CORTLAND, N.Y. -- SUNY Cortland opened State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Eastern Division women’s volleyball round robin play with two victories on Friday. The host Red Dragons defeated Potsdam, 3-0, then rallied from a 2-1 deficit to beat Oneonta, 3-2.

Cortland is now 16-1 overall and 2-0 in divisional play. New Paltz is also 2-0 in the division after the first day of the round robin. The Red Dragons will face Plattsburgh Saturday at noon, followed by SUNYIT at 2 p.m. and New Paltz at 6 p.m. Each of the six teams in the division will play three times on Saturday, as well as five more times in Oneonta on Oct. 22-23. The top three finishers in both the East and West will advance to the SUNYAC tournament Nov. 5-6 at the West champion.

Cortland began play Friday with a 30-18, 30-17, 30-25 victory versus Potsdam. Freshman outside hitter Lauren Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) led a balanced attack with six kills and a .416 attack percentage. Junior middle hitter Lauren Nels (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) had five kills and junior libero Sara Schlichting (Clifton Park/Elmira Free Academy) finished with team highs of five aces and 12 digs.

The Red Dragons then went to the limit before defeating Oneonta, 30-23, 26-30, 22-30, 30-20, 15-12. Sophomore outside hitter Katie Brody (Apalachin/Vestal) recorded 16 kills, nine digs and four aces. Junior middle hitter Kielty Ciccone (Schenectady) totaled 12 kills and five blocks and senior outside hitter Barbie Lang (Cuba/Cuba-Rushford) had 10 kills and four aces.

Senior setter Jamie McMullen (Castile/Letchworth) contributed 45 assists, eight digs, four blocks and six kills. Nels added eight kills, Schlichting had 14 digs and senior outside hitter Natalie Pizzi (Pittsburgh, PA/Baldwin) amassed 11 digs and six kills.

(round robin scores on next page)
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (SUNYAC)
Women’s Volleyball -- East Division Round Robin
Sept. 24-25, 2004 -- Corey Gymnasium -- Cortland, NY

RECORDS AT COMPLETION OF DAY 1  (SUNYAC East, Overall):

Cortland (Red Dragons) 2-0, 16-1
New Paltz (Hawks) 2-0, 9-2
Oneonta (Red Dragons) 1-1, 8-7
Potsdam (Bears) 1-1, 4-8
Plattsburgh (Cardinals) 0-2, 2-11
SUNY Inst. of Tech. (Wildcats) 0-2, 0-7

FRIDAY’S RESULTS:

Cortland def. Potsdam 30-18, 30-17, 30-25
Oneonta def. SUNYIT 30-11, 30-17, 30-19
Cortland def. Oneonta 30-23, 26-30, 22-30, 30-20, 15-12
New Paltz def. Plattsburgh 30-25, 30-20, 23-30, 30-21
New Paltz def. SUNYIT 30-4, 30-9, 30-11
Potsdam def. Plattsburgh 30-15, 30-32, 21-30, 30-26, 15-11

SATURDAY’S SCHEDULE:

10 a.m.
Potsdam vs. SUNYIT
Oneonta vs. Plattsburgh

12 p.m.
Cortland vs. Plattsburgh
Oneonta vs. New Paltz

2 p.m.
Cortland vs. SUNYIT
New Paltz vs. Potsdam

4 p.m.
Oneonta vs. Potsdam
SUNYIT vs. Plattsburgh

6 p.m.
Cortland vs. New Paltz

NOTE:  The other SUNYAC East Round Robin will be held on October 22-23 at Oneonta. The top three finishers in the East after 10 matches qualify along with the top three teams from the West Division for the SUNYAC Tournament, to be held at the West champion on November 5-6.