephanie Adamshick (W, 6-0) and Keri Banta
Ithaca (10-5): Abbey Pelot (L, 6-2) and Maddie Kraemer

HR - none
3B - none
2B - Julie Gentner (C), Sara Durant (I)