SUNY Cortland Women's Basketball
vs. SUNY Oswego; Corey Gymnasium; Cortland, N.Y.
Saturday, January 24, 2004

FINAL SCORE: Oswego 56, Cortland 53

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Junior Kristin Sterling scored 14 points and junior Amanda McLaughlin tallied 13 points as Oswego (12-3, 7-1 SUNYAC) defeated Cortland, 56-53, for the Lakers' first-ever win over the Red Dragons. Cortland entered the game with a 29-0 advantage over Oswego since their first recorded meeting in the 1972-73 season.

Cortland (11-3, 5-1 SUNYAC) was led by senior Michelle Ciquera's (Massapequa) 19 points and 12 rebounds. Sophomore Kaylin VanDusen (Schuyler/West Canada Valley) scored 13 points and registered seven assists.

The teams were tied 38-38 with 10:31 left before the Lakers went on an 11-2 run over the next five minutes. Three-pointers by freshman Kelly Mraz, junior Sally Shuster and junior Jackie Luszczek fueled the run, which gave Oswego a 49-40 lead. Cortland closed back to within five, but another Shuster three-pointer with 2:49 left gave the Lakers a 54-46 advantage.

The lead was still eight points at 56-48 with just over a minute left before the Red Dragons made one final push. Two Karen Thompson (Uylsses, PA/Northern Potter) free throws with 1:08 remaining and a Ciquera three-pointer with 43 seconds left brought Cortland to within 56-53. Oswego missed the front end of a one-and-one with 40 seconds left, giving Cortland a chance to tie.

The Red Dragons went for a quick layup and missed, but retained possession when the ball went out of bounds off Oswego. Another layup attempt was blocked by Sterling with 12 seconds left, and Oswego was able to race the ball upcourt and run out the rest of the clock before being fouled.

Oswego jumped out to a 10-2 lead four minutes into the game, but Cortland came back to lead by as much as nine points in the period before settling for a 30-24 advantage at halftime. A 10-4 run by the Lakers in the first seven minutes of the second half tied the game at 34-34.