CORTLAND, N.Y. – Cortland scored three times in the second inning and held on for a 3-2 win over William Paterson University in a winner’s bracket game of the NCAA Division III softball regional at Cortland. The Red Dragons (39-6-1), the top seed in the six-team field, will play the winner of the day’s final game between Ithaca and Union on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the winner’s bracket final. William Paterson (28-11-1), seeded fourth, will play sixth-seeded King’s College (Pa.) in an elimination game on Saturday at noon.

The Pioneers took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second. Senior Sam Kszepka (New Egypt, NJ/Allentown) walked and pinch-runner Meghan Wagner (Pompton Lakes, NJ) stole second. Senior Pam Migliaccio (Rockaway, NJ/Morris Hills) singled to center field and Wagner, who originally stopped at third, scored when the ball got past Cortland’s centerfielder.

Sophomore Erin Bock (East Hampton) led off the bottom of the second with a solo homer to left field. Freshman Rudy Loiacono (Williamsville/Williamsville South) then singled to shortstop and was bunted over to second by junior Jill Seymour (Conklin/Susquehanna Valley). A fielder’s choice put runners on first and third and senior Jonna Ball (Peekskill/Hendrick Hudson) doubled to score Cross. Ball went to third on an error on the play and scored on freshman Jennifer Rockwell’s (Scotia) RBI single up the middle.

Cortland freshman starter Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro) retired nine straight batters between the second and fifth innings before allowing three straight singles with two outs to load the bases in the fifth. She induced a pop-up to end the inning. The Pioneers stranded two runners in the sixth. In the top of the seventh, Adamshick issued walks to freshman Maria Browne (Park Ridge, NJ) and freshman Mindy Coxe (Gloucester, NJ/Gloucester City) to start the inning. An error loaded the bases with no outs. Senior Katie Morris (Deptford, NJ) hit into a fielder’s choice to drive in a run, with the out being recorded at third base. After a flyout for the second out, Adamshick walked a batter to re-load the bases. Junior Lara Almansberger (Fairport) entered the game in relief and got pinch-hitter Alexis Sous (Little Falls, NJ/Passaic Valley) to line out to right to end the game.

Adamshick improved to 15-3 with the win. She allowed four hits and two runs, one earned. She struck out three and walked seven. Freshman Jennifer Scott (Mount Ephraim, NJ/Bishop Eustace) took the loss for William Paterson, allowing five hits and three runs in two innings. Senior Diane Catalano (Sayreville, NJ) pitched a strong final four innings to keep the Pioneers close. She gave up two hits and no runs, struck out six and walked none.

Bock finished 3-for-3 and Ball was 2-for-3 for Cortland, with each driving in a run.

Cortland 3, William Paterson 2

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William Paterson (28-11-1): Jennifer Scott (L, 8-4), Diane Catalano (3) and Morgan Dunlap
Cortland (39-6-1): Stephanie Adamshick (W, 15-3), Lara Almansberger (7, Save 1) and Jill Seymour

2B - Jonna Ball (C)
3B - none
HR - Erin Bock (C)