CORTLAND, N.Y. -- Oneonta erased a six-run deficit in the sixth inning en route to an 8-7 win over nationally fourth-ranked Cortland to earn a split of a doubleheader Thursday afternoon at Dragon Field in Cortland. Cortland won the opening game, 5-2, with its own late rally. Cortland is now 15-3 overall and 1-1 in the SUNYAC, while Oneonta is 10-3 and 1-1.

In the first game, Cortland scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to overcome a 2-0 Oneonta lead. Senior Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South) started the rally with a solo home run to left center. Junior Lara Stone (Windsor) followed with an infield single, and after junior Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) was hit by a pitch, freshman Rudy Loiacono (Williamsville/Williamsville South) loaded the bases with a bunt single. Junior Lara Almansberger (Fairport) gave Cortland a 3-2 lead with a double down the left field line, and junior Jill Seymour (Conklin/Susquehanna Valley) followed with another double inside the third base line, plating Loiacono and pinch runner Michelle Ringle (Brentwood).

Oneonta had taken a 1-0 lead in the top of the third inning on a two-out RBI double by senior Beth Oppenheimer (Webster), scoring sophomore Erin Hodges (Watervliet), who had reached on an error to start the inning. Oneonta added another run in the fifth on Oppenheimer’s second double of the game, plating sophomore Rena Finsmith (Elmsford/Pleasantville), who singled with two outs.

Cortland didn’t get its first hit against Oneonta freshman pitcher Amy Herba (Johnstown/Broadalbin-Perth) until the bottom of the fifth when senior Jonna Ball (Peekskill/Hendrick Hudson) doubled to left center with two outs. Freshman Maria McFeely (Hamburg/Mt. Mercy Academy) held Oneonta to five hits, raising her record to 6-2 on the season. Herba took the loss and fell to 3-2 for the year.

In the nightcap, Cortland had built a 6-0 lead after five and a half innings but couldn’t hold the advantage. Freshman Jennifer Rockwell (Scotia) singled home senior Megan Cross (Middletown/Minisink Valley) and scored on stone’s two-out single to give Cortland a 2-0 lead in the third. Cortland added another run in the fourth on Cross’s RBI double and two more runs in the fifth on back-to-back doubles by Gentner and Stone and a bases-loaded walk by sophomore Keri Banta (Washingtonville). Gentner and Stone ripped consecutive doubles again in the top of the sixth to give Cortland a 6-0 lead.

That’s when Oneonta rallied, parlaying five hits, three errors and one walk into six runs. Junior Kathy Cai to (Geneva) highlighted the inning with a two-run single, while junior Amanda LaPolla (New Hartford) added an RBI single. Cortland rebounded and took a 7-6 lead in the top of the seventh on Cross’s two-out RBI double, but Oneonta rallied again and won the game on Cai to’s two-run double into the left centerfield gap in the home half of the inning. Freshman Sarah Place (Binghamton) and junior Nicole Gelbman (Cortlandt Manor/Lakeland) set up the game-winning hit with a walk and a single to start the inning.

(continued)
CORTLAND SOFTBALL
Doubleheader vs. Oneonta
April 10, 2003; Cortland, N.Y.

Caito finished the game 3-for-4 with four RBI, while Stone went 3-for-4 for Cortland with three RBI and Cross went 3-for-4 with two runs batted in. Freshman Theresa Gugger (Binghamton/Susquehanna Valley) pitched two and a third innings in relief of senior Sandra Moxley (Oneonta) to earn her first career win. Freshman Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro) took the loss and dropped her record to 6-1 on the season.

The two games were the first in two weeks for Cortland.

GAME 1: Cortland 5, Oneonta 2

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Amy Herba (L 3-2), Kerry Donohue (6) and Nicole Gelbman; Maria McFeely (W, 6-2) and Jill Seymour
HR - Julie Gentner (C)
2B - Beth Oppenheimer (O) 2, Sarah Place (O) 2, Jonna Ball (C), Lara Almansberger (C), Jill Seymour (C)

GAME 2: Oneonta 8, Cortland 7

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Stephanie Adamshick (L, 6-1), Lara Almansberger (6), Adamshick (6) and Keri Banta, Jill Seymour (6); Sandra Moxley, Theresa Gugger (S) (W, 1-0) and Michelle Norwich
2B - Jennifer Rockwell (C), Julie Gentner (C) 2, Lara Stone (C) 2, Megan Cross (C) 2, Kathy Caito (O)

Records after doubleheader:
Cortland (Red Dragons) 15-3, 1-1 SUNYAC (ranked 4th in Div. III)
Oneonta (Red Dragons) 10-3, 1-1 SUNYAC