CORTLAND, NY - The SUNY Cortland women's volleyball team won its first two matches on the opening day of the Red Dragon Classic at Corey Gymnasium. The Red Dragons opened the tournament with a 30-21, 30-21, 30-13 victory over St. Lawrence University and also defeated Oswego, 30-23, 30-19, 30-25.

Cortland and Geneseo are each 2-0 in Pool A after Friday’s action. The two teams will meet on Saturday at 9 a.m., with the winner claiming the top spot in the pool and advancing to the Championship Bracket of the 10-team tournament. SUNY New Paltz won Pool B with a 2-0 mark and Nazareth College won Pool C, also with a 2-0 record.

New Paltz, Nazareth and the Pool A winner will play a round-robin schedule to determine the tournament champion. Gold Medal and Silver Medal brackets will also be held on Saturday.

Against St. Lawrence, sophomore outside hitter Katie Brody (Apalachin/Vestal) led the Red Dragons with eight kills. Senior middle hitter Siobhan Loughlin (Hauppauge) added six kills and a team-high five blocks, while freshman middle hitter Alice Kahrs (Kings Park) and senior outside hitter Natalie Pizzi (Pittsburgh, PA/Baldwin) registered four kills each. Junior setter Lizz Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) finished with 12 assists, junior outside hitter Danielle Turner (Farmingville/Sachem) notched team-bests of seven aces and five digs and junior libero Sara Schlichting (Clifton Park/Elmira Free Academy) added five aces.

In the Oswego match, Brody paced Cortland with eight kills and eight digs. Junior middle hitter Kielty Ciccone (Schenectady) had five kills and five blocks and freshman setter Jen Garner (Vestal) recorded 11 assists and three aces. In addition, sophomore outside hitter Daina Marsh (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) had seven aces and Turner picked up three aces and eight digs.

(Full tournament scores and upcoming schedule on following page)
2004 CORTLAND RED DRAGON WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL CLASSIC
Friday-Saturday, September 3-4
Whitney T. Corey Gymnasium; SUNY Cortland; Cortland, NY

FRIDAY’S RESULTS:

Pool A
Cortland def. St. Lawrence 30-21, 30-21, 30-13
Geneseo def. Oswego 30-19, 23-30, 30-19, 30-15
Cortland def. Oswego 30-23, 30-19, 30-25
Geneseo def. St. Lawrence 30-14, 25-30, 30-17, 30-22

Pool B
Fredonia def. Husson 30-8, 30-17, 30-17
New Paltz def. Husson 30-18, 30-20, 30-14
New Paltz def. Fredonia 30-22, 30-22, 30-21

Pool C
Nazareth def. Buffalo St. 30-22, 30-21, 30-12
Nazareth def. Lebanon Valley 23-30, 30-28, 28-30, 30-25, 15-6
Lebanon Valley def. Buffalo St. 30-28, 30-18, 30-21

SATURDAY’S SCHEDULE:

Pool A
9 a.m. Cortland vs. Geneseo
9 a.m. St. Lawrence vs. Oswego

Championship Bracket (Round Robin Bracket)
11 a.m. - (A1) Cortland or Geneseo vs. (B1) New Paltz
1 p.m. - (B1) New Paltz vs. (C1) Nazareth
3 p.m. - (A1) Cortland or Geneseo vs. (C1) Nazareth

Gold Bracket (Round Robin Bracket)
9 a.m. - (B2) Fredonia vs. (C2) Lebanon Valley
11 a.m. - (A2) Cortland or Geneseo vs. (B2) Fredonia
1 p.m. - (A2) Cortland or Geneseo vs. (C2) Lebanon Valley

Silver Medal Bracket
9 a.m. -- Semifinal: (A4) St. Lawrence or Oswego vs. (C3) Buffalo St.
1 p.m. -- Semifinal: (B3) Husson vs. (A3) St. Lawrence or Oswego
3 p.m. -- Silver Consolation Match (losers of first two matches)
3 p.m. -- Silver Championship Match (winners of first two matches)

NOTES:
* Cortland is among the schools “also receiving votes” in the pre-season AVCA Division III national poll.
* Final match of the night did not end until after 10 p.m.