2003 NCAA Division III Softball Regional

Dragon Field; SUNY Cortland; Cortland, N.Y.

Game 7: SUNY Cortland vs. Ithaca College; Saturday, May 10, 2003

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 4, Ithaca 3

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Cortland scored twice in the top of the seventh on a Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South) sacrifice fly and a Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) single and the Red Dragons (40-6-1) held off Ithaca, 4-3, in the championship bracket of the NCAA Division III softball regional at Cortland. The host school is one win away from advancing to the Division III World Series for the first time since 1998. Ithaca (30-10), the defending national champion, will play on Sunday at noon versus either Union or William Paterson. The winner of that noon game would need to beat Cortland on Sunday afternoon and again on Monday morning to win the regional.

With the score at 2-2, Cortland started its winning rally with a leadoff single by Megan Cross (Middletown/Minisink Valley) through the left side. Jonna Ball (Peekskill/Hendrick Hudson) reached on an error by Ithaca’s third baseman on a bunt and Jennifer Rockwell (Scotia) walked to load the bases with no outs. Gentner hit a line drive to center that allowed Cross to tag up and score the go-ahead run. Piacente then hit a blast to the warning track in left. Ithaca left fielder Kimberly Stephens (Mansfield Center, CT/E.O. Smith) almost made the catch but the ball came loose as she hit the fence.

Ithaca scored once in the bottom of the seventh. Kaitlyn Dulac (East Greenwich, RI/Bay View) walked and went to second on a groundout. With two outs, a throwing error on a grounder by Stephens allowed Dulac to tag up and score the go-ahead run. Piacente then hit a blast to the warning track in left. Ithaca left fielder Kimberly Stephens (Mansfield Center, CT/E.O. Smith) almost made the catch but the ball came loose as she hit the fence.

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