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2003 NCAA Division III Softball Regional
Dragon Field; SUNY Cortland; Cortland, N.Y.
Game 4: Ithaca College vs. Union College; Friday, May 9, 2003

FINAL SCORE: Ithaca 5, Union 4

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Ithaca junior right fielder Meg Hannon (Cranford, NJ/Mt. St. Mary Academy) threw out the potential tying run with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning to preserve the Bombers’ 5-4 win over Union in the NCAA Division III regional at Cortland. Third-seeded Ithaca, the defending national champion, improved to 30-9 on the season and advanced to face top-seeded Cortland in a winner’s bracket game at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Union, the second seed, fell to 23-6 and meets fifth-seeded Elma College (MA) Saturday at 10 a.m. in an elimination game.

Neither team scored in the opening three innings, with Ithaca having the best chance in the top of the third. Sophomore Maddie Kraemer (Newton, NJ/Kittatinny Regional) singled through the left side to open the frame. After freshman Kaitlyn Dulac (East Greenwich, RI/Bay View) reached on a bunt single, Hannon singled down the left field line to load the bases. Union freshman pitcher Abby Arceneaux (Mechanicville), however, pitched out of the jam by inducing a pop out, strike out and ground out to end the threat.

The Bombers reached Arceneaux for two unearned runs in the fourth. Junior Sara Durant (Vernon Center/V-V-S) doubled to right center and scored when junior Kerri Barber’s (South Glastonbury, CT/Tabor Academy) sacrifice bunt was thrown away. After Kraemer reached on a fielder’s choice, Dulac laced an RBI double to right field. Ithaca increased its lead to 4-0 with two more runs in the fifth inning on a two-out, two-run double by Durant.

Union evened the game in the home half of the fifth with a two-out rally. With one out, freshman Erika Eisenhut (Mohawk) reached on an error. After Arceneaux forced Eisenhut out at second, pinch hitter freshman Katey Ratner (Smithtown) was hit by a pitch. Freshman Julie Gawronski (Dunkirk) plated Arceneaux with a base hit, and senior Jill Ring (Brewster, MA/Nauset Regional) blasted a home run over the left field fence to tie the game and knock Ithaca sophomore pitcher Abbey Pelot (Kirkville/Chittenango) out of the game.

Ithaca regained the lead in the sixth with another unearned run. With two outs, sophomore Sara Coddington (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) single home Dulac, who had reached second when her fly ball to left field was dropped. The Dutchwomen nearly staged another rally in the seventh. With one out, Gawronski doubled to center field. After a strikeout, freshman Stephanie Rubino (Port Chester/Hold Child) stroked a line drive single to right field. Ithaca’s Hannon came up throwing and just beat Gawronski to the plate as Kraemer applied the tag.

Hannahan picked up the win in relief, improving her record to 18-5 on the year. Arceneaux allowed 11 hits and two earned runs while striking out five in seven innings for Union, as her record dropped to 12-3.

Ithaca 5, Union 4

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Ithaca (30-9): Abbey Pelot, Abby Hannahan (5) (W, 18-5) and Maddie Kraemer
Union (23-6): Abby Arceneaux (L, 12-3) and Alicia Gifford

2B - Sara Durant 2 (I), Kaitlyn Dulac (I), Julie Gawronski (U)
3B - none
HR - Jill Ring (U)