SUNY Cortland Softball

NCAA Division III Regional – SUNY Cortland vs. Ithaca College
Friday, May 7, 2004; Kostrinsky Field; Ithaca, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 2, Ithaca 0

ITHACA, N.Y. – Sophomore Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro) pitched a four-hit shutout with 10 strikeouts as second-seeded Cortland defeated third-seeded host Ithaca College, 2-0, in the Red Dragons’ opening game of the NCAA Division III regionals. Cortland (35-7) will face Oneonta in a winner’s bracket game Saturday at 10 a.m. in a rematch of last weekend's SUNYAC championship game, which Oneonta won. Oneonta, the fourth seed in the regional, defeated Merchant Marine Academy, 4-0, and top-seeded Western New England, 1-0, on Friday.

Adamshick (21-2) retired the final 12 batters she faced. Ithaca’s biggest threat came in the fourth when the first two batters reached on infield singles. A sacrifice bunt advanced the runners into scoring position, but Adamshick responded with a strikeout and a groundout to second to escape the jam. She retired the side in order in each of the last three innings.

Cortland broke a scoreless tie with a run in the bottom of the fourth. Senior Pip Colombo (Williamsville/Williamsville North) reached base to lead off the inning when Ithaca’s centerfielder dropped a short fly ball. Junior Erin Bock (East Hampton) then reached on an error by the third baseman and freshman Dominique Talbot’s (Rockville Centre/Southside) groundout to second moved the runners to second and third. With two outs, sophomore Rudy Loiacono (Williamsville/Williamsville South) hit a grounder to second but beat the throw to first for an RBI single.

Cortland added an insurance run in the fifth. Sophomore Jen Rockwell (Scotia) doubled down the left field line to the base of the fence to lead off the inning. Senior Lara Stone (Windsor) was intentionally walked – the second of three intentional passes game issued to the Red Dragon shortstop – and senior Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) followed with a single up the middle to score pinch-runner Kaylin VanDusen (Schuyler/West Canada Valley) from second.

The Red Dragons added an insurance run in the fifth. Sophomore Kaitlyn Dulac (I), Jen Rockwell (Scotia) doubled down the left field line to the base of the fence to lead off the inning. Senior Lara Stone (Windsor) was intentionally walked – the second of three intentional passes game issued to the Red Dragon shortstop – and senior Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) followed with a single up the middle to score pinch-runner Kaylin VanDusen (Schuyler/West Canada Valley) from second.

Cortland also threatened in the third inning but came up empty. Loiacono singled to left center to start the inning. Junior Kim Huson (Binghamton/Johnson City) put down a sacrifice bunt and Loiacono beat the throw to second. A Rockwell sacrifice pushed up the runners and Stone was walked intentionally to load the bases. Piacente then hit a grounder to third and Loiacono was forced out at home. Ithaca tried for the double play at first, but Piacente beat the throw. Huson kept running on the play and tried to score, but was out on the throw back home to complete the unorthodox double play.

Rockwell finished 2-for-3 with two doubles and Loiacono was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Stone singled in her only official at-bat and Bock was 1-for-2 with an intentional walk. Kaitlyn Dulac was 2-for-3 with a first-inning, two-out double for Ithaca (24-14), the Empire 8 champion. Freshman Zahida Sherman allowed seven hits and two runs, one earned, in six innings for the Bombers. She walked four (all intentional) and struck out one. Ithaca faced Merchant Marine Academy in an elimination game Friday at 4 p.m. The winner of that game will face Western New England Saturday at noon.

The winner of Saturday's Cortland-Oneonta game will advance into Sunday's championship round and will need only one win at that point to win the regional. The loser will play Saturday at 2 p.m. in an elimination game. The regional champion advances to the NCAA Division III World Series in Salem, Va., May 14-18.

Cortland 2, Ithaca 0

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Cortland: Stephanie Adamshick (W, 21-2) and Jill Seymour (Red Dragons: 35-7)
Ithaca: Zahida Sherman (L, 14-7) and Hannah Shallet (Bombers: 24-14)

2B - Kaitlyn Dulac (I), Jen Rockwell (C) 2