Cortland Women’s Lacrosse to Host Four-Team NCAA Division III Regional Saturday and Sunday

The SUNY Cortland women’s lacrosse team will host a four-team NCAA Division III tournament regional on Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14, at the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex. Cortland (17-0) will face either Endicott College (Mass.) or Colorado College in a second round game Saturday at 11:30 a.m. The second game will feature Nazareth College (14-0) versus either Denison University (Ohio) or Franklin and Marshall College (Pa.) at 2:30 p.m. The two winners will play Sunday at 1 p.m., with that victor advancing to the “final four” May 20-21 at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J.

Cortland is one of four regional hosts and one of eight teams in the 24-team field to receive a bye into the second round. Cortland and Nazareth are two of only three unbeaten teams, along with Gettysburg (Pa.) College, in Division III.

Cortland is making its eighth straight NCAA tournament appearance and its 10th overall. The Red Dragons, who won their eighth consecutive SUNYAC title this past weekend with a 14-8 victory over Geneseo, tied for fifth nationally last season, as well as in 2001 and 2002. Last year, Cortland’s bid for its first trip to the national semifinals was denied by host Colorado College in double overtime, 10-9.

Ninth-year head coach Cynthia Wetmore’s squad is ranked second nationally in Division III in scoring margin. The Red Dragons have won their games by an average margin of 9.5 goals per game. Cortland is also ranked fourth nationally in scoring defense (5.6 goals per game) and fifth in offense (15.1 goals per game). Senior goalie Regina Grosso (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) currently ranks fourth in goals against average (5.61) and 11th in save percentage (57.6).

A trio of junior attackers lead Cortland’s offense. Ali Bourgal (Sachem) has 46 goals and 28 assists for a team-high 74 points despite missing two games early in the season due to injury. She is ranked 23rd nationally with 4.9 points per game and 27th with 1.9 assists per contest. Jennifer Willis (Huntington/Walt Whitman) has 41 goals and a team-best 31 assists for 72 points, while Andrea Venditti (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) has tallied a team-leading 58 goals and has 68 total points. Willis also ranks 19th nationally with 3.5 draw controls per game.

Three other Red Dragons have eclipsed the 20-goal mark this spring. Junior attacker Gina Fazio (Brownville/General Brown) has 26 goals and 21 assists for 47 points. Senior midfielder Erin Lynn (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) has 25 goals and 11 assists for 36 points and senior midfielder Jessie Lynch (West Islip) has found the net 20 times and has 33 total points.

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