ITHACA, N.Y. – Senior catcher Kristin Brady (Mayfield, PA/Bishop O'Hara) hit a solo homer in the fifth and drove in the winning run with a two-out single in the top of the ninth as King's College defeated Cortland, 2-1, at the six-team NCAA Division III regional hosted by Ithaca College. The sixth-seeded Lady Monarchs, 2-0 during the first day of competition and 33-10 overall, advance to the winner's bracket final of the double-elimination tournament Saturday versus fifth-seeded Ithaca.

Cortland (31-10), which had received a bye as the regional's second seed, drops into the loser's bracket and will face Misericordia (Pa.) in an elimination game Saturday at noon.

Cortland junior Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro) suffered the loss despite tossing a five-hitter over nine innings. She struck out six, did not walk a batter and allowed two runs. Sophomore Nikki Kotula (Dupont, PA/Pittston Area) earned the win for King's, scattering seven hits and three walks and striking out five.

Adamshick retired the first 10 batters she faced before allowing a bunt single to Justine Maggio (Hazleton, PA) with one out in the fourth. Leading off the fifth, Brady lined a full-count pitch deep over the fence in straightaway center to give King's a 1-0 lead.

That margin held until the bottom of the seventh. Junior Nicole Fredericks (West Babylon) led off with a walk and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by senior Erin Bock (East Hampton). Senior Kim Wood (Equinunk, PA/Hancock (NY)) pinch hit and drew a walk and, with two outs, sophomore Jamie Neuner (Brewster) singled to short center to drive in Fredericks. An error on the play allowed Wood to go to third on the play as the potential winning run. Kim Huson (Binghamton/Johnson City) tried to bunt for a hit, but was thrown out to end the inning.

King's started its winning rally in the ninth when Kotula doubled to left center with one out. She moved to third on a groundout and scored when Brady lined a 2-2 pitch to right for an RBI single. Kotula retired the side in order in the bottom of the ninth.

Neuner and Huson each finished 2-for-3 and Keri Banta (Washingtonville) was 1-for-2 for the Red Dragons. Brady and Kotula each were 2-for-4 to account for four of the Lady Monarchs' five hits.

King's 2, Cortland 1 (9 inn.)

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King's: Nikki Kotula (W, 13-3) and Kristin Brady (Lady Monarchs: 33-10)
Cortland: Stephanie Adamshick (L, 16-6) and Keri Banta, Blythe Beecher (8) (Red Dragons: 31-10)

2B - Nikki Kotula (K)
HR - Kristin Brady (K)