MEDFORD, MASS. – Cortland, ranked 22nd nationally in Division III, split two matches during the first day of competition at the eight-team Tufts Invitational. The Red Dragons defeated Wellesley College, 30-20, 29-31, 30-24, 30-22, but lost to Tufts, 30-25, 25-30, 21-30, 17-30. Cortland (19-3) will face 23rd-ranked Eastern University of Pennsylvania (18-0) at noon and MIT (16-4) at 4 p.m. on Saturday to complete tournament play.

In Cortland’s win over Wellesley, freshman Tiffany Chatman (Watertown) led the way with 16 kills and six blocks. Junior Daina Marsh (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) had 13 kills, a .415 attack percentage, 15 digs, four aces and three blocks, while senior Danielle Turner (Farmingville/Sachem) added 11 kills, eight digs and three blocks.

Senior Lizz Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) distributed 42 assists in addition to recording seven kills, five blocks and five digs. Senior Lauren Nels (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) chipped in with six kills, sophomore Alice Kahrs (Kings Park) added six blocks and freshman Kate Gosman (East Northport/Elwood John Glenn) registered 19 digs. The Red Dragons finished the match with 25 blocks.

Marsh led Cortland’s offense versus Tufts with 11 kills. She also had seven digs and two blocks. Turner and Chatman each finished with eight kills. Turner also totaled 15 digs and four blocks and Chatman had three blocks. Rakita compiled 25 assists, four kills and seven digs and Nels added three kills, three blocks and 10 digs. Cortland enjoyed an attack percentage of around .300 for the first game, but ended up hitting less than .200 for the match.

Tufts Invitational – Day 1 Scores (Friday, Sept. 30)
Tufts 3, Emmanuel 0
Cortland 3, Wellesley 1
MIT 3, Bridgewater St. 1
Eastern 3, Brockport 0
Wellesley 3, Emmanuel 0
Tufts 3, Cortland 1
Bridgewater St. 3, Brockport 1
Eastern 3, MIT 2

Day 2 Schedule (Saturday, Oct. 1)
10 a.m. – Wellesley vs. Bridgewater St.; Emmanuel vs. Brockport
12 p.m. – Tufts vs. MIT; Eastern vs. Cortland
2 p.m. – Tufts vs. Eastern; MIT vs. Cortland

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