OSWEGO, N.Y. – Cortland, ranked 15th nationally in Division III, posted a 1-1 record at the New York/New Jersey Duals, hosted by SUNY Oswego. The Red Dragons are 16-8 in dual matches this season, one win shy of tying the school single-season victory record set in the 1995-96 season.

Cortland and 21st-ranked Montclair State finished their match tied at 23-23. Cortland was declared the winner due to tiebreaking criteria. The teams were even in the first two tiebreakers – total victories (five each) and pins (two each). The third tiebreaker – number of five-point technical falls – was won by Cortland 1-0 as sophomore Jaret Misener (Schoharie) won his 149-pound match by technical fall, 22-5.

The Red Dragons took a 6-0 lead on a pin by nationally third-ranked Jason Peck (Montgomery/Valley Central) at 125 pounds. Wins by sophomore Jason Chase (Rush/Rush-Henrietta) at 141 pounds and Misener at 149 pounds gave Cortland a 14-4 lead. Montclair won the next match, but Cortland responded with a pin by junior Matt Slate (Gouverneur) at 165 pounds to take a 20-8 lead.

Montclair fielded three nationally-ranked wrestlers, including two top-rated grappling, in the next three matches. A pin by top-ranked Ed Aliakseyenka at 174 pounds over Stef Sair (Huntington) and a 6-2 win by top-ranked Dennis Gaul at 184 pounds versus junior Ben Locke (Bainbridge/Bainbridge-Guilford), followed by fourth-ranked Todd Carone’s pin versus junior Billy Sisley (Jamestown) at 197 pounds, gave the Red Hawks a 23-20 lead. In the final weight class, Cortland freshman heavyweight Mike Karbowiak (Patchogue/Patchogue-Medford) won 3-1 in overtime to tie the match at 23-23 and subsequently give the Red Dragons the victory.

Cortland then dropped a 25-10 decision to fifth-ranked The College of New Jersey. The Red Dragons jumped ahead 6-0 on a 2-1 win by Peck and a 4-2 decision by freshman Eddie Ortiz (New Rochelle). New Jersey, however, had five nationally-ranked wrestlers in the last eight matches and all five won.

In the closest of the five matches, Sair lost 2-1 at 174 pounds to eighth-ranked Paul Vaccaro. The wrestlers were tied at 1-1 in the third and final period before Sair was penalized a point on a fleeing the mat call. Sair almost secured a winning takedown at the end of the match but was unable to complete the move.

Chase lost 7-3 to third-ranked Pat Brady at 141 pounds and Slate dropped a 6-2 decision to eighth-ranked Sean Flynn at 165 pounds. Cortland’s final win came from Locke, who posted a 14-1 major decision at 184 pounds.

NY/NJ Duals – Final Team Win-Loss Records
(national rankings in parentheses prior to team name)

(5) The College of N.J. 2-0
(15) SUNY Cortland 1-1
(21) Montclair St. 1-1
(30) SUNY Oswego 0-2

Match Scores:
Montclair St. 22, Oswego 20
College of N.J. 31, Oswego 12
Cortland 23, Montclair St. 23 (Cortland wins on tiebreaking criteria)
College of N.J. 25, Cortland 10

(Cortland's match results on next page)
Cortland's Matches at NY/NJ Duals
Feb. 7, 2004; Oswego, N.Y.

Cortland 23, Montclair St. 23 (Cortland wins on tiebreaking criteria)

125 - Jason Peck (C) pinned John Deangelis, 1:17
133 - Jonathan Suero (M) major dec. Eddie Ortiz, 12-3
141 - Jason Chase (C) dec. Alan Aponte, 4-1
149 - Jaret Misener (C) tech. fall Mark Kosta, 22-5
157 - Tetsu Araki (M) major dec. Frank Sokolowski, 14-6
165 - Matt Slate (C) pinned Jason Brandt, 2:28
174 - Ed Aliakseyenka (M) pinned Stef Sair, 1:40
184 - Dennis Gaul (M) dec. Ben Locke, 6-2
197 - Todd Carone (M) pinned Billy Sisley, 1:15
HWT - Mike Karbowiak (C) dec. Dan DeJesus, 3-1 (ot)

College of New Jersey 25, Cortland 10

125 - Jason Peck (C) dec. Brian Dempsey, 2-1
133 - Eddie Ortiz (C) dec. Niko Vrettos, 4-2
141 - Pat Brady (NJ) dec. Jason Chase, 7-3
149 - David Icenhower Jr. (NJ) dec. Jaret Misener, 6-4
157 - Greg Ilaria (NJ) tech. fall Frank Sokolowski, 17-0
165 - Sean Flynn (NJ) dec. Matt Slate, 6-2
174 - Paul Vacarco (NJ) dec. Stef Sair, 2-1
184 - Ben Locke (C) major dec. Pat Lavin, 14-1
197 - Nick Vinciguerra (NJ) tech fall. Matt Eldridge, score n/a
HWT - Carlos Pantifilo (NJ) dec. Mike Karbowiak, score n/a