2003 NCAA Division III Softball Regional

Dragon Field; SUNY Cortland; Cortland, N.Y.
Game 9: Ithaca College vs. Union College; Sunday, May 11, 2003

FINAL SCORE: Union 7, Ithaca 3

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Union scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to erase a 3-2 deficit and the Dutchwomen defeated Ithaca College 7-3 in the NCAA Division III softball regional at SUNY Cortland. Union (26-6), making its first NCAA showing, advances to play Cortland in the championship round and needs to defeat the Red Dragons twice to advance to the Division III championship series in Salem, Va. The teams were supposed to meet on Sunday afternoon, but that game was rained out. They will play on Monday at 10 a.m., with another game to follow if Union wins.

Ithaca (30-11), the defending national champion, is eliminated. The Bombers trailed 2-1 entering the top of the sixth. Liz Yentema (Randolph, NJ) singled to left center with one out and freshman Leigh Bonkowski (Mystic, CT/The Williams School) followed with a two-run homer to center to give Ithaca the lead.

In the bottom of the sixth, Stephanie Rubino (Port Chester/Hold Child) walked and Caitlin DelZotto (Altamont/Guilderland) bunted, with pinch-runner Cris Pasqua safe at second when the throw couldn't be handled. A sacrifice bunt by Beth Carcone (Utica/New Hartford) moved the runners to second and third and a single to right by Abby Arceneaux (Mechanicville) tied the game at 3-3. Pinch-hitter Karyn Rautenberg (Boston, MA/Boston Latin) hit a two-run double to left center to give the Dutchwomen a 5-3 lead and Julie Gawronski (Dunkirk) tripped down the right field line to add another run. Katey Ratner (Smithtown) finished the scoring with an RBI single to left.

Jackie Coffey (Boston, MA/Boston Latin) improved her record to 11-0 with the win. She gave up nine hits, struck out five and walked none.

Union took a 2-0 lead in the first inning with the help of three Ithaca errors. Arceneaux singled to start the inning and was safe at second on a bunt due to a dropped throw. Gawronski reached on a throwing error by the second baseman. Arceneaux scored and Eisenhut scored as well when a throw home during the play was wild. The Dutchwomen threatened again in the second but left the bases loaded.

Ithaca answered with a run in the top of the fourth. Bonkowski singled with one out and stole second with two outs. Maddie Kraemer (Newton, NJ/Kittatinny Regional) drove in Bonkowski with a single through the left side.

Arceneaux finished 3-for-4 and Carcone was 2-for-2 for Union. Bonkowski finished 2-for-3 with two RBI and Kraemer was 2-for-3 for the Bombers. Abby Hanrahan (Forest Park, IL/Trinity) suffered the loss, giving up eight hits and seven runs, three earned, in six innings. She struck out three and walked four.

Ithaca (30-11): Abby Hanrahan (L, 18-7) and Maddie Kraemer
Union (26-6): Jackie Coffey (W, 11-0) and Alicia Gifford

2B - Karyn Rautenberg (U)
3B - Julie Gawronski (U)
HR - Leigh Bonkowski (I)