FINAL SCORE: Salisbury 1, Cortland 0

SALEM, VA. – Salisbury scored on a two-out throwing error in the bottom of the fifth and the Sea Gulls defeated Cortland, 1-0, in the opening round of the NCAA Division III Softball World Series in Salem, Va. The Red Dragons (41-7-1) will play Western New England College on Saturday at 10 a.m. in an elimination game (the game has been moved from 11 a.m. to 10 a.m.).

“We don’t think back, we think forward,” Cortland Head Coach Julie Lenhart said when asked about her next game. “We need to execute better offensively, but we’re not going to change our style that much.”

The game featured a pitching duel between two freshmen. Salisbury’s Lacey Lister, now 25-1, allowed three hits, struck out 11 and walked one in seven innings, while Cortland’s Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro) gave up four hits, including two infield singles, and one unearned run in six innings. She fanned three and walked two and is 17-4 this spring.

“I was a little nervous at first,” Adamshick said, “but I settled down and stayed focused. I threw harder and made the ball move, and the nerves wore off as the game went on.”

Salisbury (43-4-1), which will play Central (Iowa) at 3 p.m. Saturday, started its winning rally with a two-out single to second base by Kim Rementer. She stole second, and Lisa Gentilella followed with a slow grounder to second. Gentilella legged out the play for a single, and Cortland second baseman Jonna Ball (Peekskill/Hendrick Hudson), in her rush to make a play, threw the ball wild and Rementer came around to score.

“We thought coming into this tournament that there would be a lot of one-run games,” Lenhart said. “Lacey (Lister) had a great game, but we didn’t necessarily play our “A” game. I knew Salisbury had good hitters. Holding them to one run is pretty good.”

Lister held Cortland hitless until Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) singled up the middle with two outs in the fourth. Lara Stone (Windsor) hit a shot between the third baseman and the foul line for a double to move Piacente to third, but Lister got Erin Bock (East Hampton) to pop up to second to end the inning.

In the top of the sixth, Ball singled to right center to lead off the inning and Jennifer Rockwell (Scotia) bunted her over to second. Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South) hit a pop up to shortstop that was dropped, but pinch-runner Michelle Ringle (Brentwood) ventured too far off of second and was thrown out by Salisbury’s center fielder trying to dive back into second. A strikeout ended the inning. In the seventh, Bock hit a shot to third with one out that was mishandled, but the ball bounced right to the shortstop who threw out Bock at first.

Salisbury put a runner on third in the first inning on a two-out double by Katie Mullinix and a wild pitch. A ground out ended the threat. Kristy Shaffer led off with a single in the second, but Adamshick settled down and retired eight straight batters before issuing a two-out walk to Shaffer in the fourth. Adamshick was shaken up in the third inning when she collided with two infielders while catching a pop up. She was a little dizzy at first, but shook it off and allowed just two walks and two infield singles the rest of the game.

(Cortland Notes and linescore on next page)
CORTLAND NOTES: Junior outfielder Lara Stone and senior shortstop Julie Gentner were named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Division III All-America team at a pre-tournament banquet Thursday night. Stone, a second team selection, entered the World Series with a .389 batting average, seven homers and 42 RBI. Gentner, a third team choice, was batting .376 with nine homers, 17 doubles and 44 RBI. Gentner is an All-American for the third time, while Stone earns the honor for the first time...Cortland and Western New England will be meeting for the first time on Saturday...Cortland is still looking for its first World Series victory. The Red Dragons were 0-2 in both the 1985 and 1998 Series.