2006 NCAA Division III Women’s Lacrosse Tournament

Quarterfinals – SUNY Cortland vs. Franklin & Marshall College
Sunday, May 14, 2006; SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex; Cortland, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 6, Franklin & Marshall 4

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Cortland outscored Franklin & Marshall 5-1 in the second half to erase a 3-1 halftime deficit and the Red Dragons defeated the Diplomats, 6-4, to earn their first-ever trip to the NCAA Division III “final four.”

The 19-0 Red Dragons set a new school single-season victory record and will face Gettysburg (20-0), the nation’s other Division III unbeaten team, in the national semifinals on Saturday, May 20, at 11:30 a.m. at Stevens Tech in Hoboken, N.J. F&M, making its ninth NCAA tournament appearance and first since 1998, finishes the season with a 15-5 record.

Neither team scored for more than 15 minutes to start the game. Junior Kelly Cassels (Downingtown, PA/Great Valley) opened the scoring 15:13 into the half off an Eileen Keever (Prospect Park, PA/Interboro) assist. Cortland tied the game 50 seconds later when senior Jessie Lynch (West Islip) converted a pass from junior Jennifer Willis (Huntington/Walt Whitman). Willis set Cortland’s single-season assist record during her three-assist performance in the second round Saturday, and added two in the quarterfinals to increase her total this spring to 36.

F&M took the lead on a goal by freshman Shannon Summers (North Wales, PA/The Hill School) with 11:08 left in the half and added a Cassels goal with 8:08 remaining to lead 3-1 and become the first team this season to lead Cortland at halftime. The Diplomats outshot Cortland, 12-7, in the opening 30 minutes and held a 21-13 ground ball advantage.

Cortland, however, dominated most of the second half. The Red Dragons outshot F&M in the period, 12-4, and grabbed 13 ground balls to eight for the guests. Junior Ali Bourgal (Sachem) scored 3:01 into the half and senior Erin Lynn (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) added a goal 5:32 into the half to tie the game at 3-3.

A Willis unassisted goal with 20:42 left in the game gave Cortland the lead for good at 4-3. Willis then set up junior Gina Fazio (Brownville/General Brown) for a goal with 17:37 left to put the Red Dragon up by two. F&M responded with 12:20 left on a goal by freshman Jen Pritchard (Media, PA/Penncrest) to pull within 5-4.

Lynn caused a turnover with 6:46 remaining with F&M looking for the tying goal. The Diplomats got the ball back with 4:04 left when Sarah Meisenberg (Severna Park, MD/Severn School) scooped up a loose ball, but they turned the ball over to Cortland 15 seconds later on an attempted clear. Cortland capitalized when Bourgal assisted junior Andrea Venditti (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) with 3:10 left for her team-high 66th goal of the season and 100th as a Red Dragon.

F&M won the ensuing draw control, but the Red Dragons stole the ball and ran almost two minutes off the clock before turning the ball back on a bad pass with 58 seconds to go. The Diplomats’ final possession ended on a Willis caused turnover with 40 seconds on the clock.

(game summary on next page)
CORTLAND WOMEN’S LACROSSE
NCAA Div. III Quarterfinals vs. Franklin & Marshall
May 14, 2006; Cortland, N.Y.

GAME SUMMARY:

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<td>Franklin &amp; Marshall (15-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cortland (19-0)</td>
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**Scoring (Goals-Assists):**

F&M: Kelly Cassels 2-0, Jen Pritchard 1-0, Shannon Summers 1-0, Eileen Keever 0-1, Kiki Foster 0-1
Cortland: Jennifer Willis 1-2, Ali Bourgal 1-1, Jessie Lynch 1-0, Gina Fazio 1-0, Andrea Venditti 1-0, Erin Lynn 1-0

**Goalkeepers:**

F&M: Kamissa Mort, 5 saves, 6 GA in 60:00
Cortland: Regina Grosso, 6 saves, 4 GA in 60:00

**Shots:** Cortland 19, F&M 16

**Ground Balls:** F&M 29, Cortland 26

**Draw Controls:** Cortland 8, F&M 4

**Caused Turnovers:** Cortland 10, F&M 7

**Turnovers:** F&M 21, Cortland 15