OSWEGO, N.Y. – Freshman Paul LeBlanc (Morrisville/Morrisville-Eaton) earned SUNY Cortland's first state title in 16 years and senior Jason Chase (Rush/Rush-Henrietta) became the third wrestler in school history to reach the career 100-win mark to highlight the Red Dragons' performances at the all-division New York State Collegiate Wrestling Championships at SUNY Oswego.

Cortland finished sixth out of 17 schools, and was the second-highest Division III entry, in the final team standings with 90 points. Army won the state title with 152 points, followed by the University at Buffalo (134.5), Cornell (109.5), Columbia (97), Ithaca (91), Cortland (90) and Brockport (73.5).

LeBlanc is Cortland’s first state titlist since Troy Monks won the 118-pound championship in 1990. The tournament’s top seed and nationally fourth-ranked in Division III at 141 pounds, LeBlanc opened the tournament with pins on Friday versus Jeremiah Bailey of Alfred State and John Leech of Oneonta. On Saturday, he posted a 5-1 win over fourth seed Cliff Smith of Buffalo and defeated third seed Gene Kobilansky of NYU, 3-2, in the finals.

LeBlanc was one of eight Red Dragons to earn all-state honors with top-eight finishes. Three Cortland wrestlers – Chase at 149 pounds, junior Stef Sair (Huntington) at 174 pounds and sophomore Ryan Gadsby (Auburn) at 125 pounds – each finished fourth. Each then lost their next match, won their first consolation bout and lost in the third-place match. Seeded second and ranked first nationally at 174 pounds, Sair started with decisions over Eric Van Patten of Brockport and Michael Rogusa of Buffalo. He was pinned in the semifinals by third seed Luke Hogle of Cornell, came back to defeat Van Patten, 12-6, but lost to nationally fourth-ranked Matthias Keib of Ithaca, 5-3, to finish fourth. Gadsby, seeded fourth, defeated Rob Vaccaro of Brockport and Macario Alvarez of Ithaca on Friday. He was pinned by top seed and eventual champion Jeff Sato of Columbia in the semifinals, then defeated Vaccaro, 3-2, and lost to nationally eighth-ranked Jon Spinner of Oswego, 5-3.

Chase won his first match, 4-0, versus Devan Witman of Oneonta, then lost to second-seeded Pat Lloyd of Buffalo, 6-1. Chase earned his 100th win on Friday with a pin in 1:12 versus Josh Schneider of RIT. Chase added two wins on Saturday versus junior college opponents (which don’t count on his record) before losing in the third-place match. Chase has a career record of 100-61, trailing only Mike Bucci (108 wins from 1995-99) and Todd McArdell (105 wins from 1984-88) on Cortland’s career win chart.

Sair and Gadsby each won two matches on Friday to advance to their respective semifinals. Each then lost their next match, won their first consolation bout and lost in the third-place match. Seeded second and ranked first nationally at 174 pounds, Sair started with decisions over Eric Van Patten of Brockport and Michael Rogusa of Buffalo. He was pinned in the semifinals by third seed Luke Hogle of Cornell, came back to defeat Van Patten, 12-6, but lost to nationally fourth-ranked Matthias Keib of Ithaca, 5-3, to finish fourth. Gadsby, seeded fourth, defeated Rob Vaccaro of Brockport and Macario Alvarez of Ithaca on Friday. He was pinned by top seed and eventual champion Jeff Sato of Columbia in the semifinals, then defeated Vaccaro, 3-2, and lost to nationally eighth-ranked Jon Spinner of Oswego, 5-3.

Ortiz finished 3-2 at 133 pounds. He defeated Wally Moore of Oneonta, lost to Columbia’s Eric Amstutz, then beat Tom Masciale of NYU. After losing to Cornell’s Nick Bridge, he finished the tournament with a pin in 4:24 over Jeff Grobsmith of Morrisville in the seventh-place match. Tooley lost his opening match to fourth seed David Post of Cornell, but rebounded to defeat John Schnaars of Oswego, 10-1, and second seed Jacob Blowers of Buffalo, 11-6. He lost his next match to Brandon Kopacz of Niagara County Community College, then won the seventh-place match, 5-2, over Brockport’s Josh Lancaster.

Franchi pinned his first opponent, then wrestled eventual runner-up Brian Rowan of Army tough before losing 5-4. After a 5-0 win in his next match, Franchi had to medical forfeit his next two matches and finished eighth. Archer started with a win over Dennis Norton of Oneonta, then lost to third seed Zach Greenberg of RIT, 8-5. He won, 7-3, over Jamie Lucket of Alfred State and lost, 6-5, to Columbia’s Nick Sommerfield, then medical forfeited in the seventh-place match.

