POTSDAM, NY -- The SUNY Cortland women's volleyball team improved to 6-1 in State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Eastern Division play after defeating Potsdam 3-0 and New Paltz 3-0. The Red Dragons (20-10 overall) and Oneonta, which was 1-1 on Friday, are tied for the division lead with three matches remaining, including a matchup between the teams Saturday at 2 p.m.

The top three teams in the East will join the West's top three teams at the SUNYAC Tournament Nov. 8-9 at the West champion. The league tournament winner receives an automatic berth into the NCAA Division III tournament. Cortland has won the last six SUNYAC titles.

Cortland knocked off Potsdam 30-15, 30-16, 30-23 in the first match Friday. Junior Katie Pietrzak (Rochester/Greece Arcadia) finished with seven kills and no errors in 11 attempts for a .636 attack percentage. Junior Andrea Smith (San Diego, CA/Frontier Central (NY)) recorded eight kills and one error in 14 attempts for a .500 attack percentage and also led the Red Dragons with nine digs. Junior Jamie McMullen (Castile/Letchworth) had 15 assists and freshmen Kielty Ciccone (Schenectady) and Lauren Nels (Syracuse/C.W Baker) each had two service aces.

Cortland finished the evening with a 30-22, 30-12, 30-18 sweep of New Paltz. Pietrzak again enjoyed an errorless offensive attack, recording eight kills in 16 attempts for a .500 attack percentage. Junior Megan Thurkins (Painted Post/Corning-Painted Post) hit at a .545 clip, recording six kills and no errors in 11 attempts. McMullen and graduate student Kimberly Wood (South Salem/John Jay) set up the offense with 17 and 11 assists, respectively. Thurkins and Nels each had 10 digs, with Nels also leading the team with three aces.

**SUNYAC East Division Results -- Day 1 (Oct. 25)**
- Cortland def. Potsdam 3-0 (30-15, 30-16, 30-23)
- Plattsburgh def. SUNYIT 3-0 (30-15, 30-16, 30-21)
- Plattsburgh def. Potsdam 3-0 (30-21, 30-27, 30-26)
- New Paltz def. Oneonta 3-0 (31-29, 30-19, 30-25)
- Oneonta def. SUNYIT 3-0 (30-17, 30-15, 30-26)
- Cortland def. New Paltz 3-0 (30-22, 30-12, 30-18)

**SUNYAC East Records through seven matches:**
- Cortland  6-1
- Oneonta  6-1
- Plattsburgh 5-2
- New Paltz  3-4
- Potsdam   1-6
- SUNYIT    0-7

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