CLEVELAND, OHIO – Cortland won one of three matches to finish tied for ninth at the 16-team Cliff Keen/National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Division III National Wrestling Duals. The event was held simultaneously with the Division I and Division II National Duals, along with NAIA, junior college, high school and women's competitions at Cleveland State University.

The Red Dragons (14-7), ranked 15th nationally in Division III, opened with a 28-14 loss to fifth-ranked Wisconsin-La Crosse. Cortland defeated 19th-ranked John Carroll University (Ohio), 22-18, but lost to 17th-ranked Loras College (Iowa), 21-16. A win versus Loras would have guaranteed Cortland a top-eight finish in the 16-team tournament. The Red Dragons were eliminated from the tournament on Saturday and did not wrestle on Sunday.

Cortland led La Crosse 14-12 after seven matches. Sophomore Jason Peck (Montgomery/Valley Central), ranked second nationally at 125 pounds, posted a technical fall to open the match. The Red Dragons lost the next three matches, although sophomore Jaret Misener (Schoharie) stayed close to nationally third-ranked Troy Fabry at 149 pounds in a 7-5 loss. Junior Brent Rider (Tioga Center/Tioga), ranked eighth nationally at 157 pounds, earned a 2-1 decision. Decisions by junior Matt Slate (Gouverneur) at 165 and freshman Stef Sair (Huntington) at 174 gave Cortland the lead.

La Crosse, however, had nationally-ranked wrestlers in each of their final three lineup spots. Second-ranked Jason Luloff won 11-3 at 184, eighth-ranked Jim Swanson picked up a pin at 197 and top-ranked Ryan Allen recorded a pin at heavyweight to finish the match.

Cortland jumped out to a 12-0 lead over John Carroll on wins by Peck and freshman 133-pounder Eddie Ortiz (New Rochelle) and a forfeit win by sophomore Jason Chase (Rush/Rush-Henrietta) at 141. A 16-6 major decision by Rider at 157 gave the Red Dragons a 16-3 advantage before two John Carroll wins, one by pin, closed the gap to 16-12. Junior Ben Locke (Bainbridge/Bainbridge-Guilford) won 4-1 at 184 and junior Billy Sisley (Jamestown) earned a crucial 6-4 win at 197 pounds despite wrestling up two weight classes. That gave the Red Dragons a 22-12 lead and made a final pin by John Carroll harmless.

The Red Dragons got off to a slow start versus Loras. Peck was upset by unranked Terry Morgan, 6-4, to open the match, and a loss at 133 put Cortland behind 6-0. Chase tied the match with a pin in 3:51 and Misener’s 11-2 major decision gave the Red Dragons a 10-6 lead. Rider was tied with Charlie Bishop 4-4 at the end of regulation before winning the match, 6-4, with a takedown in overtime.

A win by Sair at 174 gave Cortland a 16-9 lead with three matches remaining. Loras, though, earned a decision at 184 and a pin at 197 to take an 18-16 lead. Heavyweight Kevin Engleken gave Loras the victory with a 6-4 win in the final match.

(Cortland match results on next page)
Cortland matches at NWCA Div. III National Duals
Jan. 17-18, 2004; Cleveland State Univ.; Cleveland, Ohio

Wisconsin-La Crosse 28, Cortland 14
125 - Jason Peck (C) tech. fall Scott Shaw, 6:01
133 - Nick Mueller (WL) dec. Eddie Ortiz, 6-4
141 - Adam Kuchnia (WL) pinned Jason Chase, 4:52
149 - Troy Fabry (WL) dec. Jaret Misener, 7-5
157 - Brent Rider (C) dec. Ross Needham, 2-1
165 - Matt Slate (C) dec. Jacob Heuston, 3-1
174 - Stef Sair (C) dec. Nick Patenaude, 10-6
184 - Jason Lulloff (WL) major dec. Ben Locke, 11-3
197 - Jim Swanson (WL) pinned Matt Eldridge, 5:45
HWT - Ryan Allen (WL) pinned Mike Karbowiak, 4:12

Cortland 22, John Carroll 18
125 - Jason Peck (C) dec. Jordan Earley, 5-0
133 - Eddie Ortiz (C) dec. Matt Simmons, 5-0
141 - Jason Chase (C) won by forfeit
149 - Jim Stanek (JC) dec. Troy Tooley, 7-6
157 - Brent Rider (C) major dec. Steven Bagnowski, 16-6
165 - Ryan Ficco (JC) dec. Matt Slate, 7-0
174 - Mark Hawald (JC) pinned Stef Sair, 4:30
184 - Ben Locke (C) dec. John Francis, 4-1
197 - Billy Sisley (C) dec. Dan Brown, 6-4
HWT - Derek Ankney (JC) pinned Mike Karbowiak, 0:44

Loras 21, Cortland 16
125 - Terry Morgan (L) dec. Jason Peck, 6-4
133 - Brandon Young (L) dec. Eddie Ortiz, 11-7
141 - Jason Chase (C) pinned Josh Watts, 3:51
149 - Jaret Misener (C) major dec. Mark Ressler, 11-2
157 - Brent Rider (C) dec. Charlie Bishop, 6-4 ot1
165 - Brad Bishop (L) dec. Matt Slate, 10-4
174 - Stef Sair (C) dec. Ryan Hagerty, 11-5
184 - Mitch Hager (L) dec. Ben Locke, 7-4
197 - Anthony Murphy (L) pinned Billy Sisley, 5:47
HWT - Kevin Engleken (L) dec. Mike Karbowiak, 6-4