SUNY Cortland Softball

SUNYAC Tournament Championship Round vs. SUNY Oneonta; Raschi Field; Geneseo, N.Y.

Sunday, May 4, 2003

FIRST GAME: Oneonta 5, Cortland 4

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Cortland 3, Oneonta 2    (Cortland wins SUNYAC title)

GENESEO, N.Y. – Senior Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South) hit a “walk-off” solo homer down the left field line to lead off the bottom of the eighth inning as Cortland defeated Oneonta 3-2 in the championship game of the State University of New York Athletic Conference softball tournament. The Red Dragons (38-6-1), ranked fifth nationally, set a school single-season record with their 38th victory. The previous mark was 37 in 1998. Cortland claims its first SUNYAC title since 1998 and earns an automatic berth into the NCAA Division III playoffs. Cortland’s last NCAA appearance came in 1999. Tournament selections and pairings will be announced late Sunday night or early Monday morning.

Oneonta (24-14) started the day Sunday with a 4-3 win over top-seed and host Geneseo to earn a spot in the championship round. Cortland entered Sunday with a 3-0 record and needed just one win to claim the league title. Oneonta forced a final game by defeating Cortland 5-4.

In the championship game, freshman Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro) allowed six hits and two runs for the win. Senior Megan Cross (Middletown/Minisink Valley) gave Cortland a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third with a solo homer. Oneonta tied the game in the fourth on an RBI single by Nicole Gelbman and took a 2-1 lead in the fifth on a sacrifice fly by Rena Finsmith.

Cortland rallied to tie the game in the bottom of the sixth. Gentner reached second to start the inning on a dropped fly ball and went to third on a groundout by Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas). Junior Lara Stone (Windsor) followed with a grounder to short and Gentner was thrown out in a rundown between third and home, with Stone advancing to second on the play. Erin Bock (East Hampton) then singled to move pinch-runner Michelle Ringle (Brentwood) to third base and freshman Rudy Loiacono (Williamsville/Williamsville South) singled to score Ringle with the tying run.

Each team left a runner on first in the seventh. In the eighth, Oneonta’s Tara Hinkle led off with a double. Gelbman, however, was called out during the next at-bat for not legally re-entering the game in the sixth inning after being pinch run for. Adamshick recorded the final two outs to set the stage for Gentner’s heroics.

In the first game, Cortland took a 2-0 lead after an inning and a half. Stone singled in a run in the top of the first and Cross singled in a run in the second. Oneonta, however, scored five runs in the bottom of the second. Beth Oppenheimer tripled with the bases loaded to drive in three runs and scored on a Hinkle RBI single. Hinkle scored on an error during the next at-bat.

Cortland closed to within 5-4 in the top of the seventh when Jonna Ball (Peekskill/Hendrick Hudson) singled with one out and freshman Jennifer Rockwell (Scotia) hit a two-run homer. Gentner and Piacente followed with singles. Reliever Kerry Donahue entered the game and got a fly out by Stone and a Bock strikeout to end the game. Junior Lara Almansberger (Fairport) started for Cortland and suffered her first loss of the season. Her record is now 15-1. Adamshick entered in relief and allowed only one hit and no runs in four and one-third innings. Gentner and Piacente were each 2-for-3 and Rockwell finished 2-for-4 with two RBI.

(linescores on next page)
SUNYAC Softball Tournament – Championship Round
May 4, 2003; Geneseo, N.Y.

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Cortland: Lara Almansberger (L, 15-1), Stephanie Adamshick (2) and Jill Seymour
Oneonta: Theresa Gugger (W, 3-1), Kerry Donohue (7, Save 1) and Nicole Gelbman

HR - Jennifer Rockwell (C)
3B - none
2B - Beth Oppenheimer (ON), Nicole Gelbman (ON)

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Cortland 3, Oneonta 2 (8 innings)

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Oneonta (24-14): Kerry Donohue (L, 5-1) and Nicole Gelbman, Michelle Norwich (8)
Cortland (38-6-1): Stephanie Adamshick (W, 14-3) and Jill Seymour

HR - Julie Gentner (C), Megan Cross (C)
3B - none
2B - Tara Hinkle (ON), Jonna Ball (C)