POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. – The SUNY Cortland women's volleyball team opened play at the five-team Vassar Invitational with wins over Skidmore College and Union College on Friday evening. The Red Dragons outlasted the Thoroughbreds in five games, 30-22, 29-31, 30-16, 25-30, 15-9, then beat the Dutchwomen in four games, 20-30, 30-13, 30-22, 30-27.

Cortland and Vassar are each 2-0 entering Saturday's play. Skidmore is 1-1 and Union and Hunter are both 0-2. Cortland will face Vassar at 10 a.m. and Hunter at noon. The tournament champion will be determined by win-loss record after the round-robin schedule is completed.

In the win over Skidmore, Cortland (6-0) was led by senior Danielle Turner's (Farmingville/Sachem) 19 kills, .289 attack percentage and eight digs. Junior Daina Marsh (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) recorded 17 kills, a .250 attack percentage and 12 digs, while freshman Tiffany Chatman (Watertown) put down 13 kills, hit at a .363 clip and led the team with six blocks, three solo. Senior Lizz Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) finished with 49 assists, 11 digs and three kills, and freshman Kate Gosman (East Northport/Elwood John Glenn) racked up 26 digs from her libero position.

The Red Dragons featured a balanced attack versus Union, as many players got into the match. Turner recorded nine kills and five aces and Marsh had eight kills, a .277 attack percentage and five digs. Rakita handed out 20 assists, Gosman totaled 16 digs and freshman Mallory Worthing (Owego/Owego Free Academy) had four kills versus one error in eight attempts for a .375 percentage.

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