(complete team scores and Cortland match results on next page)
Cortland Wrestling at New York State Collegiate Wrestling Championships
Jan. 20-21, 2006; Oswego, N.Y.

FINAL TEAM SCORES

1) Army ..........................152
2) U. Buffalo ......................134.5
3) Cornell ..........................109.5
4) Columbia ..........................97
5) Ithaca ...................................91
6) Cortland .............................90
7) Brockport ..........................73.5
8) Oswego .................................68.5
9) RIT ........................................64
10) Oneonta ..............................51
11) NYU .................................47.5
12) Hunter ...............................46.5
13) Nassau CC ..........................41.5
14) Morrisville ..........................24
15) Niagara CCC .......................19.5
16) Alfred St. .............................11.5
17) Jamestown CC ......................2.5

Cortland Match Results

RYAN GADSBY – 125 POUNDS (#4 seed)
4th place (All-State) (3-2)
def. Rob Vaccaro (Brockport), 2-1
def. Macario Alvarez (Ithaca), 6-4
Semis: lost to (#1) Jeff Sato (Columbia), Pin 5:38
def. Rob Vaccaro (Brockport), 3-2
3rd place: lost to (#2) Jon Spinner (Oswego), 5-3

EDDIE ORTIZ – 133 POUNDS (#4 seed)
7th place (All-State) (3-2, 2-2 official)
def. Wally Moore (Oneonta), 10-5
lost to Eric Amstutz (Columbia), 8-1
def. Tom Masciale (NYU), 7-4
lost to Nick Bridge (Cornell), 9-4
7th place: * pinned Jeff Grobsmith (Morrisville), 4:24

PAUL LeBLANC – 141 POUNDS (#1 seed)
1st place (All-State) (4-0, 3-0 official)
* pinned Jeremiah Bailey (Alfred St.), 0:34
pinned John Leech (Oneonta), 4:41
Semis: def. (#4) Cliff Smith (Buffalo), 5-1
Finals: def. (#3) Gene Kobilansky (NYU), 3-2

JASON CHASE – 149 POUNDS
4th place (All-State) (4-2, 2-2 official)
def. Devan Witman (Oneonta), 4-0
lost to (#2) Pat Lloyd (Buffalo), 6-1
pinned Josh Schneider (RIT), 1:12
* def. Josh Eagan (Niagara CCC)
* def. (#4) Frank Meringel (Niagara CCC), 6-4 (ot, sv)
3rd place: lost to (#3) Dane LaPlante (Oswego), Pin 2:25

JOHN FRANCHI – 157 POUNDS
8th place (All-State) (2-1, 0-1 official)
* pinned Steve Shoup (Jamestown CC), 2:56
lost to (#4) Brian Rowan (Army), 5-4
* def. Larry Aceti (Niagara CCC), 5-0
medical forfeit next two matches to Nate Bachmann (RIT)
    and Jason Layton (Nassau CC)

TROY TOOLEY – 165 POUNDS
7th place (All-State) (3-2, 3-1 official)
lost to (#4) David Post (Cornell), 13-1
major dec. John Schnaars (Oswego), 10-1
def. (#2) Jacob Blowers (Buffalo), 11-6
* lost to Brandon Kopacz (Niagara CCC), 10-6
7th place: def. Josh Lancaster (Brockport), 5-2

STEF SAIR – 174 POUNDS (#2 seed)
4th place (All-State) (3-2)
major dec. Eric Van Patten (Brockport), 9-1
def. Michael Rogusa (Buffalo), 4-3
Semis: lost to (#3) Luke Hogle (Cornell), Pin 4:11
def. Eric Van Patten (Brockport), 12-6
3rd place: lost to (#4) Matthias Keib (Ithaca), 5-3

MARIO SCHIANO – 184 POUNDS
(1-2)
major dec. Justin Betz (RIT), 10-1
lost to (#3) Robert Stubbs (Ithaca), 9-0
lost to Nick Coleman (NYU), 3-2

PHIL ARCHER – 197 POUNDS
8th place (All-State) (2-2, 1-2 official)
def. Dennis Norton (Oneonta), 12-6 (ot, tb)
lost to (#3) Zach Greenberg (RIT), 8-5
* def. Jamie Luckett (Alfred St.), 7-3
lost to Nick Sommerfield (Columbia), 6-5
medical forfeit 7th-place match to Joseph Scioleni (Nassau CC)

MATT ELDREDGE – 197 POUNDS
(1-2, 0-2 official)
lost to (#4) Nick Calandrino (Ithaca), Pin 1:51
* pinned Albert Manuel (Niagara CCC), 2:59
lost to Dennis Norton (Oneonta), Pin 3:40

* match vs. junior college opponent;
does not count toward season record