POTSDAM, N.Y. – Cortland improved to 6-1 in the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Eastern Division with two wins on the first day of play at the divisional round-robin hosted by SUNY Potsdam. The Red Dragons defeated the host Bears, 30-27, 30-16, 30-20, and avenged its only divisional loss of the season with a 30-21, 30-25, 30-23 win over SUNY New Paltz.

Cortland will complete league play on Saturday with matches versus SUNYIT at noon, Plattsburgh at 4 p.m. and Oneonta at 6 p.m. If victorious in all three matches, the Red Dragons will earn the right to host the SUNYAC championship tournament Nov. 4-5. New Paltz is currently 5-2 in divisional play, followed by Potsdam and Oneonta both at 4-3. The top three teams from the East and top three from the West qualify for the conference tournament.

In Cortland’s win versus Potsdam, senior Danielle Turner (Farmingville/Sachem) led the Red Dragons with 13 kills, seven digs and two aces. Freshman Tiffany Chatman (Watertown) added nine kills and five blocks, sophomore Alice Kahrs (Kings Park) put down seven kills and junior Daina Marsh (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) finished with six kills, six digs, three blocks and two aces. Senior setter Lizz Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) notched 34 assists, five digs and four kills.

In the victory over New Paltz, Marsh paced the team with 18 kills and 10 digs. Rakita dished out 40 assists in addition to recording five kills, seven digs, four blocks and three aces. Chatman totaled nine kills and seven blocks, Turner had eight kills, 13 digs, two blocks and two aces, and Kahrs registered six kills and two blocks.

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