SUNY Cortland vs. SUNY Oneonta (Doubleheader)
Saturday, April 23, 2005; Dragon Field; Cortland, N.Y.

GAME 1: Oneonta 2, Cortland 0 (9 inn.)
GAME 2: Cortland 10, Oneonta 1 (6 inn.)

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Junior Michelle Norwich (Mohawk) and sophomore Meghan Martin (Wappingers Falls/Arlington) drove in runs in the top of the ninth to break a scoreless tie as Oneonta defeated Cortland, 2-0, in the opening game of a SUNYAC doubleheader. The host Red Dragons bounced back from their first conference defeat to defeat Oneonta in the nightcap, 10-1, behind homers from freshman Shara Evanter (Commack) and junior Jen Rockwell (Scotia). Cortland is now 25-8 overall and 13-1 in league play, while Oneonta is 14-12 and 9-5.

In the opener, Oneonta junior pitcher Amy Herba (Johnstown/Broadalbin-Perth) outlasted Cortland junior Stephanie Adamshick (Milton/Marlboro) in a pitcher’s duel. Herba allowed seven hits, including only three through the first seven innings. She struck out four and walked four and is now 10-4. Adamshick took a no-hitter into the seventh inning before allowing a lead off single to Norwich. She finished with a four-hitter, striking out 10 and walking two, and is 11-5 on the season.

Oneonta started its winning rally when senior Rena Finsmith (Elmsford/Pleasantville) led off with a double to deep center. Norwich then singled up the middle to drive in Finsmith with the game's first run. Oneonta eventually loaded the bases with one out and Martin, who entered the game as a pinch-hitter in the seventh inning, hit a deep drive that was caught against the fence in left center for a sacrifice fly.

Both teams had prime opportunities to win the game in the seventh inning. After Norwich's leadoff single through the left side, junior Erica Gifford (Clifton Park/Shenedehowa) bunted. The throw by Cortland's third baseman was in time to force Norwich at second, but she was called safe when it was ruled Cortland's shortstop failed to touch the base. A Sarah Place (Binghamton) sacrifice bunt moved the runners to second and third, but Adamshick got a pop-up and a strikeout to end the inning.

In the bottom of the inning, Cortland's Nicole Fredericks (West Babylon) reached on an a throwing error, was bunted to second by Erin Bock (East Hampton) and moved to third on a fielding error on a grounder hit by Keri Banta (Washingtonville). The Red Dragons tried a squeeze bunt but missed the attempt, and Fredericks was picked off third by Oneonta catcher Norwich. Sophomore Kate Yaun (Liberty) then singled to center, but pinch-runner Amanda Barnett (Syracuse/Jamesville-DeWitt), who moved to second on the pickoff, was thrown out at home by Oneonta centerfielder Shannon Egan (Hauppauge) to end the inning. Egan also threw out a Cortland runner trying to score from second on a single in the bottom of the ninth.

Cortland also had a good scoring chance go by the boards in the bottom of the eighth. Sophomore Jamie Neuner (Brewster) singled up the middle and moved to second on Kim Huson's (Binghamton/Johnson City) sacrifice bunt. Dominique Talbot (Rockville Centre/Southside) then singled up the middle, with Neuner holding at third. Talbot moved to second on the throw, putting runners on second and third with one out. Herba got Evanter to pop up to second and Rockwell to line out to right to end the threat.

Norwich finished 2-for-4 with an RBI for Oneonta, while Neuner was 2-for-4 for Cortland.

(continued)
In the second game, Cortland struck quickly for three runs in the top of the first. Neuner singled and Huson bunted her over to second. A fly ball to short left field was dropped, putting runners on first and second, and Evanter followed with a three-run opposite-field homer over the fence in right. The Red Dragons added a run in the fourth. Rockwell doubled and Fredericks singled, with a fielding error in the outfield allowing Rockwell to score. In the fifth, Neuner singled and scored on a Talbot double, and Rockwell followed two batters later with a two-run homer to left. Another run scored later in the inning when Megan Dore (Staatsburg/F.D. Roosevelt) reached on an error and Fredericks, who singled one batter earlier, came all the way around to score when Dore intentionally got into a rundown and wasn't tagged until Fredericks crossed the plate.

Oneonta's lone run came in the fifth when Place led off with a single and pinch-runner Sara Herba (Johnstown/Broadalbin-Perth) scored from first on Amy Herba's RBI double to left center. Cortland completed the scoring with two runs in the top of the sixth. Neuner doubled with two outs and scored on Huson's RBI single to center. Huson took second on the throw, and the throw by the catcher to second went wildly into the outfield, allowing Huson to score. The game was called after Oneonta was retired in the sixth due to the eight-run rule.

Senior Erika Cremona (Mastic Beach/William Floyd) earned the win for Cortland with five innings of three-hit ball. She fanned six, did not walk a batter and gave up one run. Sophomore Ang D'Amboise (Ballston Lake/Shenendehowa) gave up one hit and struck out one in a scoreless sixth inning. Neuner was 3-for-4 with a double and Rockwell finished 2-for-3 with a homer, double and two RBI.

Oneonta starter Kacie Cunningham (New Hartford) allowed eight hits and eight runs, five earned, in five innings. She struck out two and walked one. Amy Herba finished 1-for-2 with her RBI double.

In between games of the twinbill, Cortland honored its six seniors – Banta, Bock, Cremona, Huson, Carisa Gaylardo (West Babylon/North Babylon) and Amber Ortolano (Buffalo/Kenmore West) – playing in their final regular-season home games. Team co-captains Banta and Ortolano are both four-year letterwinners. Bock (three seasons at Cortland) and Huson, Gaylardo and Cremona (two seasons each) all transferred to Cortland from other schools. The Red Dragons have a combined record of 138-36 since 2002 and qualified for the NCAA Division III World Series each of the last two seasons.

Game 1: Oneonta 2, Cortland 0 (9 inn.)

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Oneonta: Amy Herba (W, 10-4) and Michelle Norwich
Cortland: Stephanie Adamshick (L, 11-5) and Keri Banta

2B - Rena Finsmith (ON), Erin Bock (C)

Game 2: Cortland 10, Oneonta 1 (6 inn.)

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Cortland: Erika Cremona (W, 11-3), Ang D’Amboise (6) and Blythe Beecher, Amanda Barnett (6) (Red Dragons: 25-8, 13-1 SUNYAC)
Oneonta: Kacie Cunningham (L, 4-8), Kim Prior (6) and Michelle Norwich (Red Dragons: 14-12, 9-5 SUNYAC)

2B - Jamie Neuner (C), Dominique Talbot (C), Jen Rockwell (C), Amy Herba (ON)
HR - Shara Evanter (C), Jen Rockwell (C)