SUNY Cortland Wrestling

SUNY Cortland vs. Ithaca College
Tuesday, February 7, 2006; Ben Light Gymnasium; Ithaca, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Cortland 18, Ithaca 16

ITHACA, N.Y. – Cortland won four straight matches to turn a 6-0 deficit into a 15-6 lead, and the Red Dragons held on to defeat Ithaca, 18-16, in the dual-match finale for both teams. Cortland, ranked ninth nationally in Division III, finishes with a dual record of 13-3, while the Bombers end with a 7-8 mark.

Ithaca opened with wins by Tyler Daffinee at 197 pounds and Nick Calandrino at heavyweight. The Red Dragons answered with a 9-2 win by sophomore Ryan Gadsby (Auburn) at 125 pounds and a 9-5 victory by junior Eddie Ortiz (New Rochelle) at 133 pounds to tie the match at 6-6. Gadsby is 21-9 on the season and Ortiz is 20-13.

Freshman Paul LeBlanc (Morrisville/Morrisville-Eaton), ranked fourth nationally at 141 pounds, edged Scott Aronowitz, 1-0, to give Cortland a 9-6 lead. Senior Jason Chase (Rush/Rush-Henrietta) followed with a pin in 2:59 at 149 pounds to extend the Red Dragons’ lead to nine points. LeBlanc improved his season record to 32-2 and Chase is now 25-15.

The host Bombers won the next two matches as Jad Duca posted a 4-2 decision at 157 pounds and Brian Lockard earned a 5-4 decision at 165 pounds to close Cortland’s lead to 15-12.

The 174-pound match featured a pair of nationally-ranked wrestlers. Cortland junior Stef Sair (Huntington), ranked fourth, defeated third-ranked Matthias Keib, 6-3, to hand Keib his first dual-match loss of the season and avenge an earlier loss to Keib in the state tournament third-place match. Sair’s record improved to 20-1 with the victory.

Ithaca needed a pin in the 184-pound match to force a tie, but only managed a 14-2 major decision by nationally fifth-ranked Robert Stubbs.

Both teams will return to action on Feb. 18 when Cortland hosts the six-team Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference national qualifiers.

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197 - Tyler Daffinee (ITH) def. Mark Maglione, 6-0
HWT - Nick Calandrino (ITH) def. Phil Archer, 10-7
125 - Ryan Gadsby (COR) def. Macario Alvarez, 9-2
133 - Eddie Ortiz (COR) def. Tim Gammons, 9-5
141 - Paul LeBlanc (COR) def. Scott Aronowitz, 1-0
149 - Jason Chase (COR) pinned Michael Toscano, 2:59
157 - Jad Duca (ITH) def. John Franchi, 4-2
165 - Brian Lockard (ITH) def. Troy Tooley, 5-4
174 - Stef Sair (COR) def. Matthias Keib, 6-3
184 - Robert Stubbs (ITH) major dec. Mario Schiano, 14-2