FINALE SCORE: Cortland 2, Wesleyan 1

MIDDLETOWN, CONN. – Junior forward Dani Blanchard (Clarksville/Troy-Albany Ice Cats) poked in a rebound during a scramble in front of the net with 14 minutes, 30 seconds remaining to give Cortland a 2-1 non-league victory at Wesleyan University. The Red Dragons improve to 4-4 with the victory. Wesleyan is 1-5.

Blanchard’s goal, assisted by sophomore Judy Ellis (Saratoga Springs/Troy-Albany Ice Cats) and senior Abby Brener (Princeton, NJ/Princeton Tiger Lilies), was surrounded by some controversy. It appeared to some that the goal cage had come off its moorings prior to the score, but the officials allowed the goal.

The game-winning goal came just 39 seconds after Wesleyan tied the contest. Meghan Frederico scored off a rebound, assisted by Amanda Nickels and Jessica Fischer, for the only goal to get past Cortland senior netminder Kelly Fillmore (Columbia Heights, MN/Bethel College). Following Blanchard’s goal, the Red Dragons kept the Cardinals off the scoreboard.

The hosts pulled goalie Meredith Katz with 1:05 remaining but were unable to tie the game.

Cortland took a 1-0 lead with 7:04 left in the first period on a power play goal by freshman Tricia Silvestri (Horsham, PA/Philadelphia Little Flyers). Senior Brooke Bazinet (Clayton/Potsdam Silver Blades) and sophomore Cailin O’Hara (Rochester/Clarkson Univ.) assisted Silvestri, who skipped in a wrist shot from the right point through a screen to the long side.

Fillmore made 26 saves and is now 4-0 in goal for the Red Dragons this season. Katz stopped 21 shots on goal for Wesleyan, which outshot Cortland 27-23. The relatively clean game featured only four penalties on each team. Cortland finished 1-for-3 on the power play and the Cardinals were 0-for-3.