POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. - The SUNY Cortland women's volleyball team opened with two wins during the first day of competition at the Vassar College Invitational. The Red Dragons (7-0) defeated Skidmore College, 30-24, 30-21, 30-15, handing the Thoroughbreds (5-1) their first loss, then knocked off defending New Jersey Athletic Conference champion Rutgers-Newark (2-3) by scores of 30-23, 30-24, 30-24.

Cortland will face Union College at noon and Vassar at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the pre-determined tournament schedule. Six teams are competing at the event, with the champion being determined by match record.

Against Skidmore, sophomore outside hitter Katie Brody (Apalachin/Vestal) led the Red Dragons with 14 kills, 10 digs and three aces. Senior Siobhan Loughlin (Hauppauge) added eight kills, three blocks and four aces and junior middle hitter Kielty Ciccone (Schenectady) had five kills. Senior setter Jamie McMullen (Castile/Letchworth) finished with 36 assists, six kills, eight digs and two aces and junior libero Sara Schlichting (Clifton Park/Elmira Free Academy) totaled 10 digs.

In the win over Rutgers-Newark (2-3), junior outside hitter Danielle Turner (Farmingville/Sachem) had six kills and six digs and Loughlin registered five kills. McMullen dished out 11 assists and junior Lizz Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) finished with nine assists. Schlichting recorded eight digs and sophomore outside hitter Daina Marsh (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) had three blocks.

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