CORTLAND, NY - The SUNY Cortland women's volleyball team won its third straight Red Dragon Classic title and its 14th in the 21-year history of the tournament with two wins Saturday in the event’s championship pool. Ranked 23rd nationally in Division III, Cortland (4-0) defeated Fredonia, 30-27, 28-30, 30-26, 30-24, and Lebanon Valley, 34-32, 30-28, 28-30, 30-22. The Red Dragons had defeated Nazareth and Buffalo State on Friday to advance to the championship pool.

Lebanon Valley finished as tournament runnerup with a 1-1 record in the championship pool. Skidmore won the gold medal pool with a 2-0 mark and Point Park University (Pa.) won the silver medal pool, also with a 2-0 mark.

Three Cortland players -- seniors Danielle Turner (Farmingville/Sachem), Lizz Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) and Lauren Nels (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) were named to the 12-person all-tournament team.

Turner led the Red Dragons versus Fredonia with 13 kills, 12 digs and six blocks. Junior Daina Marsh (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) added 12 kills and 13 digs, Rakita finished with 35 assists, three aces and eight digs and sophomore Alice Kahrs (Kings Park) totaled five blocks.

In the win over Lebanon Valley, Turner finished with 19 kills, 15 digs and four blocks. Freshman Tiffany Chatman (Watertown) recorded 13 kills and team-highs of six blocks and five aces, while Rakita amassed 50 assists, 15 digs, four aces and three blocks. Marsh added 10 kills and seven digs, Kahrs had 10 kills and four blocks and Nels registered four kills, seven digs and two aces.

Freshman libero Kate Gosman (East Northport/Elwood John Glenn) accounted for 15 digs in the Fredonia match and 24 digs in the Lebanon Valley contest.

Cortland will compete at the Vassar Invitational next Friday and Saturday, Sept. 9-10.

(Full tournament scores and all-tournament team on following page)
SATURDAY’S RESULTS:

Championship Pool
Cortland def. Fredonia 30-27, 28-30, 30-26, 30-24
Lebanon Valley (Pa.) def. Fredonia 27-30, 30-17, 30-28, 30-24
Cortland def. Lebanon Valley 34-32, 30-28, 28-30, 30-22

Cortland wins tournament title with 2-0 record in championship pool

Gold Pool
Skidmore def. Nazareth 35-33, 30-24, 21-30, 30-24
Skidmore def. New Paltz 30-27, 25-30, 30-24, 30-21

Skidmore wins Gold Pool

Silver Pool
Point Park (Pa.) def. Buffalo St. 30-25, 30-22, 30-22
Point Park def. Baptist Bible (Pa.) 35-33, 28-30, 32-30, 30-20
Baptist Bible def. Buffalo St. 27-30, 30-16, 30-12, 30-14

Point Park wins Silver Pool

FRIDAY’S RESULTS:

Pool A
Cortland def. Buffalo St. 30-18, 30-9, 30-8
Cortland def. Nazareth 30-21, 30-21, 30-26
Nazareth def. Buffalo St. 30-10, 30-20, 30-13

Pool B
New Paltz def. Baptist Bible 30-13, 22-30, 21-30, 30-19, 15-8
Lebanon Valley def. New Paltz 30-20, 30-16, 30-32, 30-15
Lebanon Valley def. Baptist Bible 30-23, 30-16, 30-20

Pool C
Fredonia def. Skidmore 31-29, 30-24, 26-30, 30-28
Fredonia def. Point Park 31-29, 30-18, 30-25
Skidmore def. Point Park 30-18, 30-23, 30-25

All-Tournament Team: Yr., Pos. Hometown (High School)
Danielle Turner, Cortland Sr., Outside Hitter Farmingville, NY (Sachem)
Lizz Rakita, Cortland Sr., Setter Lake Grove, NY (Sachem)
Lauren Nels, Cortland Sr., Outside Hitter Baldwinsville, NY (C.W. Baker)
Cat Roth, Lebanon Valley Sr., Setter/OH Hanover, PA (Delone Catholic)
* Natalie Goodfellow, Lebanon Valley Jr., Middle/OH York, PA (Spring Grove)
Melissa Smith, Point Park Jr. OH/Libero South Lafayette, PA
Elizabeth Tregan, Nazareth So., Right Side/Setter Plattsburgh, NY (Plattsburgh)
* Christina Mazurowski, New Paltz Sr., Middle Hitter Tonawanda, NY (Kenmore East)
Darryl Manzer, Skidmore Jr., Middle Hitter Camden, NY (Camden)
Keri Bumgardner, Buffalo St. Jr., Middle Hitter Babylon, NY (West Babylon)
Amy Pausley, Baptist Bible So., Outside Hitter Des Moines, IA (Grandview Park)
Elizabeth Schaller, Fredonia Sr., Middle Hitter Marilla, NY (St. Mary’s)

* also named to 2004 All-Tournament Team

NOTES:
* Cortland is ranked 23rd in the AVCA pre-season Division III national poll.
* Cortland wins its third straight Red Dragon Classic title and its 14th title in the 21-year history of the tournament.