SUNY Cortland Sports Information

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SUNY Cortland Softball

NCAA Division III Regional – SUNY Cortland vs. College Misericordia (PA)
Saturday, May 14, 2005; Kostrinsky Field; Ithaca, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Misericordia 2, Cortland 1 (8 inn.)

ITHACA, N.Y. – Freshman Kristen Norris (Lake Hopatcong, NJ/Pope John XXIII) doubled in two runs in the top of the eighth as College Misericordia defeated Cortland, 2-1, in an elimination game at the NCAA Division III regional hosted by Ithaca College. The fourth-seeded Cougars (31-11) earned their first-ever NCAA victory and will face Western New England College later Saturday. Cortland (31-11), seeded second in the six-team regional and ranked 22nd nationally, had its season come to a close after suffering its second straight extra-inning loss in as many days.

Cortland senior pitcher Erika Cremona (Mastic Beach/William Floyd) dominated the Cougars for seven innings before allowing the two eighth-inning runs. She finished with a two-hitter, striking out nine and walking two. The only baserunner she allowed in the first seven innings was an infield single to Stephanie Myers (Reading, PA/Central Catholic) in the second inning.

Cremona retired the next 17 batters before Myers, leading off the eighth, battled through a 16-pitch at-bat before drawing a walk. Kristi Devens (Drums, PA/Bishop Hafey) was initially unable to get a bunt down to advance pinch-runner Brittany Bradburn (Hanover, PA), but eventually drew a walk to put runners on first and second. A sacrifice bunt by Erin Moravec (Penn Yan) moved up the runners and Norris lined the first pitch she saw down the left field line for a two-run double.

Cortland answered with a run in the bottom of the eighth and had the tying run on second base. Freshman Shara Evanter (Commack) singled up the middle with one out and pinch-runner Kim Wood (Equinunk, PA) moved to second on a groundout. Junior Nicole Fredericks (West Babylon) then singled to short center field to drive in Wood and advanced to second on the throw home. Devens struck out the final batter, however, to end the game.

Devens allowed eight hits and two walks over eight innings for the victory. She pitched out trouble on a few occasions as Cortland stranded nine baserunners. In the first inning, senior Kim Huson (Binghamton/Johnson City) tripled to center with one out but a lineout and pop-up ended the inning. In the second, Fredericks, senior Erin Bock (East Hampton) and senior Keri Banta (Washingtonville) hit three consecutive singles to load the bases with one out, but two pop-ups left the bases full. Banta also doubled with one out in the fourth but was stranded at third, and Cortland left runners on second base three other times.

Fredericks and Banta each finished the game 2-for-3 and junior Jen Rockwell (Scotia) was 1-for-3. Cortland was making its third straight NCAA tournament appearance and 12th overall.

Misericordia 2, Cortland 1 (8 inn.)

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Misericordia: Kristi Devens (W, 18-4) and Jennifer Gehman (Cougars: 31-11)
Cortland: Erika Cremona (L, 12-5) and Keri Banta (Red Dragons: 31-11)

2B - Kristen Norris (M), Keri Banta (C)
3B - Kim Huson (M)