ORLANDO, FL. – Cortland, ranked seventh nationally in Division III, opened its season with a split of two contests at the Rebel Spring Games. The Red Dragons defeated 22nd-ranked Simpson College (Iowa), 2-1, before losing 2-0 to Coast Guard Academy.

Sophomore Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro) picked up the win versus Simpson, allowing six hits and one unearned run in seven innings. She struck out two and walked two.

Cortland broke a 1-1 tie versus Simpson with a run in the top of the seventh. Sophomore Jen Rockwell (Scotia) led off with a double and advanced to third on a two-strike sacrifice bunt by freshman Dominique Talbot (Rockville Centre/Southside). Junior Amber Ortolano (Tonawanda/Kenmore West) plated the run with a sacrifice fly to right.

The Red Dragons took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Sophomore Rudy Loiacono (Williamsville/Williamsville South) doubled with one out. Senior Lara Stone (Windsor) struck out, but the third strike was dropped and the throw by Simpson's catcher attempting to retire Stone at first sailed into right field, allowing Loiacono to score. Simpson tied the game in the bottom of the second. Heather Beeler singled with two outs and Jill Carson followed with a single, advancing to second on Cortland's throw to third base. Krista Schuur hit a grounder to short, but Stone's throw to first pulled the first baseman off the bag and allowed the run to score.

The Storm threatened in the bottom of the seventh as a one-out single and a two-out fielding error put runners on first and third. Adamshick induced a ground out to short, however, to end the game. Freshman third baseman Megan Dore (Staatsburg/F.D. Roosevelt) went 2-for-2 for Cortland in her first collegiate start.

In Cortland's second game, Coast Guard scored two unearned runs in the top of the second off Red Dragon freshman Ang D’Amboise (Ballston Lake/Shenendehowa). Back-to-back errors put runners on first and third, and a groundout by Coast Guard starting pitcher Colleen Perry drove in a run. Another error by the Red Dragons on a grounder by Karen Love allowed the second run to score.

Perry retired the first nine batters she faced before allowing a leadoff bunt single by junior Kim Huson (Binghamton/Johnson City) in the fourth. Cortland's other two hits in the game came with two outs in the bottom of the seventh. Senior Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) and Rockwell each singled before a pop-out ended the game.

D’Amboise turned in a solid pitching effort despite the loss. She allowed only three hits and two unearned runs in seven innings, walking none and striking out seven. Perry also finished with a three-hitter for Coast Guard, striking out three and walking none.

(linescores on following page)
CORTLAND SOFTBALL
Games vs. Simpson and Coast Guard
March 7, 2004 (Orlando, FL)

Cortland 2, Simpson 1

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Cortland: Stephanie Adamshick (W, 1-0) and Keri Banta
Simpson: Jacki Dougherty (L) and Sara Kahler

HR - none
3B - none
2B - Rudy Loiacono (C), Jen Rockwell (C), Keri Banta (C)

Coast Guard 2, Cortland 0

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Cortland: Ang D'Amboise (L, 0-1) and Blythe Beecher
Coast Guard: Colleen Perry (W) and Heidi Miller

HR - none
3B - Stephanie Adams (CG)
2B - none